

Forest Days Professional Learning Program with Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Because of Covid-19, there has been a great increase in interest around outdoor learning on the peninsula, and we have had many requests for advice and assistance. In response, Blue Hill Heritage Trust is pleased to offer a year-long Forest Days Professional Learning Program, FREE for teachers on the Blue Hill Peninsula. This Forest Days Program is a professional development opportunity for any teacher on the Blue Hill Peninsula interested in integrating Forest Days into their school day. It entails a series of up to 10 zoom or in-person outdoor monthly workshops from October-June 2020-2021, a mini-grant for supplies, and Continuing Education Credits. **We have 10 openings for FULL program participants, application instructions are below.**

In order to qualify for the Program, we ask that teachers commit fully. Attendance at the training sessions will be mandatory in order to receive the continuing education credits. Please note that although we only have room for 10 program participants, any teacher can opt to join one or more of the workshops for their own interest and professional development. Team teachers are welcome to apply together to share a Program Package and receive one grant together, both attend the workshops, and will each get their own continuing education credits.

We are planning to hold workshops monthly on Wednesday evenings from 5-6pm. If this does not work for the majority of interested teachers, we are open to finding a better time even if that includes the weekend.

The full program package includes, but is not limited to:

- A Mini Grant from BHHT for \$250*
- 8-10 zoom or in person monthly 1 hour workshops
- Guidance on creating your own Forest Days Teacher Handbook
- Time during workshops to bring ideas, concerns, and questions to the table
- Free resources shared at each session
- Continuing Education Credits from Maine DOE
- Individual consultation time reserved on first come, first serve basis
- Presentation by guest speakers who are National and International leaders in outdoor learning, Forest Days, and Forest School

*As we are using grant funding of our own to support this program the mini grant must be used for Forest Day supplies such as those recommended for the Forest Day kit. If other materials are desired, you can ask BHHT if they fit within the parameters of this particular grant.

The workshop schedule will look something like this:

1. *Introduction to Forest Days*
2. *Getting Started Behind the Scenes: Safety Protocol, Session Plans, and Selecting a Site*
3. *Philosophy of Forest Days*
4. *Getting Started with your Class: Taking it all Outside for the First Time*
5. *Emergent Curriculum and Place-based Learning*
6. *Other Nature-based Activities and Practical Outdoor Skills (might include several sessions)*
7. *Link Outdoor Learning to NGSS and Maine Common Core Standards*
8. *TBD by Group*

To Apply

Please email BHHT's Outreach Coordinator Landere Naisbitt a short one page letter with the following: landere@bluehillheritagetrust.org

- Expressing your interest in integrating nature based learning in your classroom
- Your school
- Grade/subject level
- Number of students in your class.

We will accept letters beginning Friday, August 21st and begin awarding the program slots beginning Wednesday, August 26th.

Any questions can be directed to Landere at landere@bluehillheritagetrust.org OR Chrissy at chrissy@bluehillheritagetrust.org

We hope this opportunity, to be a part of a Forest Days Teaching Community with fellow teachers on the peninsula, can help our educators and students during the covid era and beyond.

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