



Town of Amherst
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Birthday Celebrations at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center

***Create amazing birthday memories this year!
Celebrate your child's next birthday at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center.***

Your PMEC party includes:

- Entertaining and informative activity session of your choosing, led by a PMEC naturalist or science educator, for up to 20 guests. Activities include hikes, crafts, science experiments, stories, and/or games.
- Exclusive use of an activity room (with tables and chairs) for the duration of your celebration.

Choose one of our party themes (listed below) or let us know what activities your group would like to do and we will see if we can accommodate.

Birthday Celebrations are typically held on Saturday or Sunday 11am-1pm or 1:30-3:30pm. During the first hour, your group will participate in an activity session led by a PMEC naturalist or science educator. During the second hour, your group will enjoy free time in one of our activity rooms and you may serve cake and refreshments, open gifts, play games, etc.

We provide up to an hour-long program, as well as the room, tables & chairs. Bring your own cake, plates, napkins, tablecloth, table decorations, etc. Don't forget the candles! If you wish to serve food, you are welcome to bring your own or have it delivered. You will have access to a kitchenette with sink, refrigerator and microwave for the duration of the party.

What does all of this cost? Only \$120 for 2 hours with up to 12 guests, including your activity session. We can accommodate groups up to 20; each guest over the first 12 costs \$6 each. Some programs are also subject to a materials/lab fee.

What ages are appropriate? Celebrations are appropriate for children ages 3-12. We can tailor your program to the age of your group.

How many adults need to be in attendance? We ask that you have at least 2 adults on hand for the duration of the party. Of course, parents are welcome to stay the entire time. Since you are on your own for the last hour, you might want to have more than 2 adults for groups with young children.

The Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC) is an environmental and science education center which abuts almost 600 acres of Joe English conservation land. Located at the end of Brook Road in Amherst, New Hampshire, the PMEC is directed by the Amherst Recreation Department. The mission of PMEC is to foster an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the natural world, by offering environmental, conservation, and science programs to all ages. PMEC strives to foster diligent stewardship of our environment so that future generations may inherit and continue to be inspired by the wonders of a protected and natural world. PMEC offers many educational programs and sponsors a variety of local events. Prices are subject to change without notice.

BIRTHDAY THEMES

All themes are offered year-round unless indicated otherwise. Note that P MEC can customize our themes or you can suggest a theme for your birthday celebration.

AGES 3-5 (About 30 minutes)

NATURE:

- Wacky Water Critters (Late spring to early fall) ---Come party at our pond and see who lives there. We'll try to catch salamanders, frogs, dragonflies, and other critters that live in the muddy mud.
- The Lorax --- "...and all that the Lorax left here in this mess was a small pile of rocks, with the one word...*unless*." Come join us as we bring this lovable Dr. Seuss book to life.
- Life Under Logs (Late spring to early fall) --- Let's party in the woods with the unseen creatures. Rotten logs are a great place to observe the wonderful world of decomposers such as insects and the animals that eat them.

CRAFTS:

- Nature Bracelet --- Masking tape, sticky side out, is loosely taped around the children's wrists. As they walk the nature trail, they collect small objects and stick them to their "bracelet."
- Pine Cone Bird Feeder --- Birds are beautiful creatures and one of the best ways to see them up close is to feed them. Children will make a simple feeder with pine cones and food from the kitchen as well as food from nature. (Note: This activity is not advised for children with nut allergies.)
- Birch Bark Crafts --- Birch is everywhere in New Hampshire. The children will gather birch bark from the ground and turn it into art.

IN THE LAB:

- Fun With Your Senses --- Children will be involved with hands-on activities using their senses of touch, smell, sound, sight, and, with parents' permission, taste.
- *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* ---This Dr. Seuss book comes to life when the children make oobleck using starch and water. Children will be amazed when they see how they can use oobleck.
- Bubbles Bubbles Everywhere --- Children love to play with bubbles. Using both free and structured play, and containers of different sizes and shapes, children will discover the fascinating world of bubbles.

AGES 6-8 (About 1 hour)

NATURE:

- Tracking (Winter only) --- Come and learn the art of tracking. First, in our activity room, we'll observe different types of tracks. Then we'll go outside and explore the winter woods and see what animals have been there.
- Creepy Crawling Critters --- Party with some multi-legged critters and learn about nature's tiny marvels. We'll go on a bug hunt and maybe get to hold a millipede.
- Cold Blooded Creatures --- Let's slither and hiss like snakes. Enjoy learning about these fascinating cold blooded reptiles as you party with a real live snake and lizard.
- Woodland Fairy Adventures (Spring through Fall) --- Experience the abundance, beauty and mystery of the forest through observation, gathering and creativity. Using materials found and collected in nature, children will be guided and inspired to work together to design and build magical fairy houses.

CRAFTS:

- Milk/Juice Carton Bird Feeder --- We all have milk and juice cartons hanging around the house. Let's learn how to reuse them in a helpful way. You will be surprised at how durable this feeder can be. (Note: Each child must provide a half gallon milk/juice carton.)
- Rain Stick --- The sound of a light rainfall can be one of our favorite sounds. Can we have that sound even when the sun is shining? Yes, by making a rain stick.
- Twig Weaving --- Did you know that spiders weave? Birds weave, too. Weaving is among the oldest art forms. Using twigs and other simple materials found in nature, we can create beautiful art.

IN THE LAB:

- All About Balancing ---Children will make butterflies and clowns that balance on the point of a pencil and engage in a variety of fun balancing activities.
- All Charged Up (Winter only)--- Using balloons, wool, Rice Krispies®, plastic combs, and Styrofoam® plates, children will participate in safe static electricity experiments that are both fun and educational.
- Let's Make Some Slime—Using safe materials, each child will participate in a chemistry experiment and make slime. Then the fun will begin as the children discover what slime will do!

AGES 9-12 (About 1 hour)

NATURE:

- Jr. Naturalist --- We'll party in the woods and learn the secrets of the forest. We'll take a closer hands-on look at the woodlands around us and discover some of these fascinating secrets.
- Let's Go Fishing (Late spring to early fall) ---Before partying with our scaly friends, children will learn the basics of fishing, knot tying, fish identification, care of the catch, and much more.
- River Walk (Summer only) --- Let's follow the river and see where it flows. Along the way we'll learn about the historic sites and what lives in the water. We might even get a glimpse of a few land animals.
- Skins and Skulls --- Partying with a real coyote might be a little dangerous. But we have some real skins and skulls of animals found in New Hampshire. Learn what makes these animals so interesting.
- Woodland Fairy Adventures (Spring through Fall) --- Experience the abundance, beauty and mystery of the forest through observation, gathering and creativity. Using materials found and collected in nature, children will be guided and inspired to work together to design and build magical fairy houses.

CRAFTS:

- Life in a Bottle --- To most people, a soda bottle is just a bottle. But it can be much more. It can be a hanging plant holder, a bug lab, or even a mini greenhouse. Children will choose which one to make. (Note: Each child must provide a clean, two-liter soda bottle.)
- Terrariums --- A terrarium is a miniature ecosystem inside a jar. With the right balance of sun, water, and plant life, you can sit back and watch it grow. The water cycle appears right before your eyes. (Note: Each child must provide a clean glass jar with a lid. A pasta sauce jar works well.)
- Wild Flower Press --- Flowers come and go each year. Wouldn't it be great to save some for later? Children will learn how to make a flower press and discover the best ways to preserve flowers.

IN THE LAB:

- Fun With A Gas (Carbon Dioxide) ---Children create a miniature volcanic eruption, observe the great Mentos® candy eruption, watch fascinating things that can be done with dry ice, and participate in the up and down raisins experiment.
- All About Light and Color---Children make a bracelet of special beads to take home. They will be amazed how light can affect the beads. They will use black light (UV light) and special light- sensitive paper to make shadows and designs. Children will experiment with primary colors and observe what happens when the colors are mixed.
- The Great Egg Drop --- (Spring, summer, and fall activity) Given a container and a raw egg, children must gather materials from one of the nature trails. They will use what they gathered as packing material to surround the egg in the container. Then they will drop their containers off the back porch. Will the egg survive?