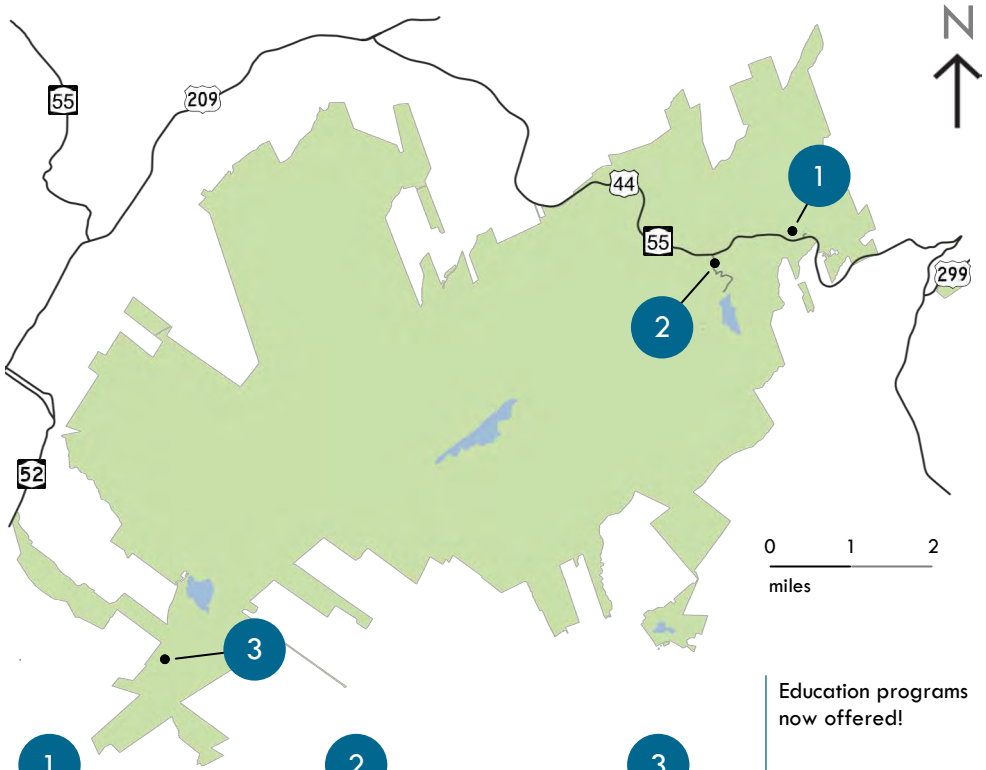
MAP & CONTACT INFO



Education programs now offered!

1 Peter's Kill

5080 Route 44/55
Gardiner, NY 12525

Latitude: 41.737960
Longitude: -74.218970

2 Lake Minnewaska

5281 Route 44/55
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Latitude: 41.735149
Longitude: -74.239037

3 Sam's Point

400 Sam's Point Road
Cragsmoor, NY 12420

Latitude: 41.676158
Longitude: -74.354925

Minnewaska State Park Preserve
PO Box 893
New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 255-0752 Minnewaska phone
(845) 255-3505 Minnewaska fax

Sam's Point
PO Box 86
Cragsmoor, NY 12420
(845) 647-7989 Sam's Point phone
(845) 524-4716 Sam's Point fax

Laura Conner: (845) 255-0752
Minnewaska Environmental Educator
Laura.Conner@parks.ny.gov

Nicholas Martin: (845) 255-0752
Assistant Environmental Educator
Nicholas.Martin@parks.ny.gov

Laura Davis: (845) 647-7989
Sam's Point Educator
Laura.Davis@parks.ny.gov

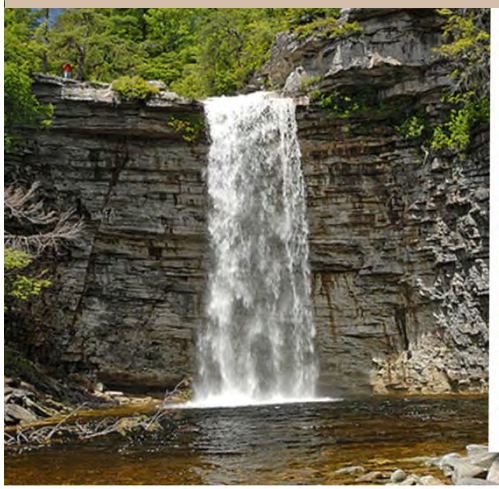
New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Palisades Interstate Park Commission

SCHOOL GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2015–2016

1st through 6th grade

Minnewaska State Park Preserve



Minnewaska State Park
PO Box 893
New Paltz, NY 12561
Phone: (845) 255-0752

Sam's Point
PO Box 86
Cragsmoor, NY 12420
Phone: (845) 647-7989

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Give your students a chance to break out of the classroom and learn directly by seeing, hearing, touching and playing outside, just like Mother Nature intended!

Bring your class to explore the magnificent Shawangunk Ridge at Minnewaska State Park Preserve, located within one hour of Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Newburgh, just 15 minutes from New Paltz, NY. Minnewaska now includes Sam's Point, located in the town of Cragsmoor, NY. Education programming is currently available at Sam's Point.

Our professional environmental education staff is available all year to enlighten and enliven you and your students at both Minnewaska and Sam's Point Preserve.

PROGRAMS

- Are up to 4 hours long and leave time for snack and lunch breaks
- Meet New York State Learning Standards
- Feature active learning in a beautiful natural setting
- Incorporate Universal Instructional Design using visual and auditory teaching tools
- Can be modified to meet the specific needs of your group
- Programs available to accommodate up to 50 students
- Lower exposure to poison ivy, ticks, and other possible hazards: many programs offered on carriage roads

GROUP SIZE

Traditional Environmental Education Programs:
15 students per 1 Minnewaska Environmental Educator
Groups of 30 will be split in half

Large Group Program ***ONLY****:*
25 students per 1 Minnewaska Environmental Educator

COST

Free for the educational program
$60 parking fee per not-for-profit bus, as of January, 2016
Fees subject to change

REGISTRATION

To reserve a date for a school program, call or email:

Laura Conner: (845) 255-0752
Minnewaska Environmental Educator
Laura.Conner@parks.ny.gov

Nicholas Martin: (845) 255-0752
Assistant Environmental Educator
Nicholas.Martin@parks.ny.gov

Laura Davis: (845) 647-7989
Sam's Point Educator
Laura.Davis@parks.ny.gov

Please provide the following information:

- ☑ Two possible dates and times
- ☑ Grade and size of your class
- ☑ Your name and school
- ☑ Choice of program
- ☑ All contact information for you

Sam's Point beautifuldestinations.com

INDEX/PROGRAMS AT MINNEWASKA — PAGE

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BEAUTIFUL, BELOVED BIRDS

Grades: 1-3
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 1.5–2 miles
Location: Lake Minnewaska Area
Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Photo: David Johnson

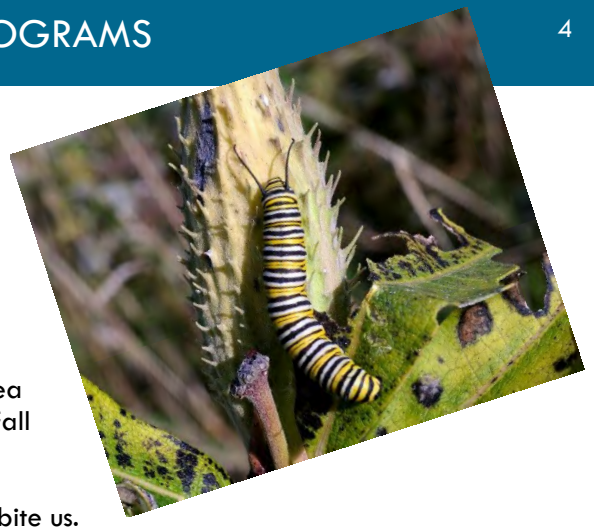
Birds greet us with glorious songs and they brighten our world with their beautiful colors. In this program, students will learn all about the unique qualities of birds through the following activities:

- Lesson on bird characteristics that includes touching bird feathers and nests, listening to bird song and seeing mounted birds of prey
- Make a pair of play binoculars or a bird mask
- Play a running game that teaches about bird survival
- Bird detective hike, including a trailside bird scavenger hunt

NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*
Math, Science, Technology 6E – *Models*

BUTTERFLY SEARCHERS



Grades: 2-4
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 1.5–2 miles
Location: Lake Minnewaska Area
Season: Late Spring, Summer, Fall

Insects are so much more than annoying, pesky creatures that bite us. Through the following activities, we'll teach your students that insects are actually fascinating and vital to the survival of all living things:

- Interactive lesson on insects, including a discussion of their unique characteristics and the important jobs they do for the planet
- Live insect search along the trail
- Educational and active game about the life of a butterfly

NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

Photos: David Johnson

BERRY PICKERS HISTORY HIKE

Grades: 6-12
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 3 miles
Location: Sam's Point Area
Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

In the mid-1800s an interesting culture developed at Sam's Point as people migrated to the ridge in the summers, when a tasty seasonal crop was ready to be picked. By participating in the following activities, your students will develop a better understanding of what it was like to be one of these Berry Pickers:

- Lesson on the Berry Pickers of the northern Shawangunks, including how historic events affected their lives, and how the activities of the Berry Pickers affected the environment
- Interpretive hike around the Loop Road which passes remnants of Berry Picker shacks and provides excellent views of Lake Maratanza
- Learn how to identify huckleberry and blueberry bushes
- The Huckleberry Pickers: A Vanished Shawangunk Culture, a 27 minute documentary that includes interviews with a few Berry Pickers themselves, is available to be shown at the Visitor Center or in the classroom as a pre-trip activity

Photos: David Johnson (blueberries), Samuel J. Mance Family (berry picker cabin)

FIRE ECOLOGY

Grades: 6-12
Length: 3 hours
Distance: 1 mile
Location: Sam's Point Area
Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Fire is a fascinating thing. How fire affects an ecosystem can be even more interesting! While fire has the potential to be detrimental, it can also have many positive impacts and breathe new life into an ecosystem. In order to survive for future generations, the pitch pine barrens and chestnut oak forest located at Sam's Point need to burn every 10 to 50 years. Your students will learn about plant adaptations to fire and prescribed fire management while participating in the following activities:

- Lesson on how fire effects the ecology at Sam's Point
- Burn tray demonstration
- Lesson on prescribed fire management
- Interpretive walk through an unburned section of forest and the site of a prescribed burn from 2013 in order to compare and contrast the species composition

GEOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN SHAWANGUNKS

Grades: 6-12
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 3 miles
Location: Sam's Point Area
Season: Late Spring, Summer, Fall

The northern Shawangunk Ridge towers above the surrounding valleys. Why is it there? How did it form? What exactly is an Ice Cave? The following activities will help your students to discover the answers to these questions and many more:

- Discussion of mountain forming events and types of rock present at Sam's Point
- Interpretive hike through the Ice Caves
- Look for signs of glaciation along trail
- Observe and discuss other landforms visible from the Sam's Point Overlook

Photo: David Johnson

With school budgets being cut, we have crafted a program specifically for large groups of up to 50 students. This size group allows the maximum number of students per large bus to visit Minnewaska and saves your school money on transportation.

LARGE GROUP PROGRAM

Grades: 1-3
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 1-2 miles (can be modified)
Location: Lake Minnewaska Area
Season: Spring, Fall

Your students will experience all the sights and sounds that make Lake Minnewaska so wondrous and appreciated! We will lead your classes in the following activities:

- Two mile long interactive walk along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road
- Participate in a scavenger hunt activity that teaches about camouflage
- Listen and look for wildlife along the trail
- Play interactive games that teach about trees and wildlife

NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

Grade: 6
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 2 miles
Location: Lake Minnewaska Area
Season: Spring, Fall

Your students will learn about trees while on an interactive hike that includes games, and a hands-on science activity. The following activities will take place:

- Two mile long interactive walk along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road
- Fun and educational game to "make friends" with a tree
- Learn how to identify common tree leaves and listen for wildlife
- Learn two methods to age a tree

NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

LARGE GROUP PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- ☑ The Large Group Program will take place on the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, featuring many picturesque views of the Lake
- ☑ The group is split into two groups of 25 students, each with one Minnewaska Environmental Educator
- ☑ Activities are simplified to accommodate group size
- ☑ School must supply one responsible/supervising adult per 10 students

THE LIFE OF A TREE

Grades: 2-4
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 2 miles, modest hills included
Location: Peter's Kill or Lake Minnewaska Area
Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Trees provide us with so many valuable resources, from the oxygen we all breathe, to food, paper, warmth, houses and more. While on an interactive hike, your students will engage in the following activities:

- Lesson on trees, including why they are so important to all living things
- Learn leaf ID through a leaf matching game on the trail
- Play an active seed dispersal game
- Meet a tree up close, using only their sense of touch and smell
- Use tools to determine the age of a tree

NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*
Math, Science, Technology 6E – *Models*

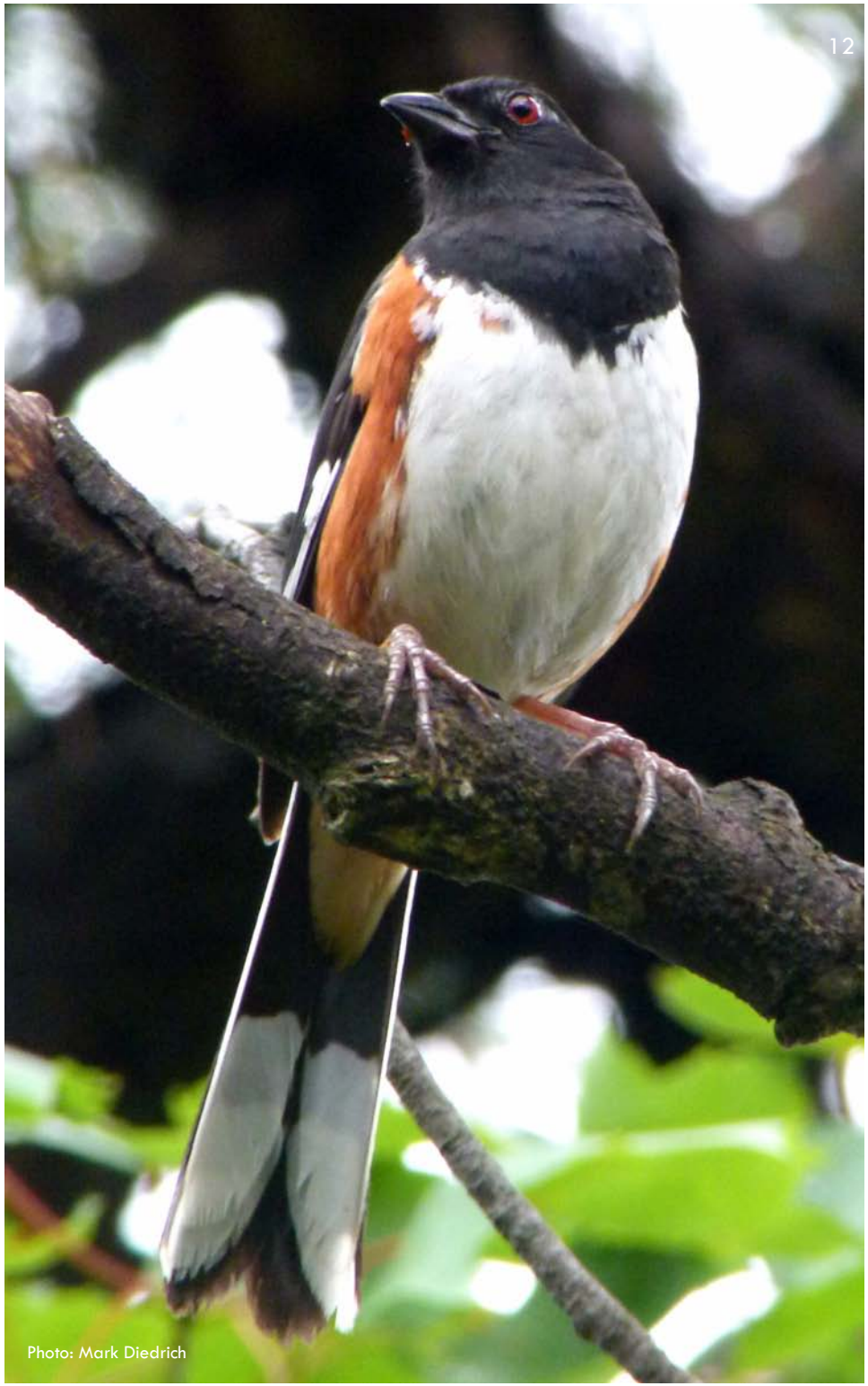


Photo: Mark Diedrich

WINTER WILDLIFE STRATEGIES

Grades: 2-4
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 1.5–2 miles
Location: Lake Minnewaska or Peter's Kill Area
Season: Fall, Winter

Humans have warm coats, winter boots and heated houses to survive the winter, but how do wild animals live through winter outside? Through participating in the following activities, your students will understand the numerous adaptations that help wildlife survive winter:

- Interactive lesson on winter wildlife adaptations featuring various touchable wildlife props
- Educational and active game in which students pretend to be an animal trying to survive winter
- Trailside detective hike to look for various signs of wildlife including browse, scat, homes and tracks

NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Physical Settings and Living Environment*

Photo: Jacob W. Frank

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!

Grades: 2-4
Length: 4 hours
Distance: 1 mile, including some hills
Location: Peter's Kill Area
Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Your students will learn all about water, one of our most precious natural resources. The active learning experience includes the following:

- Lesson on water, including discussion of the three forms it takes, where it is found and its importance
- Students experience the water cycle while pretending to be a drop of water in an educational and active game
- Hike to a stream where students will look for macro invertebrates, and learn how to measure pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen

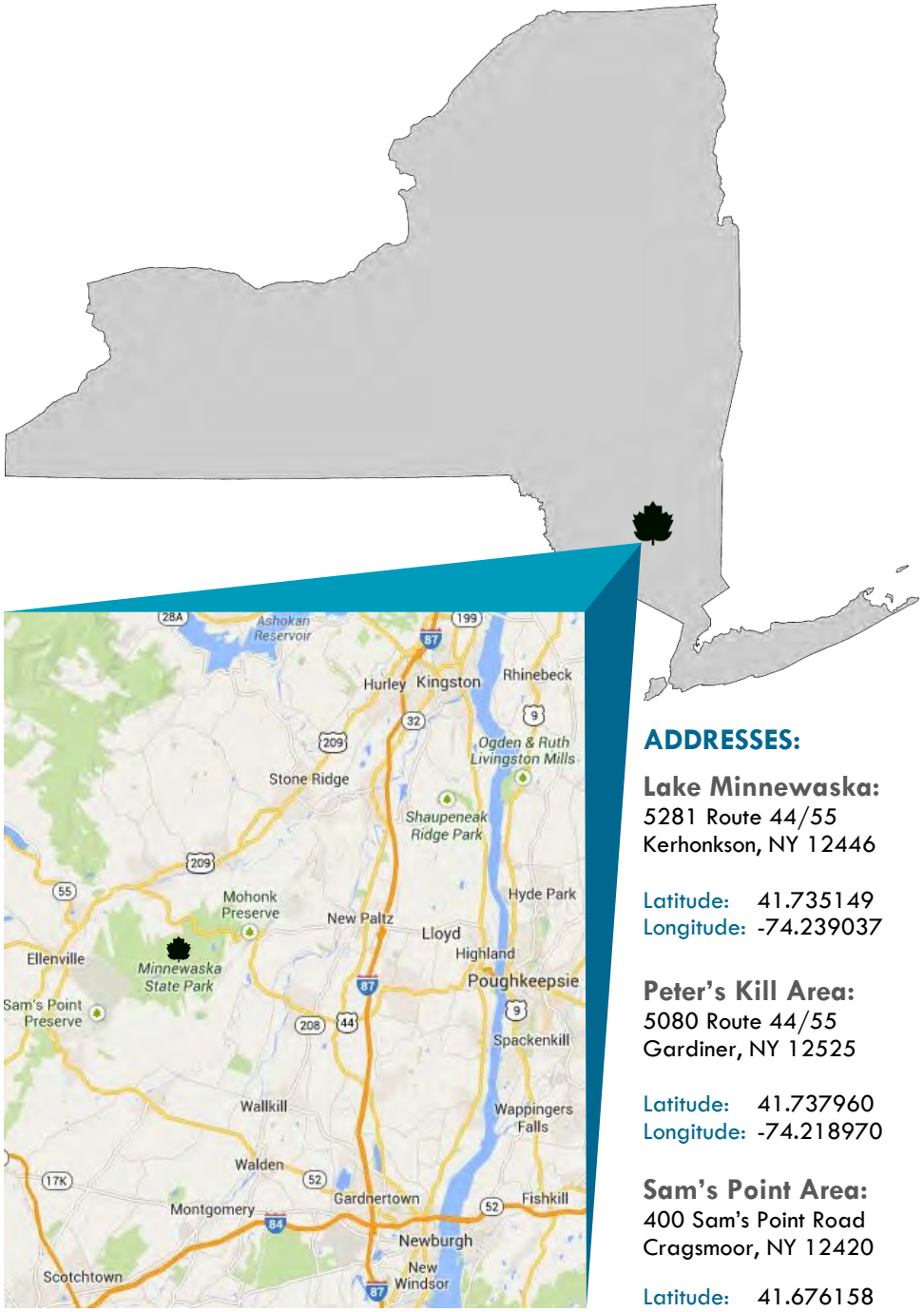
NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education
Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*
Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Physical Setting and Living Environment*
Math, Science, Technology 6E – *Systems Thinking*
Math, Science, Technology 7E – *Strategies*

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

Minnewaska State Park Preserve offers a variety of education and recreational programs all year to suit a diverse audience of people. All programs can be modified to meet your group's specific needs. Here's a sampling of our diverse audiences and programs:

- Afterschool programs
- Youth clubs (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs)
- Homeschool groups
- Guided outings for hiking clubs, MeetUp and other outing groups
- Education programs for Life Long Learning for retirees
- Supervised projects for community service credits



Map data copyright Google, 2014

ADDRESSES:

Lake Minnewaska:
5281 Route 44/55
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Latitude: 41.735149
Longitude: -74.239037

Peter's Kill Area:
5080 Route 44/55
Gardiner, NY 12525

Latitude: 41.737960
Longitude: -74.218970

Sam's Point Area:
400 Sam's Point Road
Cragsmoor, NY 12420

Latitude: 41.676158
Longitude: -74.354925

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is located within one hour of Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Newburgh, and just 15 minutes from New Paltz, NY.

NORTH (Kingston)

South on New York State Thruway to Exit 18, New Paltz

Take a left at light to merge onto Route 299 West

Continue until intersection of Route 299 with Route 44-55

Take a right onto Route 44-55 West

Main entrance is on left 4.5 miles from this intersection

SOUTH (Newburgh)

North on New York State Thruway to Exit 18, New Paltz

Take a left at light to merge onto Route 299 West

Continue until intersection of Route 299 with Route 44-55

Take a right onto Route 44-55 West

Main entrance is on left 4.5 miles from this intersection

WEST (Ellenville)

North on Route 209

At intersection of Route 209 and Route 44-55, take a right at light to continue East on Route 44-55

Main entrance is on right 5.8 miles from this intersection

EAST (Poughkeepsie)

West on Route 44-55, cross Mid-Hudson Bridge

Take Route 9W North exit ramp, toward Highland

At intersection with Route 299, take left at light heading West on Route 299

Continue on Route 299 until intersection with Route 44-55

Take right onto Route 44-55 West

Main entrance is on left 4.5 miles from this intersection