



## Frequently Asked Questions

# Discovery by Nature

**Are you an official organization?**

Yes! Discovery By Nature, LLC is a fully insured sole proprietorship founded in 2017. Programs are presented by Alissa Pendorf, an environmental educator with a Master of Education in Environmental Education.

**Who do you offer programs to?**

Discovery By Nature offers educational programming in central Pennsylvania, primarily in Centre County. Audiences include public and private schools, homeschooled families, libraries, neighborhoods, youth groups, scouting organizations, nature centers, private events, and more!

**What is your fee per program?**

- Regular programs: \$75
- Live Reptile Meet & Greet programs: \$100
- Live Reptile Birthday Parties: \$145, includes the rental of party supplies.

Any program located beyond a 15 mile radius of zip code 16827 will incur a **73¢/mile fee**. A once-annual fee of **\$15.00** is applicable to organizations that require a COI (certificate of insurance).

**What ages do you teach?**

All programs are adaptable for delivery to ages **five through adult**. Discovery By Nature does not offer programs to preschool-aged children.

**How many people may participate?**

Regular programs are **traditionally limited to 25 children** with a requirement of at least one supervising adult present. As a courtesy, this cap may be flexible at the discretion of Discovery By Nature. If an organization wishes to provide a program to a larger audience, consecutive program(s) may be reserved.

**What do you teach about?**

Discovery By Nature specializes in teaching about birds and reptiles and amphibians, with some programming focused on other ecological subjects. A current list of programs can be found in our [brochure](#). Programs can be scaffolded or provided independently!

**What are your most popular programs?**

Our most requested programs include *Nature's Nests*, *Amazing Owls*, *Fantastic Frogs*, *Color & Camouflage*, and a *Reptile Meet & Greet*.

**What does a program look like?**

Most programs are delivered within a one-hour time frame, but depending on schedule flexibility, some programs—especially *Color & Camouflage* and *Reptile Meet & Greet*—may last up to 1.5 hours. Depending on the age group and time allotment, a program may include the reading of a **storybook**, the provision of the lesson, a follow-up **worksheet**, and/or a **craft or activity**. Programs may also incorporate **multimedia video** if a projector is available.

**Are all program materials provided by Discovery By Nature?**

Most programs are all-inclusive, with the exception of the lesson worksheet, which will be provided to the organization for printing (unless purchased through Discovery By Nature). Several lessons include an optional art activity which may incur a nominal per-student fee, which will be discussed during program scheduling. A **free synopsis sheet** is available to educators as a summary of the program to encourage follow-up learning.

**Do you really bring live animals and wildlife specimens?**

Yes! Nearly all programs include **permitted specimens** like feathers, eggs, snakeskin, fossils, and skeletons. Programs are designed to be as immersive as possible with students encouraged to gently handle these specimens as a way to “bring the outdoors, indoors.” Several programs (*Fantastic Frogs*, *Color & Camouflage*, and *Reptile Meet & Greet*) may include **live animals**. Discovery By Nature is the only organization in the region that is **fully insured to allow students the opportunity to interact with animals**. Please note that live animal interactions are always at the discretion of Discovery By Nature and are based first and foremost on the well-being of the animal.

**What is your mission and purpose?**

Discovery By Nature was founded on the premise that traditional school-based learning **does not adequately connect students to the natural world** in a place-based, earth-first context. By bringing nature to diverse audiences, and by facilitating exploration-based outdoor excursions, we hope to **cultivate an early appreciation for the natural world** in a way that will **nurture pro-environmental behaviors** into young adulthood and beyond. **We thank you for supporting environmental education through independent and non-traditional learning!**