

FIELD TRIPS

at Borderland

A LITTLE ABOUT BORDERLAND

Borderland was appropriately named by Oakes and Blanche Ames because it borders the towns of Easton and Sharon. Oakes Ames (1874-1950) was a Harvard Professor in Botany and his wife Blanche Ames (1878-1969) was a self-taught artist. Oakes and Blanche had a vision that Borderland would serve as their nature preserve; allowing their four children to grow up surrounded by the natural world –leading to an understanding and an appreciation of nature. After Blanche passed away in 1969, the four kids sold Borderland to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to continue their parents’ vision. Today the Department of Conservation and Recreation manages and operates all 1,773 acres of trails, fields, ponds and historical sites.

HOW THE FIELD TRIP WORKS

- Schedule a date with the Park Staff (508) 238-6566 (I would suggest a rain date as well)
- Inform us approximately how many students we will be expecting.
- Before arriving at Borderland, Please have the students broken up into four (4) small groups, with at least 3 chaperones/teachers per group.
- Arrival and departure times (approximate)

THE DAY OF

- Upon arrival, I will meet you in front of the visitor center.
- I will meet briefly with each group leader, where I will give out four (4) folders, (one folder per group) each containing:
 - Rotation schedule / stations
 - Map of Borderland and the stations
 - Handouts for the teachers and students
 - Other important or upcoming information
- Before the rotation starts, the students are allowed to leave their lunches inside the visitor center and this is a great time to utilize the restrooms.
- Once all the kids are in their groups with their chaperones/teachers in front of the visitor center, I will give my welcoming introduction.

STATIONS

Below is an example of how the rotation of the stations goes. Each station is approximately 30 minutes, with 10 minutes of travel time incorporated into each station. (This is just an example, it is subject to change. Also, if you would like the stations to be extended in time, I will be more than happy to accommodate)

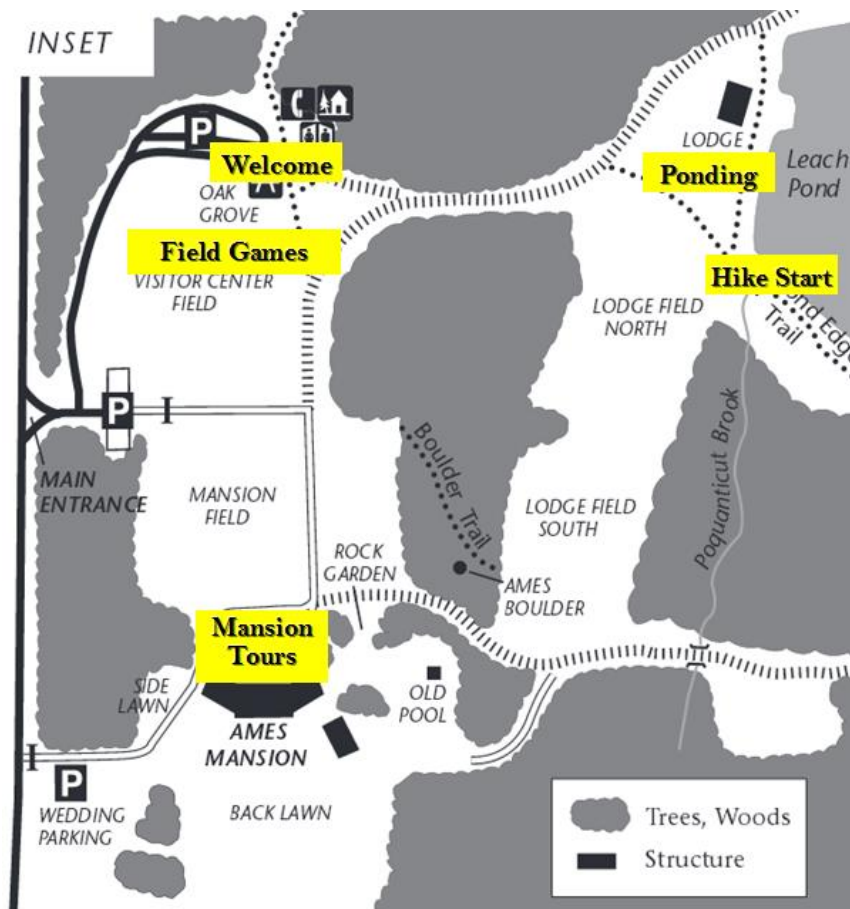
- **Mansion Tour:** Who lived in this huge mansion? Together we will learn the story of the Ames family and what it would have been like to grow up in this huge house as a kid. Meet at mansion.
- **Field Games:** Let’s play some old fashion games! Have you ever played pick-up sticks, croquet or bocce? These are some of the games the four Ames children would have played growing up at Borderland.

- **Ponding:** Who lives under the surface of the water? Using nets and buckets, let's catch some of the critters who live in Leach Pond. Together we will identify all the creatures that we will catch! Wear shoes and clothes that can get wet. Meet at the lodge.
- **Nature Hike:** Enjoy a 1/2 mile on the Pond Edge and Quiet Woods trails. Use your observational skills to look for wildlife along the way. (staff will give teachers handouts for tree ID as well as a highlighted hike map)

***Please note: We have a small staff at Borderland, ideally I would have a park staff member or volunteer at each station; however the only two guaranteed stations to have a staff member is "Ponding" and "Mansion Tours". If I have the resources to get another staff member or volunteer, they will lead the "Nature Hike".

**Please inform me prior to our arrival if there is something in particular you would like me or the staff to address. (i.e. we are learning about boulders and the glaciers you would like that to be the theme of the nature hike)

**Take a look at this example rotation schedule; please inform me if you would like to do lunch earlier than the approximate scheduled time.



EXAMPLE

Welcome to Borderland State Park!

Group 1

- 9:30** Arrival (students can put their lunches in the Visitor Center)
- 9:45** Welcome in front of Visitor Center (Park Staff will outline the day for everyone)
- 10:00** Nature Hike (teachers/ park staff)
- 10:40** Ponding (park staff)
- 11:20** Old Fashion Games/ Free Time (teachers)
- 12:00** Mansion Tour (park staff)
- 12:40** Lunch / Free Time
- 1:30** Departure

***Times are approximate. Each station should last no longer than 40minutes. If one Chaperone in each group could keep track of the time, the day will move a little more smoothly. Thank you so much!

Reminders:

Old Fashion Games: Please take care of the Old Fashion Game equipment, it is pretty worn, and we are having other school groups in the near future.

Nature Walk: Enclosed in this packet is information on some animals and trees you may encounter.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at Borderland.Park@State.MA.US or call Borderland at (508) 238-6566. I look forward to working with you on this great adventure for your students.

See you soon,

Paul Clifford
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