



HANDS-ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

At Beczak we believe that all children need to safely interact with the natural environment for healthy development. Our hands-on learning programs are built on this principle. Beczak offers an extensive curriculum of interactive educational programs designed to teach students about the complexity of the Hudson River and inspire them to become better stewards of this magnificent resource. Each year more than 5,000 school-age children visit Beczak on class trips and with youth organizations. One of the primary goals of Beczak is to show even our youngest visitors that the river is part of a complex ecosystem that nurtures an amazing diversity of living things, including people.

ABOUT OUR EDUCATORS

All our staff members are trained educators with specialized degrees in fields such as marine biology and environmental interpretation. By creating interdisciplinary programs that meet the New York State Department of Education standards for science, social studies, math, art and English language arts, Beczak educators help animate concepts that many teachers have introduced in their own classrooms.

ALONG THE WATERFRONT

Beczak is one of the few spots along the Hudson where visitors can safely explore the river ecosystem. In addition to our riverside park with views of the Palisades, we have a sandy beach and an easily accessible tidal marsh. These “outdoor classrooms” are ideal for structured learning or exploring on your own. Visitors can use one of our spotting scopes to spy upon an eagle or osprey soaring high overhead, or watch a blue heron while it feeds in our marsh.

One of our outdoor curriculum programs is Hudson River Seining, which involves actually wading into the water to capture fish and other living organisms using a 30-foot net. It is an experience that gives participants a keen understanding of the variety of life within the Hudson River estuary. Other programs involve viewing microscopic river life, testing the water’s salinity, making artistic observations of the river and learning about its food chains. And our popular Marsh Monitoring program introduces youngsters to the remarkable productivity and diversity of our tidal marsh.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

We conduct a wide variety of indoor programs in our 3,800-square-foot interpretive center, from identifying aquatic organisms and fish anatomy to investi-

gating watershed geography and wetland ecosystems. The interpretive center has a number of permanent and seasonal interactive displays, including aquaria housing various Hudson River species and a 300-gallon tank modified as a cutaway of the river. Students can also use our giant striped bass puzzle to learn how these magnificent fish navigate the Hudson’s brackish water, or observe plankton under a video microscope.

We have even installed a high-tech water and weather monitoring system in the river which sends real-time data to our Estuary Monitoring Station inside the center so visitors can check the physical and chemical conditions of the river. The estuary monitoring data is also available on our website, www.beczak.org.

A CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY

Beyond these structured education programs, Beczak caters to a notable range of community needs. We are an increasingly popular destination for children’s birthday parties, with our friendly staff creating custom programs that are as entertaining as they are educational. And we are a venue for Hudson Valley scientists, educators, authors and others to give adult-oriented lectures on a range of river topics. Beczak also serves as a hub for a number of public events that bring families back to the riverfront in Yonkers.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Beczak serves the community in many ways. Perhaps the most critical is the opportunity to help children discover the wonders of the natural world.

The success of our programs has been recognized by many of organizations, ranging from local educational and environmental groups to the state and federal governments. But the greatest measure of our success is in the support we receive from people like you, members of the community.

With your help we will be able to meet the growing demand for interactive environmental education in our area. We believe that the best way to preserve the natural beauty of the local environment is by educating residents of all ages about the ecology of the Hudson River estuary and its role in our community. If you share this belief, then we urge you to become a Friend of Beczak and give what you can to support our cause.

Contributions to Beczak Environmental Education Center are tax-deductible. We welcome donations from individuals as well as businesses and foundations. And to acknowledge and thank those who do support us, we have posted a list of the current Friends of Beczak on our website: www.beczak.org.

YES, I WANT TO BE A FRIEND OF BECZAK.

Enclosed is my check made payable to Beczak.

\$ _____ \$100 \$75 \$50 \$35 \$ _____

- My employer's matching gift form is enclosed.
- I want to volunteer, please contact me.
- Keep me informed about Beczak programs, events and news.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Beczak will publish names of all donors who contribute at least \$100.
 Please check here if you wish to remain anonymous. The Beczak Environmental Education Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A copy of our latest annual financial report is available on our website, www.beczak.org

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www.beczak.org



WHO WE ARE

Beczak Environmental Education Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about the ecology, culture and history of the Hudson River.

Located on the banks of the Hudson in the City of Yonkers, within the two-acre Habirshaw Park, Beczak offers exciting interactive learning experiences year-round for young and old alike.

Founded in 1987, we have become a vital part of the local community, providing schools with multidisciplinary programs that can be integrated easily into their educational curriculums and serving as a focal point for numerous river-related public events and activities.

Photo: Joan Jennings

For more information about Beczak programs and events, to volunteer, or to schedule a visit, please visit our website at www.Beczak.org or contact us at:

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Beczak's mission is to educate people about the ecology, history and culture of the Hudson River by providing interactive educational experiences focused on the river. We do this so that everyone we reach can become better stewards of the Hudson and better citizens of their community.



This brochure has been funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

