

# Outdoor Educational Backpack Kits

**Rensselaer Youth Outdoors (RYO)** is a network of partners that introduces and engages the children and families of Rensselaer County in the wonder, science, and adventure of nature in an effort to create a healthier, more sustainable community in an increasingly complex world.

Our current partners include Grafton Lakes State Park, Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center and the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance. Thanks to a generous grant from the USDA Forest Service, the following classroom kits are available for loan to all Rensselaer County teachers. The kits are geared towards K-8 students. Please contact Amanda McCreary for additional information or to borrow one today at (518) 658-2055 or [Amanda.ryo.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.ryo.coordinator@gmail.com).



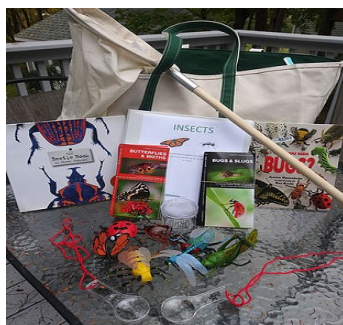
## TREES

The trees we walk by every day can transform into fascinating, year-round outdoor labs! This kit includes lesson plan ideas, class sets of tree identification guides, hand lenses, tree cross sections and measuring tapes. We've also included a few non-fiction books to inspire further investigation.



## BIRDS

This kit encourages students to focus on the fascinating 'backyard birds' that share our schoolyard and neighborhood habitats. In addition to a variety of lesson plan ideas, we've included class sets of kid friendly bird guides, feathers, binoculars plus a few fiction and non-fiction books.



## INSECTS

From the tiniest sidewalk crack to the slightly overgrown lawn, it's hard to find a place where insect life doesn't abound! This kit includes lesson plan ideas, class sets of bug boxes, sweep nets and common insect identification guides, plus a few fiction and non-fiction read aloud books.



## THE PRIVATE EYE CURRICULUM

The Private Eye is a program about the drama and wonder of looking closely at the world, thinking by analogy, changing scale and theorizing. This kit includes the 'Private Eye' curriculum guide, activity sheets and a class set of jewelers loupes.



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Conservation Through Community

