

NATURE IS FOR EVERYONE!

At Woodcock Nature Center, we believe that nature is for everyone! No child, family, or school is ever turned away from our programs.

In recent years, we've seen more families and schools seeking scholarship support — in fact, **since 2022, we've increased our scholarship distribution by nearly 20% to meet that growing need.** Through our McIntire Scholarship Fund, named in honor of beloved former director Lee McIntire (who's whole family lived on site at Woodcock in the 1970s!), we're able to provide financial assistance for summer camps, field trips, after school programs, caregiver-and-me classes, and more. Over **\$20,000 in scholarship awards were provided across programs during 2025.**

This important work is only possible thanks to the generosity of individuals like you and including organizations like the Ridgefield Fresh Air Association and Oaklawn Foundation who share our belief in access for all. Since 2019, Fairfield County Bank has also played a key role in ensuring local Title I schools can experience the wonder of nature through annual no-cost field trips to Woodcock.

We've even partnered with organizations like Outdoor Sports Center to make sure every participant has the right gear to learn and explore comfortably outdoors.

The benefits children gain from learning in nature ripple far beyond our trails — building confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong connection to the environment.

- Together, we're making an important investment in the future of our children and our community.



Learning by the busload!

In 2025, Woodcock welcomed 1,550 students from 17 schools and homeschool groups for unforgettable field trips, while 420 preschoolers from 8 schools explored nature through engaging on-site and in-school programs.



Earth Artists Making Creative Connections

There's no better way to connect with nature than through creativity—and that idea is at the heart of everything we do at Woodcock. Each year, nearly 100 kids in our after school programs, like Earth Artists, blend mission and fun crafting stick owls, making leaf prints or paper maché slugs (as pictured above). Research shows that hands-on experiences like these help children form meaningful, lasting connections with the natural world.

It may seem like everything at Woodcock happens thanks to woodland spirits and magical forest fairies, but the truth is, the real magic is made by our community! Alongside our passionate educators, staff, and board, we're supported by incredible volunteers. For example, this year, Woodcock's staff house received a beautiful new front door thanks to a generous sponsorship from our friends at **Window Solutions Plus** of Ridgefield. Our grounds also got a fresh boost thanks to workdays with students from the **Brunswick School** and employees from **The Knot World Wide** (right), **Fairfield County Bank**, and **ASML**.





Every day feels like Earth Day at

Woodcock thanks to our amazing Scouts! From building cozy “bug snugs” and planting beautiful pollinator gardens (shout-out to **Maddie Nelson** from Troop 19 in Ridgefield) to major repairs on our obstacle course led by **Agastya Agarwal** from Wilton’s Troop 125 (who blew past his fundraising goal — way to go!), our Scouts brought creativity, dedication, and a love of nature to every project.

We also love our new Fairy Village enhancements creatively executed by **Rilynn Mahoney** (also Troop 19) and the Earth Day letterboxing scavenger hunt designed by **Lily Zezula** and Ridgefield Troop 50177, which got families exploring all around our preserve.

These incredible Scout projects during 2025 were mentored by Woodcock’s dedicated team of educators, enhance engagement across our property and are made possible at no cost to the scouts thanks to *donors like you!*

Special thanks to... A Table Catering, ASML, Jennifer and Claude Amadeo, Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust, Bartlett Tree Experts, Boxed Water, Cellar XV Wine Market, No. 109 Cheese & Wine, Connecticut Outdoor Environmental Educators Association, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Georgetown Veterinary Group, Good Morning Wilton, Employees Helping Hand Fund/Danbury Mission Technologies, Environmental Professionals Organization of CT, Fairfield County Bank, Fullen-Smith Foundation, Holland & Knight, Morgan Stanley, National Charity League, Oaklawn Foundation, Nod Hill Brewery, Outdoor Sports Center, PepsiCo, Reynolds & Rowella, Ridgefield Fresh Air Association, Ridgefield Rotary, South Wilton Vet Group, Village Market, Wilton Turnover Shop, Wadsworth Russell Lewis Trust Fund, Wilton Garden Club, Wilton Kiwanis, and Window Solutions Plus.

WILDLIFE WISDOM!

Woodcock’s **Birds of Prey Outreach Program** connects people with the incredible wildlife that shares our world. Through interactive demonstrations at community centers across Fairfield County, our educators — along with our resident teaching animals (like Cheyenne the Red Tailed Hawk pictured here)—inspire audiences to learn about natural habitats, feeding behaviors, and how human actions impact animals in the wild.

One highlight this year included **Wildlife Awareness 101**, presented in partnership with the **Mark Twain Library in Weston** and also with the **Wilton Library**, educating about ways to safely and respectfully coexist with local wildlife and how to respond to injured animal situations. By sharing powerful real life stories alongside ambassador animals, Woodcock puts a real “face” to the ways humans can positively affect nature.



Community Meets Conservation *films with impact at Wild & Scenic*

Last March marked an exciting first for Woodcock and its partners with the debut of the **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** at Wilton High School. The event served as both a community fundraiser and a vibrant social gathering, featuring a lineup of thought-provoking, entertaining, and informative films celebrating the environment, wildlife, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Before the screening, attendees connected with community partners, entered to win raffle prizes, and enjoyed refreshments before enjoying a series of short films from the national Wild & Scenic Film Festival—each one highlighting and inspiring environmental stewardship.

We are proud to collaborate on the festival return in 2026 with the **Norwalk River Valley Trail, Norwalk River Watershed Association, Pollinator Pathway, Trout Unlimited, Wilton Go Green**, and the **Wilton Land Trust**.



Did you know?

More than 1,000 individuals and families join us for our two week **Wreath Festival fundraiser** each year. All that decorating will turn into nearly \$100,000 in support for Woodcock’s community programs.

Get in on the action for our **Family Days on December 13 and 14**—grab your tickets on our website!