

Harrington Permission Form Big Back Yard Program (BBY)

Big Backyard is a town-wide program that enriches the elementary school science and social studies curriculum through nature walks. BBY introduces each child to many aspects of the natural world while also enhancing skills of scientific inquiry, such as question formulation, observation and deduction. Classes will explore fields, woods and other habitats on Harrington School property. Trained parent volunteers who follow prepared curriculum guides lead the walks. The following table shows when and where each grade will be conducting their walks. Each class will determine specific walk dates.

GRADE	SEASON	CURRICULUM LINK	LOCATION
Kindergarten	Fall	Plants in the Fall	Schoolyard
	Winter	Nature in Winter	Schoolyard
	Early Spring	Signs of Spring	Schoolyard
	Late Spring	Plants and Flowers	Schoolyard
1 st Grade	Fall	Animals and their Habitats	Schoolyard
	Winter	Animal Tracks	Schoolyard
	Early Spring	Birds in Spring	Schoolyard
	Late Spring	Compare seasonal changes	Schoolyard
2 nd Grade	Fall	Native American plants	Schoolyard
	Late Fall	Soil	Schoolyard
	Winter	States of Matter	Schoolyard
3 rd Grade	Fall	Mini Creatures	Schoolyard
	Spring	Colonial plant use	Schoolyard
4 th Grade	Early Winter	Winter Twigs/Classification	Schoolyard
	Winter	Tree classification/ID	Schoolyard
	Spring	Birds	Schoolyard
5 th Grade	Fall	Forest Ecosystems	Schoolyard
	Late Fall	Journaling and Fall Ecosystem	Schoolyard
	Winter	Elements of winter/ tracking	Schoolyard
	Spring	Spring Ecosystems	Schoolyard
	Late Spring	Scavenger Hunt	Schoolyard

Becoming a BBY volunteer is a wonderful way for parents to share in their child's education. Volunteers lead 1-4 walks per year and are trained for their walks. All the necessary supplies are provided and no experience is required. Please contact one of the following Grade coordinators if you have questions about the program or if you would like to volunteer.

BIG BACKYARD PERMISSION FORM *(Please complete and return to your child's teacher)*

Grade _____ Teacher _____

My child, (print) _____, has my permission to participate in the Big Backyard nature walks according to the schedule for his/her grade as listed above. I understand that he/she will be visiting school grounds. I understand that trained parent volunteers will lead the walks. **I will contact the school nurse about any changes in my child's medical condition that might need to be considered on a nature walk.**

Parent's signature: _____ Date _____