



## Feronia Forward's Educational Programs at Ramblewild

Ramblewild, located in Lanesborough, MA, is an aerial adventure destination where visitors traverse from tree to tree on challenge obstacles, suspended 45+ feet above the ground. It is an exhilarating, healthy outdoor experience designed to challenge and inspire youth and adults. Ramblewild combines this exciting aerial experience with unique educational programs, all within a 1,400 natural forest setting.

### Tree to Tree Aerial Park

At Ramblewild, the focal point is a central wooden platform about 10 feet above ground from which eight aerial obstacle trails originate, meandering from tree to tree at various heights through a pristine hemlock forest. Each course consists of 15-17 elements (high wires, zip lines, balancing logs, rope ladders, suspended bridges, etc.). Courses have varying degrees of difficulty, are color-coded and become progressively more difficult, offering a challenging experience to all types of visitors. The park is built without placing one single nail or screw in the trees and with minimal environmental disturbance.

#### *Outcomes:*

- An exhilarating outdoor experience
- Develop a strong sense of camaraderie and bonding, as well as an appreciation for teamwork and peer support
- A very positive impact on students' self-confidence and self esteem





## Nature Hikes

Nature hikes guided by experienced professionals allow students to discover the forest, its trees, its history, the products the forest gives us and the animals that make it their home. Point of interest signs located throughout the trails explain little known facts about the forest's many ecosystems.

*Outcomes:*

- Learn about different types of trees, flowers and wildlife as well as the habitat that they all share
- Develop a deeper understanding, appreciation and respect for our forests and the role they play in our daily lives and in our future
- Understand how forests managed for conservation can support a variety of uses from traditional forestry products to agricultural products and recreation

## Teambuilding/leadership skills

We developed a series of programs designed to enhance teambuilding and leadership skills in students. Games, trust activities, communication and problem solving activities teach students experientially how to identify, develop and use the skills needed to be a leader. Fun and excitement are key components to these programs to ensure students' attention.

*Outcomes:*

- Learn about each other and how to work more effectively as a team both in school and at home
- Learn how to think strategically and develop a capacity for critical decision-making and assessment
- Learn to listen to different ideas from others
- Learn to develop group leader and member skills
- Develop an increased competence in inter and intra personal communication and related social skills





## Sugarbush Tour

The sugarbush tour brings students through a 120 acre section of our forest where thousands of sugar maple trees are tapped for the production of maple syrup, a classic staple of New England forests. Students learn how the long-term health of the sugarbush is essential to the success of a maple syrup operation; they learn how we manage our sugarbush with the most advanced silvicultural practices to keep the maple trees healthy and thriving. In season, students see first-hand how the sap is collected and can sample the maple water right from the trees.

The video "Untapped Potential" by Dr. Michael Farrell of Cornell University, Lake Placid, prepared for the Adirondack Wild Center/ Northern NY Maple Project, September 2014 is shown to visiting students after the tour with a Q&A session.

### *Outcomes:*

- Learn about advanced forest management practices
- Learn how to identify healthy maple trees and how to 'tap' a tree
- Understand how a well-designed tubing system uses gravity to help move the sap downhill over a large tract of land
- Learn the different systems within the sugarbush: the difference between main lines and drop lines; how a vacuum system improves productivity; the connection between the vacuum lines, the releaser, the pump and collection tank and how these work together for the collection of sap





## Wind Turbine Tour

The turbine tour takes students to the top of our mountain range to see the 10 turbines of the Berkshire Wind Project that provides enough energy to power 6,000 homes. This is a rare opportunity to visit a renewable energy facility from up close. Students learn the pros and cons of this type of energy and how this project interacts with our sustainable full forestry™ model.

*Outcomes:*

- Visually understand how the wind's natural flow is captured and transformed into electricity
- Learn how of the electricity generated by the wind turbines is harnessed and transported to the end user

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