



# SNOWSCHOOL

## Secondary Science Program Guide (Middle & High School)

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## **The SnowSchool Curriculum**

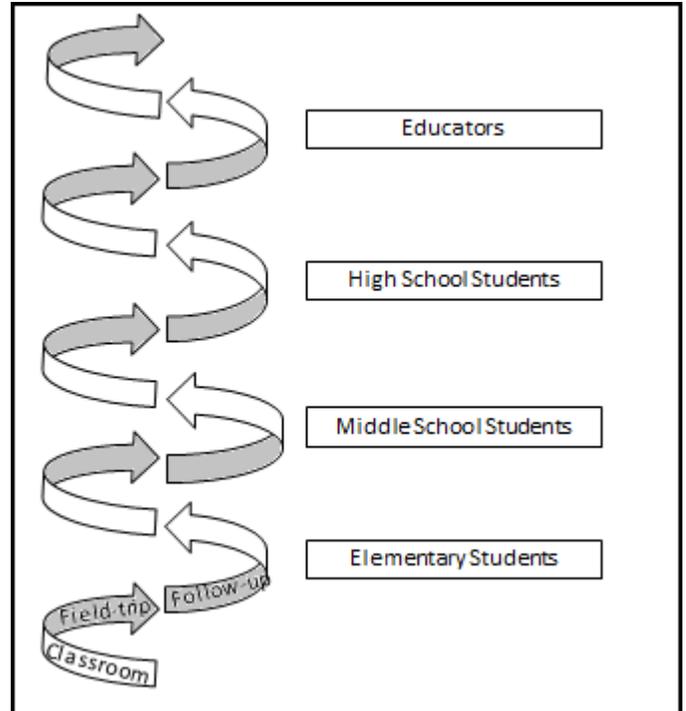
The SnowSchool program aims to inspire a lifelong interest in exploring the wonders of our winter wildlands. Thus the curriculum that accompanies the program is designed to match the interest and abilities of individuals as they grow through life. SnowSchool has been around long enough that, in some places, the first generation of students have now grown up and become volunteer educators!

SnowSchool also strives to be much more than a limited “one-and-done” field trip program. Research conducted on the SnowSchool model and field-trips in general demonstrates that in order to maximize student benefits these learning experiences must extend over time and connect classroom study to the field-trip itself. We’ve designed a spiraling curriculum model (right) to do just this, and the details of how to make it happen at your site are captured here in this guide.

Additionally the SnowSchool curriculum is designed to align with existing state science standards, the newer Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core State Standards. This is important component of the program because SnowSchool is intended contribute to K-12 students’ overall learning and academic achievement. Also, when field-trips are aligned with teachers’ required curriculum it makes it much easier for them to justify their students’ participation. Details regarding this curriculum alignment appear below and throughout this document.

### **Aligning with the Next Generation Science Standards**

The NGSS were released in April of 2013 as the result of a multi-state effort to generate new standards “rich in content and practice, arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education.” The SnowSchool program is science-based and fully aligned with the NGSS and the 8 practices of science identified in the NGSS’s Framework for K-12 Science Education. Throughout this program guide you will find activities accompanied by links to specific Next Generation standards. These links indicate that the discussed activity will help students explore a particular standard or practice. In most cases, for students the fully explore the NGSS through SnowSchool their activities will need to



*Figure 1: SnowSchool's spiraling curriculum model enables students at a variety of grades levels to explore snow science and ecology in a manner that connects classroom study, field excursions and follow-up extension projects. Eventually SnowSchool students might one-day become volunteer SnowSchool educators and continue their learning through teaching, self-guided study and ongoing SnowSchool trainings.*

**SAMPLE**

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