

# PANEVĖŽYS NATURE SCHOOL

Panevėžys Nature School is non-profit educational organization and children after school center, financed from municipal budget.

The school focuses on advertising importance of harmonious relationship between Man and Nature, development of visitor values and cognitive competencies, also development of public responsibility in relation to environmental issues.

Panevėžys Nature School welcomes everyone who is interested in an environmentally friendly life style, longing for closer contact with nature, is willing to learn more about animal care, and how to look after plants.

The school was established in 1966. Firstly it was named Panevėžys Young Naturalists' Station, then in 1991 renamed to Panevėžys Young Naturalist Station, which developed into Panevėžys Nature School in 2005.

All building complex was built in a year 1934 by lawyer Česlovas Petraškevičius. Main wooden villa offers an outstanding architectural ideas and remains a sole wooden building survived in Lithuania with a tower and mezzanine, therefore in 2007 was registered as an object of National Cultural Heritage.

All the area surrounds roughly 2,5 hectare of land with environmental park exhibition, where natural objects intervene with educational spaces, exposition of zoo collection, playing tracks, flower gardens, arable land lots, etc.

## SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

"You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed". This expression from „The Little Prince “, a book written by Antuan de Sent-Egziuperi, became the keystone of school teaching philosophy. Friendship with nature, close connection with environmental surrounding objects and phenomena create a favorable background for the development of the system of valuable rules during the research processes.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

- historically valuable school building of outstanding architecture;
- outside space to come down to earth and engage with the natural world;
- mini zoo with exotic animals;
- wonderful park to explore away from city noise, and at least for a while surrender to the charms of nature.

## SCHOOL OFFERS

- non-formal, natural environment based education programs to encourage children to become stewards and protectors of our planet;
- knowledge gained via exploring wide collection of biological materials including zoology, botany and ecology;
- engaging introductory learning activities mostly based in outdoor environment;
- entertaining guided tours for sole visitors and groups.

## NON-FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For an entire school year, one afternoon every week, children do attend classes held at the Nature School. Around 380 students choose a particular programme to enroll from September until June:

- "Green path of discovery" - for 5-8 grade students;
- "Green message of nature" - for 1-4 grade students;
- „Green world of a child" - for preschoolers.

Also, in order to accommodate easier access, we run regular classes based in 7 preschool institutions and 17 general education schools of Panevėžys. Various self-expression forms (educations, contests, excursions, exhibitions and other activities) are used to enable children of different capabilities deepen their knowledge about the surrounding world, and to establish closer contacts with nature.

## EDUCATIONS AND EXCURSIONS

We offer:

- 35 different types of educations, for example, in a fun way children learn about eco-friendly waste management techniques to keep our planet clean and safe for future generations; learn an experience the natural growth of plants from seeds to spouts, to flowers, to fruits and the impact that rain, drought and other forces of nature have on plant life; learn the connection between nature, their own food supply, and pollinators and other creatures school garden ecosystem attracts and supports; that we, people, have an obligation to ensure we not only stop our nature damaging actions, but look to increase wildlife populations and strengthen the habitats they rely on; learn how to be a responsible pet owner...
- cognitive excursion to introduce visitors to school's educational open-air classes, to present them with interesting facts about animal life, and to establish a close relationship with animals habituating in our mini zoo.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTESTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Every year we organize around 80 events, involving School students, city pupils and community, to name a few: International Children Art contest „Hear The Innermost Words of Nature”, World Animal Day and World Earth Day Celebrations, Nesting Boxes for Wild Birds Making and Spring Blossom Observation contests, commemoration of World Tolerance day and World Environment Day...

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

### The “GLOBE” Program

The Nature School has been participating in the GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program since 2004. The School students carry out atmosphere and pedosphere observations based on three GLOBE methods – greening of trees in spring (Green up), color change and fall of tree leaves (Green down) and observation of clouds (Clouds).

### The Eco-Schools Program

Since 2009, Panevėžys Nature School has been successfully participating in the Eco-School program (awarded with the 15th Green Flag in 2024).

**Welcome to visit us**

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