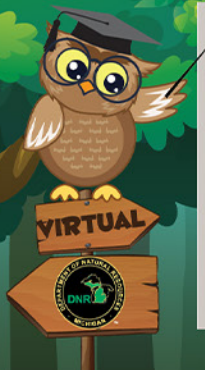


# Nature at School 2020-2021 Summary



## The remarkable resilience of the DNR:

The COVID 19 pandemic challenged DNR staff like nothing else in their careers. A group of people that thrive on spending time out in amazing resources were told to work from home. The DNR's Education Services Section not only overcame the challenge but set an exemplary course.

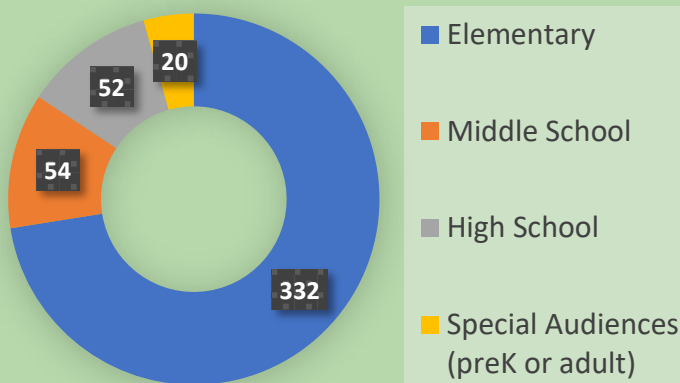
As restrictions increased and school field trips to DNR visitor centers decreased, it was clear "waiting it out" was not an option. Too many teachers depend on DNR expertise, programs and products. It was time to take education to them. It was time to go virtual. After months of program preparation, marketing and practice, the DNR launched Nature at School in the fall of 2020.

To begin, 11 program topics were offered to Michigan students; with 7 more topics added for the spring semester. The web pages have had over 15,000 views, and social media and YouTube interactions were impressive.

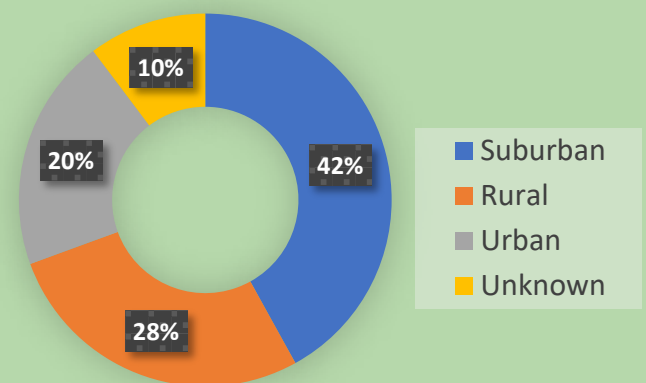
## Nature at School for the 2020-2021 school year:

**12,346 students participated in live programs**

### 458 virtual programs conducted



### Demographics



## Most popular topics:

- Fin's Tails and Scales (Great Lakes fish)
- Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes (Great Lakes ecology)
- Water World (watersheds and communities)
- Hatchery to Habitat (Wolf Lake Hatchery tour)
- Michigan Sand Dunes
- Seeing the Forest and the Trees

## Webinars:

Each topic was offered as a public webinar and uploaded to YouTube. The webinars have had been viewed thousands of times by individual students and whole classrooms.

## Teacher evaluations: (42% responding)

### The program...

- content was meaningful (4.8 out of 5)
- technology worked well (4.6)
- pre/post materials were valuable (4.3)
- topic fit the unit I was teaching (4.5)
- programs were correlated to standards (4.7)

### The DNR educator was...

- knowledgeable (4.9 out of 5)
- well prepared (4.9)
- enjoyable (4.8)
- interactive (4.7)