2026 Summer Programming

Maine Woods (Session I)

May 24 - June 6, 2026 (14 days)

This timeline includes approximately 4 days on campus, 7-8 days on the river, and 2-3 days to unpack and clean, work on students' final product development, and debrief.

In *Maine Woods*, students immerse themselves in the rugged beauty and rich ecology of the northern forest of Maine. Blending science, history, and outdoor leadership, students learn about the timber industry, forest management practices, and the human stories woven through Maine's working woods. The course centers on a student-planned canoe trip down the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, where teamwork, resilience, and a deepened understanding of place come together in a journey through Maine's forest.

Core Themes: Ecology · Sustainability · Outdoor Leadership · Maine History · Human-Environment Systems

Program Fee: $4,000. This cost includes all transportation, food, housing, and activities.

Academic Credit Earned: 1 credit; equivalent to a year-long course

Prerequisites for summer programming: *Any current Kents Hill student (rising 10th - 12th) is eligible to participate. 2026 graduates may be considered with a special application and contract. Students must be physically capable of demanding work and may need to have a health screening prior to enrollment.*

Maine Waters (Session II)

June 7 - June 20, 2026 (14 days)

The first week will be based around Belgrade, Maine, and the second week will be at Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership.

Dive into Maine's waterways—from the clear inland lakes to the dynamic coast—in this two-week immersive field course. Through hands-on exploration, field research, and collaborative projects, students will investigate the ecology, conservation, and human connections that shape Maine's aquatic environments. Working alongside scientists and educators from 7 Lakes Alliance in Belgrade and the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership on Penobscot Bay, students will experience the full spectrum of Maine's freshwater and marine ecosystems. Activities include water quality testing, species identification, habitat mapping, and data collection for ongoing research initiatives.

Students will apply their findings to create authentic final products—such as conservation recommendations, educational materials, or multimedia storytelling pieces—that highlight the importance of protecting Maine's waters. By the end of the program, participants will gain a deeper understanding of ecosystem dynamics, sustainability, and the role of science in stewardship—all while experiencing the beauty and complexity of Maine's lakes, rivers, and coast firsthand.

Core Themes: Ecology · Conservation · Maine History · Human-Environment Systems

Program Fee: $4,000. This cost includes all transportation, food, housing, and activities.

Academic Credit Earned: 1 credit; equivalent to a year-long course