

## Outreach Programs

Hidden Pond Nature Center offers outreach programs to bring curriculum-based science lessons into your classroom. Presentations and interactive learning activities support units of study for all grade levels. Programs offered at Hidden Pond may be adapted to your classroom or outdoor space. Presentations are 30-60 minutes long and designed for individual classes of up to 25 students.

### Animal Adaptations

Live Virginia animals visit your classroom to teach students how their physical traits and behavioral instincts help them survive in the wild. **SOLs: K.6, K.7a, 1.5, 2.4a, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.8B**

### Schoolyard Hike

Naturalists lead students in a hands-on study of their science topic in the outdoor space of their school. **SOLs: K.6, K.7, K.9, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.4, 2.5a,b, 2.7a, 2.8c, 3.4, 3.8, 3.10a**

### The Adventurous Seed

Students discover the parts of a seed, and methods of seed travel by dissecting a lima bean and inspecting different types of fruits. **SOLs: K7, K9b**

### Seeds of Success

Fourth Graders demonstrate their understanding of plant life processes and adaptations as they work in groups to make a model plant out of recycled materials. **SOLs: 4.4**

### Project Wild, Flying Wild, Project Wet

Students learn about the ecological concepts of biodiversity, predator/prey relationships, carrying capacity, survival strategies, symbiotic relationships, bioaccumulation, and others as they “become” wild animals during interactive games, predict outcomes and analyze results. Time frames are flexible. **SOLs: LS.6c,d, LS.7, LS.8, LS.9b,c, LS.10b, LS.11b,c,d,e,LS.13a,c,BIO.7b,c,d, BIO.8**

## Scheduling a Program

### Field Trip Program Fees:

Program fees are based on the length of the program. Each learning activity is 30 minutes long and designed for a group of up to 25 students. Each scheduled program may accommodate a maximum of 125 students.

1 hour program:	\$5 per student
90 minute program:	\$6 per student
2 hour program:	\$7 per student

A fee of \$1 per student is added for schools outside of Fairfax County. Program fee is due on the day of the program.

### Outreach Program Fees:

First presentation	\$150
Each additional presentation	\$100

For outreach programs requiring more than 2 instructors, a \$50 fee is added for each 30-minute learning activity.

For more information or to schedule a program, please contact:

Shannon Morley

School Programs Coordinator

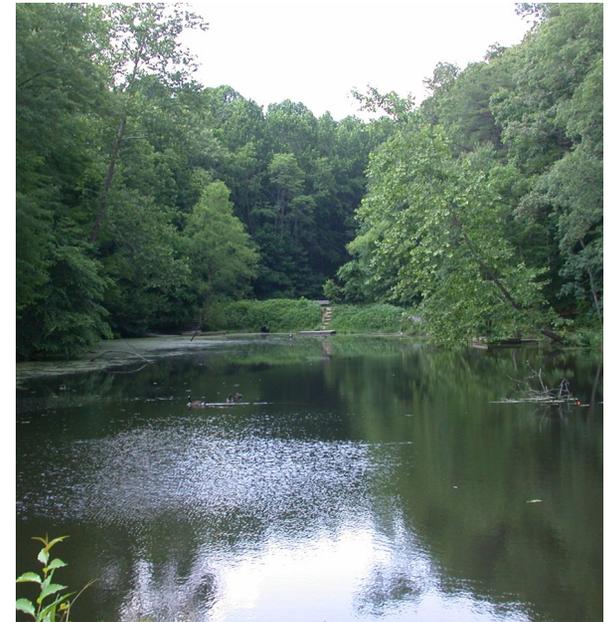
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703-451-9588



*Hidden Pond Nature Center  
is owned and operated by the  
Fairfax County Park Authority*

# Science Education at Hidden Pond Nature Center



Hidden Pond Nature Center

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Springfield, VA 22152

703-451-9588

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond/)

# MISSION

*The Mission of Hidden Pond Nature Center is to provide the community knowledge and understanding of the natural world and our place in it.*

## Hidden Pond Science Education

Hidden Pond Nature Center utilizes the natural world to teach standards-based science lessons for students of all grade levels. Our programs support science outcomes with live animal presentations and hands-on exploration of the pond, wetland, and forest ecosystems. Educators are available to develop or modify programs to support specific units of study for your class. If there is a science topic not listed here that you are interested in, give us a call to discuss developing a program.

## Wetland Ecosystems

Hidden Pond's most requested program utilizes the pond and wetlands to teach several science SOL topics for many grade levels. Students gain memorable experience from several study stations including netting at the pond's edge with identification, wetland exploration hike, live animal adaptations presentation, and a macro and microscopic life of wetlands nature center visit. Several educational slideshows are also offered with the program, featuring local Virginia flora and fauna, including Web of Life which deals with the pond food chain, and Croakers which introduces students to native frogs and toads and their life histories. Stream study of the Pohick Creek and exploration of the peeper swamp are also offered. This program meets the 7th grade Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience requirements as it ties in our wetlands' influence on the Chesapeake Watershed. **SOLs : K.5, K.6, K.7, K.9 b,c, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 2.4A, 2.5 a-c , 2.8 c,d, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6a, 3.8B, 3.9, 3.10, 4.5 a, d, 4.9 a,b,c, 5.5c, 6.7c,d, 6.9a, L.S 4, L.S 7, L.S 8, 9, L.S 10, and L.S 11 b-e.**

## Seasonal Changes

Students relate changes in the seasons and the weather to their direct observations of the natural world. Learning activities include guided woodland exploration and live animal adaptations presentation. **SOLs: K.6, K.7, K.9, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.4, 2.5a,b, 2.7a, 2.8c, 3.4, 3.8, 3.10a**

## Field, Forest and Edges Plant Study

Students learn more about the life cycles and life processes of their local trees, woody and herbaceous plant species. Topics range from reproduction, pollination, seeds, and seed dispersal to the role of trees and the impacts of plants on other species and the carbon cycle. This program includes habitat study, plant and tree id, group design a plant activity, and live animal presentation on the role of plants in the lives of wildlife. **SOLs : 1.4, 1.7, 2.4B, 2.5 a-c, 2.8, 3.5, 3.7a, 3.8c, 3.10, 4.4, 4.5a, 4.9b, LS.11 b-e**

## 4th Grade Ecosystems

Hidden Pond's wetlands and woodlands are the perfect place to build an understanding of ecosystems. Naturalist educators support your unit of study by leading students in wildlife observation, animal tracking, searching for den sites and more. This program may include pond exploration, animal presentations, interactive slideshows, or any other learning activities listed. **SOLs : 4.5, 4.9**

## Rocks, Minerals and Soil

Students have an interactive discussion with rock and mineral samples, learn how earth materials are used in daily life, and how geology has influenced human civilization. Outdoor learning activities range from gold panning to rock hunting or soil study. Students are given rock and mineral samples to start their own collection. **SOLs : 2.7b, 2.8d, 3.7, 4.9c,d, and 5.7**

## Insects and other Invertebrates

Students get to know invertebrates up close and personal as they view an interactive slide show and then catch them in either the pond, stream, forest or meadow. Students may also search for invertebrates inside rotting logs by request. Animals caught will be identified and released. **SOLs: K.6, K.7a,c,d, 1.5, 1.7a, 2.4a, 2.5, 2.7a, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.8b**

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Hidden Pond Nature Center has one of the largest collections of live exhibits in Fairfax County. Students discover the wonders of animal adaptations as they interact with these members of their local Virginia wildlife. Students search for these animals in their natural habitats as they explore the wetlands or forest areas, check some survey sites, or visit likely reptile locales. **SOLs: K.6, K.7a, 1.5, 2.4a, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.8B**

## Wildlife Evidence

The forests are alive, even as animals hide from us. Naturalists teach students what signs and tracks to look for, and students practice their observation skills and draw conclusions as they hike through the forest and other wild habitats. **SOLs : K.6, 1.5, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8B, 3.10, 4.8B and 5.6c**