Riverbend Park Field Trips
2013-2014

8700 Potomac Hills St.
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-9018

Come to Riverbend Park to experience nature and history based field trips. Our field trips offer hands on, outdoor experiences to supplement your curriculum. Each field trip corresponds with Virginia Science and/or Social Studies SOL's.

1st-6th Grade Programs: 1.5 hrs

Earth Explorers – Igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary? Hands-on activities include identifying rocks and minerals, exploring plate tectonics, and building a volcano. Hike along the Potomac in search of the ancient ocean floor and explore soil types.
SOL/Program of Studies: 3.3, 4.8, 5.6, 5.7
***Outreach Program Available**

Soil, the Black Box—Open the black box and explore the wonderful underground! Hands on experiments and activities will illustrate the importance of soil in our ecosystem. Compare soils and learn how to tell their composition. Hike along the Potomac to see the connection between soil and our watershed.
SOL/Program of Studies: 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10
New Program

Life Cycles- Find patterns in everyday life as we discover and explore animal and plant life cycles. Learn how everything changes as it grows and discover some surprising animals and their offspring. A hike in the park and hands-on activities provides a fun and active way to learn more about the fascinating life cycles around us.
***Outreach Program Available**
SOL/Program of Studies: 3.5, 3.6
New Program

Eat or Be Eaten — Join us as we investigate food chains and learn more about the exciting world of producers, consumers and decomposers as well as predator-prey relationships. We will explore both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems to discover how different populations share and compete for resources.
SOL/Program of Studies: 3.5, 3.6
New Program

Homely Habitats –What does every plant and animal need to survive? Hands-on activities in different habitat types will help us discover what resources animals are using and why the animals depend on them for survival.
SOL/Program of Studies: 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8
***Outreach Program Available**

Indians of the Potomac– Gather 'round the totem pole, touch the dugout canoe, view an Indian warrior in full dress and see local artifacts. Find out how the Algonquian Indians adapted to their climate and environment to secure food, clothing and shelter. Learn about their daily lives through activities. Take a short hike along the Potomac River, a heavily used American Indian travel way.
SOL/Program of Studies: VS.2
***Outreach Program Available**

Rain on My Watershed – What happens when it rains? Find out with this action packed program by building an enormous land mass with mountains, waterfalls and lakes, and then we'll make it rain. Find out how each of us fits into the Potomac River watershed. Become part of the water cycle, make erosion happen, and take a hike along the Potomac River.
SOL/Program of Studies: 2.3, 2.5, 3.7, 3.9, 4.1, 4.8, 5.7, 6.5 ***Outreach Program Available**

Sense-ational Seasons- Join us on a one mile hike throughout the park to discover the seasons. We will explore the forest and river to discover physical and behavioral adaptations of animals and plants. Use all of our senses to search for wildlife and find all that nature has to offer. Available for all seasons.
SOL/Program of Studies: 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, 3.10

Invisible Giants—Microbes are all around us and are an essential part of our ecosystem. Students will be led through interactive activities that will broaden their understanding of ecological relationships (e.g. consumers/producers and symbiosis), nutrient cycling and eutrophication of our watershed. Microbes are not invisible once you learn to spot their handy work!
SOL/Program of Studies: 3.7, 6.7, LS 6
New Program

Delightful Decomposers - Look at life under a log. Hike the forest in search of decomposers, such as turkey tail, shelf fungus, worms, termites and more! Through trail activities find out why decomposers, such as fungus, are important to maintain a healthy ecosystem.
SOL/Program of Studies: 1.4(a,b,c), 1.7(a), 2.5(a), 2.8(c), 3.10(a)

PreK-K programs: 45 minutes

Sense-ational Seasons Walk or Wagon Ride – Experience the sounds, colors and textures of the different seasons on this ¼ mile forest discovery walk or wagon ride. Through fun activities and games we will explore nature and learn how the animals use their senses throughout the year.
SOL/Program of Studies: K.1, K.2, K.4

All about Ants – Explore the world of these amazing insects. Become part of an ant colony. Learn about their life cycle and their fascinating social lives.
SOL/Program of Studies: K.6
***Outreach Program Available**

Powhatan and Pocahontas - Through a short walk, hands-on activities, and handling tools and other everyday items (artifact reproductions), learn what your life would have been like as an American Indian child living here a long time ago. Listen to some stories about Powhatan and Pocahontas.
Social Studies Program of Studies: SOLs – K.1, K.2
***Outreach Program Available**

Animals on the Move – - Nature never rests, even when Old Man Winter comes around. Learn about migration, hibernation, and active winter animals, through interactive activities, stories and songs.
***Outreach Program Available**

Tiny Creatures—Explore the micro-world of insects and other invertebrates in this program. Learn how they grow, eat, hunt, and adapt to the world around them. On an outdoor hike we will see what small creatures we can find.
SOL/Program of Studies: K.6, K7
***Outreach Program Available**
New Program

Animals Abound-- Join us for games, stories and hikes that will lead us in learning about life cycles, habitats and adaptions of the animal of your choice. Students will have the opportunity to feed and touch one of the parks resident animals. Available topics include: snake, turtle or frog and toad. **SOL/Program of Studies**: K.2, K.6
***Outreach Program Available**
New Program

Cost: Fairfax County Public Schools: $5/student and chaperones. Teachers are free
Other Schools: $6/students and chaperones. Teachers are free
Extras: Themed Goody Bags: $4/bag
30 minute wagon ride with program: $2/person

* No Money for Buses? Outreach Programs available December-March *

Fairfax County: $150 for the 1st class, $125 for each additional class

Other: $200 for the first class and $175 for each additional class.

For more information or to register, call 703-759-9018
or email Julie.Gurnee@fairfaxcounty.gov

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Great Falls, VA

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call 703-324-8563 TTY 703-803-3354.