

2022 Field Trip Education Program Guide

Science Focused Programming

Arthropod Hunt (2nd through 5th grades): Students will peak under leaf piles and sift through pond water to discover arthropods and investigate the roles these animals play in the forest ecosystem. Students will compare arthropods living in three different habitats; forest floor, trees/shrubs, and a freshwater pond. This program addresses the concepts of arthropod body structure, adaptations, lifecycles, metamorphosis, and diet. For older students we discuss how arthropods are connected to issues of forest health and water quality. Bring shoes that can get wet and muddy.

Citizen Scientist (3rd through 8th grades): In this program students will focus on learning about citizen science, forest management, what tools scientists use, and how we can help! This is a hands-on program taking place along the Cradle's paved trails and at our new Citizen Science Lab in our exhibit hall. Your program can focus on Ecology, Forestry or Hydrology!

Ecology: In the Ecology lab (best for 2nd grade & up) students will take part in a BioBlitz, recording plants and animals found in Pisgah National Forest. Students will practice using field guides to identify plants and animals, and learn different wildlife monitoring techniques such as camera traps, tracking, and collection.

Forestry: In the Forestry lab (best for 5th grade & up) students will learn how to identify and measure local tree species and help us monitor an invasive species attacking our hemlock trees. Students will measure tree height, diameter, and board feet.

Hydrology: In the Hydrology lab (best for 3rd -5th grade) students will learn how water moves through a watershed as well as the benefits of clean water. Students will observe and measure 3 different types of water quality indicators and learn about beavers, wetlands and forest succession as they visit the Pink Beds watershed.

Forest Festival Trail- Guided Tour (All ages, even adults!): This 1.3-mile trail explores Dr. Schenck's forestry experiments, a portable saw mill, and a logging locomotive that students can climb aboard. The trails stimulate discussions about ways of living, habitat, how plants grow, succession, energy cycling, and forestry concepts. Great for adult groups too!

Getting to Know Trees (Forestry Badge Program for Scouts): This program is intended to give scouts a glimpse into the historical and ecological significance of the Cradle of Forestry in the United States. Scouts will be guided along our Forest Festival Trail (1.3 miles) while learning what forestry is and how it is implemented, starting at the definition of what a forest is, to the anatomy of a single tree, to the layers and structure of a forest, to the big picture of managing large forest stands.

Social Studies Focused Programming

The Great Wagon Road Game (4th grade & Up): Learners will become immersed in the early 1700's when European settlers first settled in WNC. Students will play an interactive role-playing version of the "Oregon Trail" game of their teacher's youth. The Cradle of Forestry has brought the game to life along our Biltmore Campus Trail (1 mile). This interactive walking game takes you around the trail to learn more about the trials and tribulations the first European settlers faced as they traveled the Great Wagon Road and settled our beautiful mountains. Learners will travel in "wagon groups", "purchase" supplies (no real money involved in the game) for the journey and stop to roll the dice of destiny that will choose their cards of fate.

Tools, Toys and Resources (Kindergarten through 5th grades): This program provides a hands-on experience to capture students' imaginations and challenge their critical thinking skills as they compare the technology of the past with what they see in their own lives. Students will be immersed in an Appalachian Mountain community from the early 1900's, visiting historical buildings along our Biltmore Campus Trail (1-mile paved loop). Younger students will explore toys and play from the past, while older students will discover the advantages of tree identification and how wood products were useful in everyday life.

Biltmore Campus Trail- Guided Tour (All ages, even adults!): This 1-mile trail passes seven historical buildings, including a schoolhouse, commissary, and student quarters. Visitors will learn about the beginning of the Biltmore Forest School in 1898, the community that was living here at that time and the effects on forestry in the area. Great for adult groups too!