



Field Trips at the Watershed Reserve

Field trips are offered Tuesday through Saturday, year-round unless otherwise noted. To register your school or group for a field trip, call the Buttinger Nature Center at 609-737-7592 or email bnc@thewatershed.org.

Nature Center Visit

Preschool (Ages 3 to 5)

1 hour

A Nature Discovery Program for Nursery School/Preschool classes will be held in the Buttinger Nature Center. Children will meet the animals in our Discovery Rooms and use their senses to learn more about nature. Weather permitting, a short nature hike may be included. A small collection of natural items and a handout to set up a touch table in the classroom will be given to the teacher. Classes may bring their picnic blankets and snacks to picnic. Group Size Limit: 15 children maximum (1 to 5 adult/child ratio)

Butterfly Magic

Preschool and Kindergarten (Ages 3 to 5)

1 hour

Students will learn the lifecycle of the butterfly as well as the various behaviors of butterflies. They will learn to identify the different stages of life and observe butterflies in the butterfly house. Secondary students will use sweep nets to explore insect life on the reserve. *Available May through September only.*

Beautiful Butterflies

1st – 8th grade (Ages 6 to 13)

2 – 3 hours

Students will learn the lifecycle of the butterfly as well as the various behaviors of butterflies. They will learn to identify the different stages of life and observe butterflies in the butterfly house. Secondary students will use sweep nets to explore insect life on the reserve. *Available May through September only.*

Monarchs & Migration

1st – 8th grade (Ages 6 to 13)

2½ hours

Students will learn about migration and why animals migrate. They will learn about the migration routes of the Monarch butterfly, as well as conservation efforts. *Available May through September only.*

Discover Summer, Autumn, Winter or Spring

Preschool – 2nd grade (Ages 3 to 7)

1½ – 3 hours

Through these discovery programs, youngsters will explore the magic each season brings to field and forest. Among topics are the colors of fall, migration, hibernation, the rebirth of spring, and the plentifulness of summer. Students will create a large classroom mural after their discovery walk.

Animals and their Habitats

Preschool – 12th grade (Ages 3 to 17)

1½ – 3 hours

Exploring the Watershed Reserve, students will examine different habitats and discover evidence of a variety of animals. Students will investigate how animals meet their basic needs including where they live and what they eat. Students will also learn how to identify animal tracks and other signs left by local wildlife.

Exploring a Pond

1st – 5th grade (Ages 6 to 10)

2½ – 4 hours

Using a variety of tools (seines, nets, microscopes) students will learn about life in and around a pond. Relationships between the various inhabitants and the human effect on aquatic habitats will be explored.

Insect Safari

Kindergarten – 12th grade (Ages 5 to 17)

2 – 3 hours

Using nets and bug boxes, students will discover a vast array of insect life, learning how to find and identify them and observing a variety of life styles and adaptations.

Secondary students will learn about human attempts to control insect populations and the effects of those efforts upon the environment.

Fun With Trees

Kindergarten – 6th grade (Ages 5 to 11)

2½ – 3 hours

Children will be introduced to a variety of trees during an exploratory walk; learning how they provide food and shelter in the forest. Through play oriented activities, youngsters will also learn how trees grow. Using forestry tools, upper elementary students will age and measure trees. *During the month of February, the focus shifts toward the maple sugaring season. Students will visit sugar maples, learn how to make maple syrup, and enjoy some of the finished product.*

The Food Web

1st – 6th grade (Ages 6 to 11)

2½ – 3 hours

Children will discover the flow of energy from the sun through the web. Examples of food chains will be examined. Predator and prey relationships will be explored through play-oriented activities and an interpretive hike.

Native American Lifestyles

4th – 6th grade (Ages 9 to 11)

4 – 4½ hours

Throughout the program, students will learn how early Native Americans utilized the natural resources in this area of New Jersey. A silent hike begins the program yielding many discoveries in the field and forest. Students will learn about the edible and medicinal use of plants, as well as the many ways Native peoples used animals. A large classroom mural will be created from the information gathered on the ecology hike. In addition, students will be engaged in stories and games from various tribes throughout the country.

How Clean is Your Stream

5th – 12th grade (Ages 10 to 17)

3½ – 5 hours

Students will examine stream life and discuss relationships between the various inhabitants of this world as well as the effect of humans on their environment. Emphasis is on determining the environmental health through visual assessment, chemical testing, and biological monitoring. Students will also discuss possible conservation measures.

Nature's Winter World

Preschool – 1st grade (Ages 3 to 6)

½ – 1 hour

Learn about the lives of animals in winter through stories and puppets. Discover how different animals survive the challenges of winter by meeting a variety of creatures, including a groundhog, a skunk, a bird, and an insect (all puppets) as well as a live turtle. *Available December through the end of February only.*

Reptiles are Fun!

Preschool – 2nd grade (Ages 3 to 7)

½ – 1 hour

Children are introduced to reptiles through a story and a lesson about how they live and survive in the wild. This includes a visit by some live reptiles. *Available December through the end of February only.*