

EASTWAY | MCDOWELL | QUEST | REEDY CREEK
| STEVENS CREEK |

MECKLENBURG COUNTY
NATURE CENTER
CURRICULUM GUIDE



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation

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Program Information

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The Curriculum

Each of our kindergarten through 5th grade Nature Center Experiences is carefully crafted to align with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, making our programs a fun and unique supplement to traditional classroom instruction.

Preschool programs are inspired by the North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development to encourage emotional, social, and cognitive development.

Our team of educators routinely evaluate our curriculum to ensure we are providing the best education programs in Mecklenburg County and the surrounding areas.

In order to help us identify opportunities for growth or allow us to celebrate our strengths, you'll receive a survey at the end of your program. Please take a moment to provide us with feedback so that we can continue to offer the best programming available.



Picnic Under a Pavilion

Come to explore, stay for a picnic! Let us know you'd like to stay for lunch and we can reserve an outdoor pavilion, porch, or indoor space for your group to eat.

In case of inclement weather, we are only able to make indoor arrangements at Quest, Reedy Creek, and Stevens Creek Nature Centers. McDowell Nature Center and Eastway are limited to accommodating large groups indoors based on occupancy restrictions.

Group Preparedness

Prior to your Nature Center Experience, you will receive an email that outlines expectations for student and teacher/chaperone behavior, as well as activities you can do with your class before you visit.

Please know that while we are here to assist in the learning process, ultimately teachers and chaperones have a relationship with students that our educators do not. Student behavior is the responsibility of the teacher/chaperone at all times during your visit.

Additionally, please ensure all teachers, chaperones, and students are dressed appropriately for the weather and wearing closed-toe shoes. Programs include indoor and outdoor activities that occur rain or shine. Nature center staff will make modifications for extreme weather if needed.



ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS



- K.L.1.1; K.L.1.2
- 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2; 1.L.2.2
- 2.L.2.2
- 4.L.1.1; 4.L.1.2; 4.L.1.4
- 5.L.2.1; 5.L.2.2; 5.L.2.3

CREEPY CRAWLY



- K.L.1.2
- 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2; 1.L.2.2
- 2.L.1.1; 2.L.1.2

F.B.I. INVESTIGATION



- 4.L.1.1; 4.L.1.2; 4.L.1.3
- 5.L.1.2; 5.L.1.3

FANTASTIC FLOWERS



- K.L.1.2
- 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2; 1.L.2.1
- 3.L.2.1; 3.L.2.2; 3.L.2.3

ROCKIN' ROCKS



- 4.P.2.1; 4.P.2.2; 4.P.2.3

SCALY & SLIMY



- K.L.1.1; K.L.1.2
- 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2; 1.L.2.2
- 2.L.1.1; 2.L.1.2; 2.L.2.1
- 4.L.1.1; 4.L.1.2

STREAM STUDY



- K.P.1.1; K.P.1.2; K.L.1.1; K.L.1.2
- 2.L.1.1; 2.L.1.2
- 4.L.1.1; 4.L.1.3
- 5.L.2.2; 5.L.2.3

SURPRISING SOIL



- 1.E.2.1; 1.E.2.2; 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2
- 3.L.2.4
- 4.L.2.3

TREMENDOUS TREES



- K.L.1.2
- 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2; 1.L.2.1
- 2.L.2.1; 2.L.2.2
- 3.L.2.1; 3.L.2.2; 3.L.2.3

WONDROUS WEATHER



- K.E.1.1; K.E.1.2; K.E.1.3
- 2.E.1.1; 2.E.1.2; 2.E.1.3; 2.E.1.4
- 5.E.1.1; 5.E.1.2; 5.E.1.3

WOODLAND WILDLIFE



- K.L.1.2
- 1.L.1.1; 1.L.1.2; 1.L.2.2
- 2.L.2.2
- 4.L.1.1; 4.L.1.2; 4.L.1.4
- 5.L.2.1; 5.L.2.2; 5.L.2.3

WORLD OF WATER



- K.E.1.1; K.E.1.2
- 1.L.1.3; 1.E.2.1
- 2.E.1.1; 2.P.2.1
- 3.E.2.1; 3.L.2.2; 3.P.2.2; 3.P.2.3
- 4.L.1.1; 4.L.1.3
- 5.P.2.1; 5.P.3.1

The following align with National Guidelines for Excellence in Early Childhood Education for preschoolers:

- BUG BASICS
- I SPEAK FOR THE TREES
- MAGNIFICENT MAMMALS
- SCALY TALES & SLIMY TIMES
- SENSORY SAFARI

Field Trip Locations

4



Program Information

Cancellation, Rescheduling, & No-Shows

Every effort will be made to reschedule a program if needed. However, we cannot guarantee further availability once your booking is confirmed.

Program Fees

CMS schools: \$40.00 (per group / per hour of program time)

Non-CMS schools: \$50.00 (per group / per hour of program time)

Non-Resident: \$60.00 (per group / per hour of program time)

In-school visits: Additional \$15 travel fee for programming for each day of travel.

Customized programming: Additional fee of \$25 for a customized program.

Program Payment Options

Payment in full is due prior to your group's visit, unless other arrangements are made. An invoice will be sent to the email address provided within the week of program confirmation. If after one week you have not received an invoice in your email or filtered folders, please call the respective nature center and we can resend it.

Payments may be made by Visa, Mastercard, cash, or check. For further payment instructions, please refer to your confirmation invoice.

Contact Us

Book your program today!

MCDOWELL NATURE CENTER

15222 York Road, Charlotte, NC 28278
980-314-1128

QUEST AT LATTA NATURE PRESERVE

6345 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC 28078
980-314-7878

REEDY CREEK NATURE CENTER

2986 Rocky River Road, Charlotte, NC 28215
980-314-1119

STEVENS CREEK NATURE CENTER

15700 Thompson Road, Mint Hill, NC 28227
980-314-2526

EASTWAY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

423 Eastway Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215
980-314-1465

Teacher Planning

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Scheduling Your Field Trip

Please have this information available when you call to schedule.

- Grade level _____
- Number of students and classes _____
- 2-3 date options _____
- Arrival and departure times _____
- Program selections (programs are 1-2 hours in length) _____

- Lunch plans and pavilion request _____

Modifications and Accessibility

To request a program modification based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact staff at 980-314-1192 or email TRInfo@MeckNC.gov.

7



Animal Adaptations

From teeth to tails and hibernation to migration, observe the attributes of a variety of native wildlife to discover how adaptations allow them to not just survive but thrive.

P

K

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5



Bug Basics

Get to know the creatures that call the forest floor home! Peek under rocks, roll logs, and collect specimens to uncover the important role bugs play in our ecosystem.

P

K

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Creepy Crawly

8

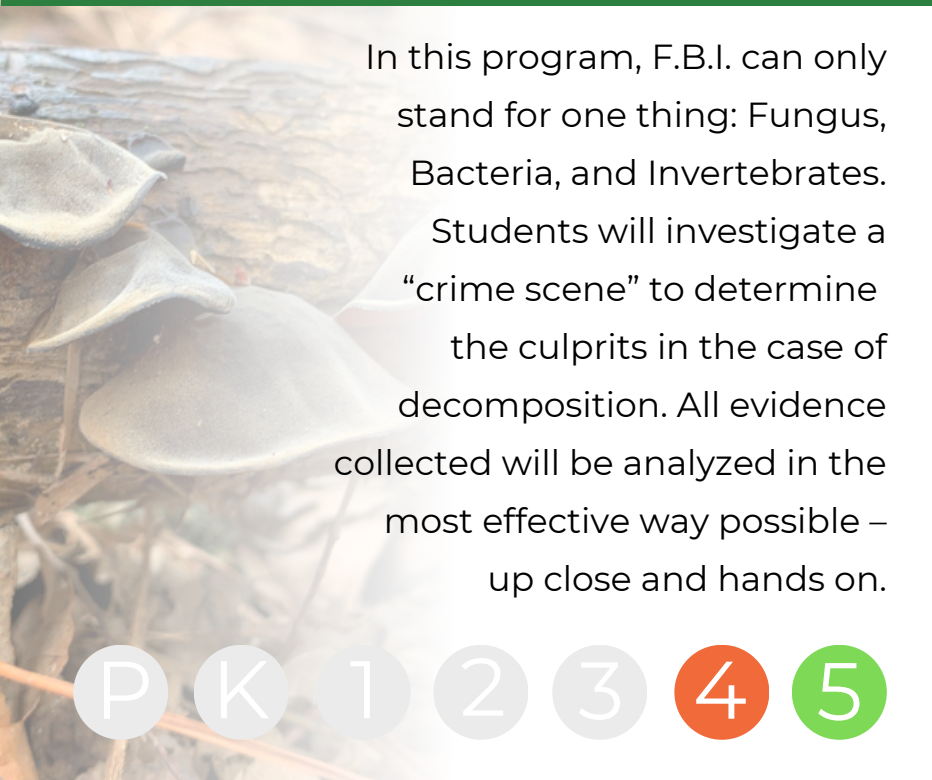


All creatures play a role in our ecosystem, even the creepiest and crawliest ones! Discover the world of invertebrates from egg to adult: Uncover the value of a worm as we search the forest floor for nature's less-celebrated species.

P K 1 2 3 4 5



F.B.I. Investigation



In this program, F.B.I. can only stand for one thing: Fungus, Bacteria, and Invertebrates. Students will investigate a "crime scene" to determine the culprits in the case of decomposition. All evidence collected will be analyzed in the most effective way possible – up close and hands on.

P K 1 2 3 4 5





Fantastic Flowers



Peel away petals to uncover the inside scoop on flowering plants during a flower dissection. Investigate the way flowers bring more than just color into our world.



I Speak for the Trees

Compare and contrast leaf shapes, investigate the textures of tree bark, and get a grip on how trees grow. You'll be able to speak for the trees, too!





Magnificent Mammals

10



Study pelt and skull specimens up close to reveal the secret lives of North Carolina's elusive mammal population. Take to the trail in search of tracks and traces of where these furry forest dwellers have been!



P K 1 2 3 4 5

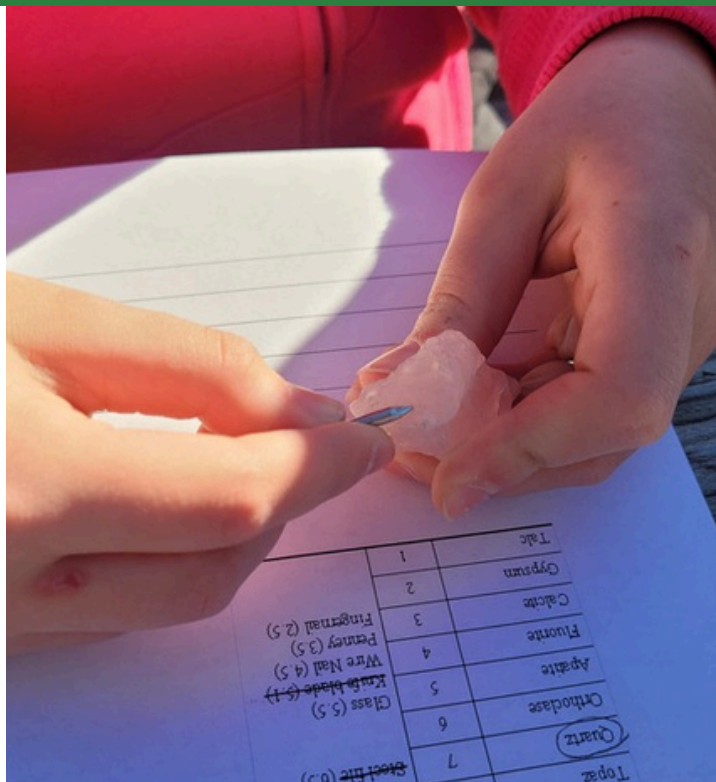


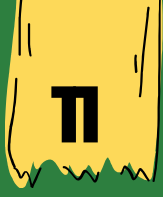
Rockin' Rocks



When it comes to geology, the answers aren't always crystal clear. Compare properties of rocks and discover the geologic processes that create metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary rocks here in the Carolina Piedmont.

P K 1 2 3 4 5





Scaly & Slimy



At first glance, the difference between reptiles and amphibians can seem insignificant. However, characteristics and habitat needs can differ dramatically. Get a close look at adaptations that set these animals apart, and search high and low for a close encounter of a scaly (or slimy!) kind.



Scale Tales & Slimy Times



Discover the characteristics that set reptiles and amphibians apart, then take to the trail in search of a close encounter of the scaly and slimy kind!





Sensory Safari

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Taste a tree, smell a bug, look for critters, listen for wildlife, and get your hands dirty on an exploration through woods that will engage all five senses!

P K 1 2 3 4 5

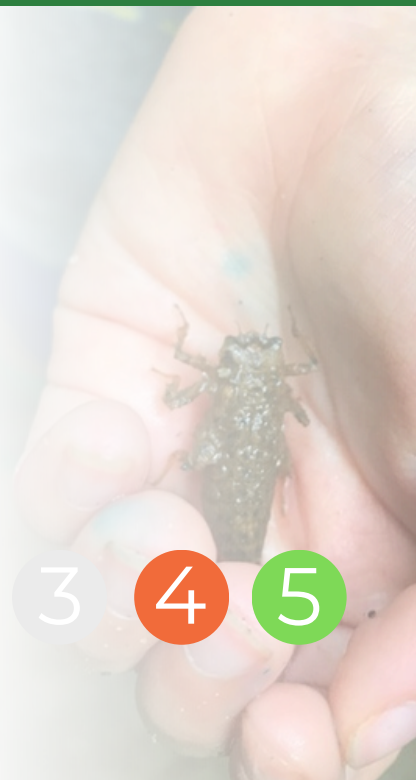


Stream Study



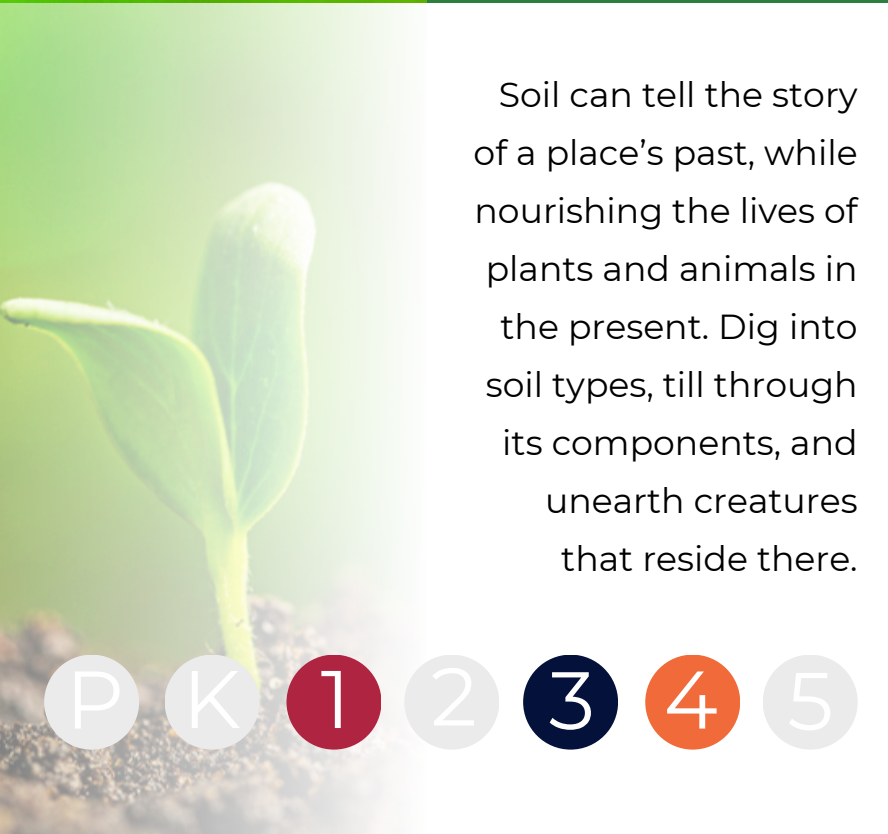
Slosh along a stream bank, net a crayfish, and observe the quality of our waterways by studying the indicator species of aquatic ecosystems.

P K 1 2 3 4 5





Surprising Soil



Soil can tell the story of a place's past, while nourishing the lives of plants and animals in the present. Dig into soil types, till through its components, and unearth creatures that reside there.



P K 1 2 3 4 5



Tremendous Trees



Examine the systems that help trees grow and investigate the anatomy of a tree in this hands-on program. We'll shine a light on how tremendous trees can really be!

P K 1 2 3 4 5



Wondrous Weather

14

It is easy to classify the weather as it is happening, but how do meteorologists predict what will happen with weather tomorrow or next week? Use meteorological tools to measure weather conditions, decode weather data, and determine how weather plays a role in our daily lives.

P K 1 2 3 4 5



Woodland Wildlife

Go beyond terrific turkeys, slithering snakes, and fantastic foxes for a glimpse into the world of the Piedmont's most elusive woodland animals. Compare diets and consider adaptations while studying skins and skulls. Head outside to explore how these creatures connect with their habitat.

P K 1 2 3 4 5





World of Water



Our planet is covered in water, yet only 1% of that water is available for human consumption. Dive deep into the role water plays in our lives and the ways it nourishes the greater ecosystem.





Don't See What You're Looking For?

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Environmental Education goes beyond
science standards, and so do we.

Let us customize your experience!

Call your favorite nature center to collaborate.





Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation