



Group Programs

Blue Jay Point's education staff is available to lead a variety of natural history and environmental education programs. The following list of program topics is to help you decide what type of program in which you would like your group to participate.

- All programs are 1 hour long, except as noted, and designed specifically for your group, so please let us know of any special needs your students may have.
- All programs are based on the current NCDPI curriculum and are specific to the Piedmont region of North Carolina.
- A school or single-age "group" is the number of students a classroom teacher serves on a daily basis (~25) plus 1 chaperone per 5 students.
- In order to meet the diverse learning styles of children, multi-age groups are divided into the following age ranges (5 – 8 years, 9 – 12 years, and 13 and up). Please note that each age group will receive a separate program. Multi-age programs are intended for groups of 15 or less, with 1 chaperone per 5 children. We ask that siblings not attend in order to help us maintain the integrity of the group.
- **Programs go on rain or shine! In case of inclement weather, suitable indoor activities will be substituted.**

Group program fee is \$25.00/program
Group program fees are due within 2 weeks of making reservation.
WCPSS fees are due 2 weeks before arrival.

Contact the Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education at: (919) 870-4330

Birds

- **Beginner Birdwatching** – Learn how to identify birds by field markings and song.
- **Bird Adaptations** – Explore different adaptations, which birds have them, and why. *Allergy Note: This program uses tree nuts (pecans, walnuts, etc.)*
- **Bird Hike** – Get outside as we watch the birds. Explore bird behaviors, habitat needs, and more.
- **Remarkable Raptors** – Appreciate the unique niche of day- and night-time raptors with this informative program about birds-of-prey adaptations and behavior.

Mammals

- **Animal Signs** – Develop observation skills and recognition of signs indicating animal presence, including mammals, birds, and insects.
- **Animal Tracks** – Discover animals through the tracks they leave behind. Discussion of track identification and preparation of model animal track molds are included. Learn other kinds of animal signs and hike to look for tracks and signs. ***Due to staff time and materials involved, this program is charged as a double program.*** (1½ hrs)
- **Beaver Fever** - Learn about the habitat, adaptations and lifestyle of beavers through lots of visuals and interactive games.
- **Beaver Hike** – Learn about the habitat, adaptations, and life style of beavers in this lengthy hike-based program. (1¼ hrs)

Herps

- **Amphibian Antics** – Explore the characteristics of amphibians as we search our pond for adults and larvae.
- **Hurray for Herps** – Compare and contrast reptile and amphibian morphology and lifestyle.
- **Rip, Roaring Reptiles** – Learn about the reptiles common to the piedmont of North Carolina through slides and a hike.

Invertebrates

- **Field Follies** – Search grassy edges of the park for the amazing variety of insects that live there (mid-May - October)
- **Incredible Insects** – What makes an insect an insect? How do they grow up and where can we find them? (year-round)
- **Pollination Mayhem** – Did you know that one of every 3 bites of food you take is thanks to a pollinator? Come learn about this important plant and animal interaction as we explore pollinators and actively learn through Pollination Mayhem.
- **Pond Study** – Learn about aquatic insects, how to identify them, and how they make their living in a watery world.

Plants

- **Gardening for Wildlife** – Learn how to turn your backyard into prime wildlife habitat.
- **Tree Hike** – Learn how to identify our area's more common trees using easy-to-remember characteristics such as leaf shape, bark texture, fruit, and buds. (This is a great winter program!)
- **Plants to Ponder** – Explore the variety of plants at Blue Jay Point. Learn the differences between trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants and how to identify them.

Ecology

- **Habitat Hike** – Learn about interrelationships between plants and animals as we search for the components of habitat.
- **Nature Walk** – Learn a potpourri of subjects from plant identification to habitat concepts to bird watching and more. Help students feel comfortable in an outdoor setting and give them a chance to use their observation skills.
- **Night Hike** – Explore the “whole other world” that exists after dark on a staff-led nighttime walk. Find out about some common nocturnal animals, with a focus on the owls of Blue Jay Point (available to Lodge groups only, during non-Daylight Savings Time).
- **Night Hike Primer** – Get your group ready to go on a night hike of your own with this daytime program! Learn about the “whole other world” that exists after dark, common nocturnal animals, with a focus on the owls of Blue Jay Point. Learn how to search for and identify them by viewing slides, handling artifacts, and other interactive means.
- **Piedmont Communities Hike** – Discover the history of the piedmont area and how people's use of the land has changed over time. Learn about the connection between people, plants, and animals in this hike-based program.
- **Piedmont Ecology Hike** – Learn about piedmont ecology, plants and plant succession, animals, and their interactions in this hike-based program.
- **The Rotten Truth** – Explore composting and the tiny organisms that make it happen—from nature's decomposition to manmade composting!

Environmental Studies

- **Environmental Ethics** – Explore the environmental ethic continuum. Learn what your environmental ethic is through discussion and activities.
- **Green Living** – Discover environmentally sound alternatives to everyday activities and products that you can use at home, school, and outdoors.
- **It's Neuse to Me!** – Learn what a watershed is (where water goes when it rains), why watersheds are important to us, and how human interaction affects water quality. Learn about your ecological address!