



Recommended 3rd Grade Programs

Blue Jay's education staff loves working with 3rd graders! Our one-hour programs are free and available for groups of 10-25 students plus chaperones. While our group programs are free, please be mindful that we are reserving this spot especially for your group—any cancellations must take place in writing at least 30 days in advance of your program date. **Programs go on rain or shine**—we have great indoor resources and activities to use when needed.

Call (919) 870-4330 or email bluejaypoint@wakegov.com to make a reservation.

- The Rotten Truth** Explore the components of soil from minerals and decaying organic matter to the tiny organisms that make humus happen in this hike-based program with a hand-on investigation. Student mobility challenges can be accommodated with advanced notice. **Essential Standards** 3.L.2.1, 3.L.2.4, Common Core 3.NF **Note to Group Leader:** This one hour staff-led program is greatly complemented by using one or more of the following **Discovery Boxes** (under your direction) immediately before or after the program. Call to reserve these boxes for your group's use.

EROSION GAME, THE

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Stevens Nature Center
Area: Indoors or Outdoors - open area
Summary: Demonstrate erosion and the effects that people and rain have on the landscape with this action-based game. The object of this game is for the soil to stay within the boundaries of a given ecosystem, ie. at Blue Jay Point, and not run into Falls Lake.

PICTURE THIS

Length: 30 – 60 minutes **Source:** Kelley Stanton
Area: Anywhere
Summary: Develop language and listening skills with this challenging, but quiet activity. A simple line drawing of a natural object is described as a partner tries to reproduce the drawing.

WOODLAND BINGO

Length: 30 minutes – 1 hour **Source:** D'Nise Hefner
Area: Anywhere—especially the 1/2 mile Azalea Loop Trail
Summary: Practice your observation skills looking for items in nature on this focused nature hike/scavenger hunt, then play bingo again a sit-down game with clues relating the ecological significance of each item.

- 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. **Essential Standards** 3.L.2.1, 3.L.2.2, 3.L.2.3 **Note to Group Leader:** This one hour staff-led program is greatly complemented by using one or more of the following **Discovery Boxes** (under your direction) immediately before or after the program. Call to reserve these boxes for your group's use.

PLANT BINGO

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Stephanie Avett
Area: Outdoors – garden or trail
Summary: Play bingo as you search for and identify different types of plants (ex: vine, tree, fern), parts of plants (ex: flower, leaf, seed) and more!

HOPPER HERDING (May-Mid Oct)

Length: 1 hour **Source:** OBIS and Kristin Arnebold
Area: Outdoors – tall grass field (mid-May - October); Indoors – seated
Summary: Discuss what makes an insect an insect. Look for insects in their natural habitat and round up a herd of hopping insects (grasshoppers, katydids, and crickets) using sweep nets in the Blue Jay meadow to find what kinds of insects live at Blue Jay Point.

BUG BINGO

Length: 30 minutes – 1 hour **Source:** *Naturescope*
Area: Indoors or Outdoors
Summary: Introduce insect habitats and look at the ways insects find food, water, shelter, and a place to lay eggs. Test abilities to spot insects and habitats with a bingo game while on a hike or as a sit-down game with clues.

● **Tree-mendous Trees** – Through role-playing, activities and a journey into the woods, discover the inner workings of a tree, tree life cycles and the physical characteristics of common tree species. Learn how animals and humans use different parts of the tree, and who here at Blue Jay calls a tree home. **Essential Standards** 3.L.2 3.L.2.2, 3.L.2.3
Note to Group Leader: This one hour staff-led program is greatly complemented by using one or more of the following **Discovery Boxes** (under your direction) immediately before or after the program. You may feel more comfortable leading some of these **Discovery Boxes** if you preview them first—email or call us to arrange a preview or to reserve these boxes for your group’s use.

BUILD A TREE

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** *Naturescope*
Area: Indoors or Outdoors – open area
Summary: Working together to build a “human tree,” students learn the inner parts of a tree and how each part works.

GROW A TREE

Length: 20 minutes **Source:** Adapted from “Grow a Plant” USDA FS
Area: Indoors or Outdoors – seated
Summary: Reinforce what plants need to live and grow (air, sun, water, & soil) in a sit-down board game that will accommodate the entire class.

SEED BINGO

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Kelley Stanton
Area: Outside in “seedy” locations
Summary: Play bingo as you search for and identify 8 different types of seed locomotion/travel. Guess which seed you think will make it the farthest.

Tips for planning a field trip to Blue Jay Point County Park

- Call early to schedule your programs and have several dates in mind—Spring fills quickly and Fall is awesome!
- Discovery Boxes are available at **no charge** for your group to use in the park as an additional activity during your visit. You must reserve these in advance by calling (919) 870-4330.
- Be sure to allow enough time to travel to Blue Jay and **visit the restrooms** if needed before your program is scheduled to begin.
- **Field trips go on rain or shine**, as we have great indoor resources. Have children dress appropriately for their Blue Jay experience, including closed toe shoes and weather appropriate outerwear. Each program contains indoor and outdoor activities, which will be done weather permitting. We will substitute additional, suitable indoor activities (and Jr. Discovery Boxes) when needed.
- If your schedule permits, you may enjoy snack/lunch in the picnic area and time on the playground after your staff-led program. While there are no picnic shelters or indoor eating space at Blue Jay, the Education Center has a very large covered porch that can be used for snack/lunch in case of inclement weather.

Blue Jay Point County Park
3200 Pleasant Union Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27614
www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay
(919) 870-4330