



## Recommended 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Programs

Blue Jay's education staff loves working with 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bluejaypoint@wakegov.com) to make a reservation.

- 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. Student mobility challenges can be accommodated with advanced notice. **Essential Standards** 5.L.2.3, 5.G.1.1, 5.G.1.2 **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 at to arrange a preview or to reserve these boxes for your group's use.

### BEAT THE CLOCK

- Length:** 45 minutes
- Area:** Indoors or Outdoors – open area
- Summary:** Students attempt to “beat the clock” while exploring amphibian development and some of the difficulties facing amphibian habitats through both natural cycles and human actions. For an amphibian, development is a very risky business, as once the egg has been laid, there’s no turning back. The trick is to develop lungs and get out of the vernal (temporary) pool before it dries up, a task that is not easily done. Information on several of North Carolina’s special amphibian species is included.

**Source:** Adapted from *North Carolina WILD Places*

### INDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT

- Length:** 20 – 60 minutes
- Area:** Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education (Mon-Sat 8a.m.-5p.m.)
- Summary:** Team up to compete in an indoor scavenger hunt through the Blue Jay Center exhibits halls with this great rainy/hot/cold day activity! Water quality, current environmental issues, habitat types, and more will keep you busy as you search for elusive answers! Following the activity, discuss your findings as a group!

**Source:** Blue Jay Point Staff

### DRAGONFLY POND

- Length:** up to 2 hours
- Area:** Indoors
- Summary:** Learn to evaluate the effects of different land uses on wetlands. This activity requires small group decision-making on how to minimize damaging effects on wetlands during development .

**Source:** Aquatic Project WILD

- Pond Study** Learn about aquatic insects and other animals, how to identify them and how they make their living in a watery world—program focus is on a pond ecosystem. **Essential Standards** 5.L.2.1, 5.L.2.2, 5.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.

### GUESS WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

- Length:** 30 minutes - 1 hour
- Area:** Indoors or Outdoors - open area
- Summary:** Participants cheer on their favorite trophic level as they help energy flow through an aquatic eco-system in this food web-based activity.

**Source:** Falls Lake EELE

### MACROINVERTEBRATE MAYHEM

**Length:** 45 minutes - 1 hour **Source:** Project WET  
**Area:** Outdoors  
**Summary:** Learn the effects of environmental stressors on the macroinvertebrate population of an aquatic ecosystem by playing a game of tag. Participants will model different behaviors to learn characteristics of pollution tolerant and intolerant species of insects.

### DISCOVER OUR ECOLOGICAL ADDRESS

**Length:** 30 min. – 2 hours **Source:** Adapted from Project WET and NC OEE website  
**Area:** Outdoor  
**Summary:** Where does the water go when it rains? Learn what a river basin is with the following activities, each lasting approximately 30 minutes. Water Drop Match: Discover Blue Jay Point’s river basin and what makes it special (this particular activity could be done inside). The following activities use Blue Jay’s giant N.C. river basin map. River Basin Riddler Relay: This action-packed, trivia-based fact game promotes participant learning about N.C.’s 17 river basins (best for class-size groups). River Basin Hopscotch: Participants label the 17 N.C. river basins and increase their fitness by “hopscotching” across the map while practicing the basins’ locations (great for small groups!). Map Makers: Using the provided information, participants label geological features, cities, etc. on the giant map with sidewalk chalk. Participants draw in the major rivers and tributaries, then trace how the water flows in the basins.

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● **Habitat Hike** – Learn about interrelationships between plants and animals as we search for the components of habitat in this hike-based program. Along the way you will participate in an activity exploring the functions of organisms within their ecosystem. Student mobility challenges can be accommodated with advanced notice. **Essential Standards** 5.L.2.1, 5.L.2.2, 5.L.2.3, 5.G.1.2 **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.

### OH DEER

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** Project WILD  
**Area:** Indoors or Outdoors – open area  
**Summary:** Learn about the components of habitat in this “move around” activity that will help students identify food, water, and shelter as three essential components of habitat; describe the importance of good habitat for animals; define “limiting” factors and give 3 examples, and recognize that some fluctuations in wildlife populations are natural as ecological systems undergo change.

### QUICK FROZEN CRITTERS

**Length:** 45 minutes **Source:** Project WILD  
**Area:** Outdoors – open area  
**Summary:** Play an active version of “freeze tag,” which illustrates the role of predator/prey relationships, adaptations, and limiting factors affecting wildlife populations.

### MY CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** *Where Have All the Birds Gone* by John Terborg  
**Area:** Indoors or Outdoors - seated  
**Summary:** Introduce habitat loss with this activity and story that demonstrates the changes in wildlife, particularly songbirds, in a neighborhood over a period of years as development encroaches.

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[www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay](http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay)  
(919) 870-4330