



Blue Jay Fledglings

Did you know that Blue Jay Point is a GREAT, low cost Winter Field Trip destination? Our combination of indoor classrooms, exhibit halls and great out-door learning spaces ensure a fun and educational experience for your students!

Blue Jay Fledglings is a series of group programs for preschool and kindergarten-aged children just ready to learn about natural wonders on their own. These staff-led programs are intended for groups of 10 to 15 children with 1 chaperone per 5 children.

If your group contains additional adults or siblings, we ask that they enjoy the playground and picnic areas during the program. If parental involvement is important, consider dividing your group in half so the total number of people in each group does not exceed 20.

Each program lasts approximately 1 hour and is free.

Call the Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education to schedule your group's visit.

November—Nuts About Squirrels

Would you like to be a squirrel? Come to Blue Jay and pretend you are one of these bushy-tailed animals looking for nuts and hiding them for winter. Learn about the adaptations these mammals have that help them be so successful in their environment.



December—Getting Ready for Winter

Cold weather makes **you** want to wear a coat, but what do the animals do to get ready for winter? Some fly south. Some go to sleep. And some get fat and grow extra warm fur or feathers. Play a game to help you remember who does what and then put on your coat and go for a short winter hike to look for winter-active animals.

January—Animal Inns

Is there life in dead trees? Just wait 'til you learn about the variety of critters that call snags (standing dead trees) and logs (fallen dead trees) home! See terrific pictures of tree-dwelling animals, play a guessing game to test your new knowledge, and go for a short hike to do some up-close investigating of real dead trees and rotting logs.



February—Busy Beavers

Ever heard the saying "Busy as a Beaver?" In this program, you'll be busy exploring beaver adaptations and functions, including the physical characteristics that make this mammal successful in a watery world. Role-play beaver family life and learn to recognize the signs that show a beaver's been busy!



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

- Call well in advance to schedule your program and have several dates in mind.
- “Jr. Discovery” age appropriate activity 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 indoor facilities. Have children dress appropriately for the Blue Jay experience, including closed toe shoes and weather appropriate outerwear. Each program contains indoor and outdoor activities, which will be done weather permitting. However, we will substitute additional, suitable indoor activities when needed.
- If your group contains additional adults or siblings, we ask that they enjoy the playground and picnic areas during the program.
- If your schedule permits, you may enjoy snack/lunch in the garden area or 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.
- Enjoy your visit!

Suggested Jr. Discovery Boxes for Winter Field Trips to Blue Jay:

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 simple board game.

MEET A MATE

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** *Naturescope*
Area: Anywhere
Summary: Participants test the accuracy of their sense of hearing and compare themselves with animals that communicate largely by sound rather than sight. Using the sound made by your special sound canister, find a mate and form a family group who sounds like you!

WOODLAND BINGO

Length: 30 minutes – 1 hour **Source:** D’Nise Hefner
Area: Anywhere
Summary: Get everyone out on a hike to enjoy Blue Jay’s trails! (There is a short trail right next to the Education Center perfect for Woodland Bingo) Participants will enjoy a visual scavenger hunt for things in nature. In case of inclement weather, or as a follow up learning session, play the “sit-down” version of Woodland Bingo with age appropriate clues that teach participants about each nature item.

EYE SPY

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Kat Bukowy
Area: Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education (Mon-Sat 8a.m.-5p.m.)
Summary: Participants will increase their skills of observation in this visual indoor scavenger hunt. Most appropriate for younger audiences and students with reading/language differences. Cards are coded so teacher can group students in a given area.