

Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education



Blue Jay Fledglings

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 does not exceed 20.

Each program lasts approximately one hour and is free,

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

January—Animal Inns

Is there life in dead trees? Just wait 'til you learn about the variety of critters that call 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!

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!

March—Tadpole Tales

March is absolutely hopping at the Blue Jay mini-pond! Hear one of our favorite frog stories and then learn about the similarities and differences between frogs and toads. Visit the Blue Jay pond to find out about the series of changes, called metamorphosis, that is taking place right now as you observe tadpoles and other pond residents.

April—Plants for Sprouts

Learn how a seed contains everything it needs to get a plant off to a good start. Explore the different Blue Jay Garden areas using your senses and hear a story to find out how one tiny seed can help wildlife. Plant your own seed to take home.

May—Sounds All Around

The wind in the trees, a crow's caw and a cricket's trill; discover why animals make sounds as you explore sounds of the forest and meadow and make some sounds of your own.

June—Turtle Talk

Let's talk turtles! Listen to a pretend story about how turtles shells got their design and look at some real box turtle shells up close. Learn about the amazing adaptations these reptiles have that help them live to be as old as people! Finish up with a short walk to look for other reptiles.

July—Colors in Nature

Flowers in the field, butterflies on the wing, blue skies and green leaves. Practice color matching while we learn how plants and animals use colors and patterns to survive.

August—Pond Pals

Explore the Blue Jay mini-pond as a special kind of habitat. Become “scum chums” as we practice observation techniques, investigate pans of pond critters, and learn about the diverse life in the pond.

September—Floaters and Hitchhikers

Some seeds fall to the ground, some are carried by animals, and some catch the wind and soar across field and stream. Find "floaters" and “hitchhikers” as we ramble through the park discovering how seeds are dispersed. Learn about the many different connections between seeds and animals. Listen to a seed story!

October—Trees for Me

Discover the world of trees! Learn new tree vocabulary, play a game about what trees need to live, and then take a short hike to identify trees using shape words you already know.

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.

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. Blue Jay schedules programs up to one year in advance and popular months fill up quickly.
- “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!