

## GROUP PROGRAMS at Blue Jay Point County Park

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 designed to help you decide what type of program in which you would like for your group to participate.

- All programs are 1 hour long, except as noted, and are 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 an appropriate number of chaperones. Some programs require a ration of 1 chaperone per 5 students. Insufficient chaperones may require modification of activities.
- 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 "tag-a-longs" 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.**
- As of Jan. 1, 2019, group programs at Blue Jay Point are free. We have a minimum group size of 10 participants and a maximum group size of 25 similarly aged participants.
- Contact us at (919) 870-4330 to schedule group programs for your group.

### 1. Birds

- **Beginner Birdwatching** - Explore how to identify birds by field markings, using field guides and binoculars
- **Bird Adaptations** - Learn about different bird adaptations, which birds have them, and why.
- **Bird Buddies**– Learn what "makes a bird a bird" and then get outside as we watch for and listen to the birds. Explore bird behaviors and habitat needs as we move through a variety of habitats.
- **Remarkable Raptors** - Appreciate the unique niche of day and night-time raptors with this indoor, hands-on and interactive learning lab about birds-of-prey adaptations and behavior.

### 2. Mammals

- **Beaver Fever** - Learn about beaver habitat, adaptations, and lifestyle through lots of visuals and interactive games.
- **Beaver Hike** - Learn about the habitat, adaptations, and lifestyle of beavers in this hike-based program. *Note: This program involves an approx. 1 mile hike and is 1½ hrs in duration.*
- **Wildlife Detectives** - Develop observation skills and recognition of signs indicating animal presence, including mammals, birds, and insects in this popular program that is a combination of indoor hands-on experiences followed by a hike to apply what you've learned.

### 3. Herps

- **Amphibian Antics** - Explore the characteristics of amphibian groups, their adaptations and life cycles as we search our pond for amphibian adults and larvae.
- **Rip, Roaring Reptiles** - Learn about the reptiles common to the Piedmont region of North Carolina through an indoor presentation, hands-on investigation stations, and a hike.

## 4. Invertebrates

- **Field Follies** - Search the grassy edges of the park with sweep nets and hand lenses while looking for the amazing variety of insects that live there. (mid May - mid October)
- **Incredible Insects** - Through a variety of hands-on activities and a garden walk, learn what “makes an insect a insect”, how they grow, and where we can 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 our Pollination Mayhem game.
- **Pond Study** - Learn about aquatic insects and more, how to identify them, and how they make their living in a watery world. Focus of the pond study will vary according to each grade level’s curricular needs (similarities and differences, habitat, life cycles, adaptations, ecosystems)

## 5. Plants

- **Gardening for Wildlife** - Explore simple ways 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 can be a great winter program!)
- **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 call a tree home.
- **Plants to Ponder** - Explore the variety of plants at Blue Jay Point. We will learn the differences between trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants and how to identify them.

## 6. Ecology

- **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.
- **Nature’s Puzzle** - Learn a potpourri of subjects from plant ID to habitat concepts to bird watching and more. We’ll help students feel comfortable in an outdoor setting and give them a chance to use their observation skills while they learn how all the pieces of Nature’s puzzle fit together.
- **Night Hike** - Explore the "whole other world" that exists after dark on a staff-led nighttime walk. Find out about common nocturnal animals, interactions among these nocturnal critters, and how to search for them. (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, the interactions among these nocturnal critters, and how to search for them by viewing slides, handling artifacts, and other Interactive opportunities.
- **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 connections between people, plants, and animals in this hike-based program.
- **Piedmont Ecology Hike** - Learn about piedmont ecology, including plant and animal interrelationships, while focusing on ecological succession in this hike-based program.
- **The Rotten Truth** - Explore the component 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.

## 7. Environmental Studies

- **Environmental Ethics** - Explore the environmental ethic continuum. Learn what your environmental ethic is through discussion and activities in this indoor program.
- **Green Living** - Discover environmentally sound alternatives to everyday activities and products that you can use at home, school, and outdoors. This indoor program is great year-round!
- **It's Neuse to Me!** - Learn what a watershed is, about run-off and erosion, why watersheds are important to us, and how human interaction affects water quality through point source and non-point source pollution (and prevention). Learn about your ecological address!