



Suggested Homeschool Programs

Blue Jay education staff loves working with Homeschool groups! All you have to do is organize your support group or collect a group of families and arrange for your own set of homeschool group programs. Our programs are free, and we will work with **groups of 10 to 15 students within a 3 year age/grade span**. What some groups do is divide their wider range of ages into a “younger half” and an “older half” so that each group has their own age and developmentally appropriate program. While one group is waiting for their program, the other group can enhance their learning with **Discovery Boxes** led by your group’s parents.

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.

Suggested Programs Pairs with complementary Discovery Boxes—

- **Nature’s Puzzle Program** (younger half of group) Learn a potpourri of subjects from plant ID to habitat concepts to bird watching and more. 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.

CAMO-CREEPERS Discovery Box ✨ †

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Project WILD
Area: Outdoors – meadow, wooded trail, parking lot margins
Summary: Experience the thrill of the hunt learning about predator and prey camouflage while searching for pipe cleaner “walking stick insects.”

- **Habitat Hike Program** (older half of group) 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.

QUICK FROZEN CRITTERS Discovery Box ✨ ▲

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.

OH DEER Discovery Box

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 three examples, and recognize that some fluctuations in wildlife populations are natural as ecological systems undergo change.

- **Bird Buddies Program** (younger half of group) 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.

MEET A MATE Discovery Box ✨

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Naturescope
Area: Anywhere
Summary: Students test the accuracy of their sense of hearing and compare themselves with animals that communicate largely by sound rather than sight. Find a mate who sounds like you!

- **Beginner Birdwatching Program** (older half of group) Explore how to identify birds by field markings, using field guides and binoculars

BACKBONE BOOGIE Discovery Box

Length: 1 hour **Source:** *Naturescope*
Area: Indoors or Outdoors - open area
Summary: Discover what makes one group of vertebrates different from another while learning about characteristics of the 5 major vertebrate groups. This tag-style activity will use your brain as well as your legs—the larger the playing area, the more energy expended!

- **Pond Study** (younger half of group) Learn about aquatic insects and other animals, how to identify them, and how they make their living in a watery world (the focus of this program is on habitat components) (1 chaperone for every 5 students needed)

GROW A TREE Discovery Box ✨

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.

- **Pond Study** (older half of group) 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.

GUESS WHAT’S FOR DINNER? Discovery Box

Length: 30 minutes - 1 hour **Source:** Falls Lake EELE
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.

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!
- These one hour staff-led programs are greatly complemented by using one or more **Discovery Boxes** (under your direction) immediately before or after the program. Discovery Boxes are available at **no charge** for your group to use in the park. You may feel more comfortable leading **some** of these **Discovery Boxes** if you preview them first. Email or call us (919) 870-4330 **in advance** to arrange a preview or to reserve these boxes for your group’s use.
- Be sure to allow enough time for your group to gather and get organized at Blue Jay and **visit the restrooms** if needed before your programs are 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 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
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