



Parks, Recreation & Open Space

TEL 919 870 4330
FAX 919 870 4327

Blue Jay Point County Park
3200 Pleasant Union Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27614
bluejaypoint@wakegov.com
www.wakegov.com/county/parks/bluejay

Dear WCPSS 5th Grade Teacher

We just wanted to let you know about fabulous **Overnight and Day science-based field trip opportunities at Blue Jay Point County Park and the Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education** located just north of Raleigh on Falls Lake (9 miles North of the I-440 and Six Fork Rd /North Hills Mall intersection).

Blue Jay Point is a 236 acre wooded park on the shores of Fall Lake that is a favorite destination of many WCPSS elementary schools. Our staff of trained environmental educators loves working with students of ALL ages, but we are especially well set up to host overnight classes of 5th graders year-round in our comfortable Overnight Lodge, with support from Blue Jay in the form of staff-led programs correlated to your 5th grade Essential Standards and Common Core curriculum, plus teacher-led Discovery Boxes (self-contained learning activities) on a whole host of environmental education and natural history topics. While you are here, you can investigate the Blue Jay Education Center with exhibits and displays, our educational garden area, and over 5 miles of hiking trails! Most 5th grade classes stay for either one or two nights, and only one class at a time can enjoy the Lodge as it sleeps at total of 36 people. Most 5th grade classes also enjoy (2) staff-led programs while they are here. Each night in the Lodge costs \$50 (for the entire class) and each staff-led program costs \$25/program/hour (for the entire class)

Field trips may be booked up to 1 year in advance, and many groups take advantage of that to get dates that fit best into their school calendar. We do have openings this Fall and are especially seeking groups interested in reserving the Lodge during that time as it is probably our favorite season at Blue Jay (weather, natural history happenings, etc.). January and February Lodge dates are available as well—the Overnight Lodge has a fireplace with gas logs and Blue Jay staff can occasionally do three staff-led programs for these winter month groups!

Check our webpage for Overnight Lodge field trip information including:

- Pictures of the Lodge and environs
- Lodge information including fee structure
- Sample Overnight Field Trip Agenda
- List of Discovery Boxes available
- List of Staff-led Programs available
- Curriculum Correlations by grade-level
- Leader Orientation Workshop schedule—this is great opportunity to learn about resources first hand if you are on a “fact finding mission” and attendance is required of each teacher/group leader at least 2 months before their Lodge stay.

Check our website www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay for 5th grade Day Field Trip options:

Not ready for an overnight field trip? Blue Jay hosts many WCPSS groups for day field trips as well. Blue Jay Point strives to do as much outdoor learning as possible, but we are fortunate to have several indoor teaching spaces as well, so you can be assured of quality learning opportunities no matter the weather. We also have several interactive indoor programs that are tailor-made for cold weather field trips as well as space for teacher-led activities in our Education Center.

- List of Staff-led Programs available for \$25/hour/per class.
- Curriculum Correlations by grade-level
- Sample Day Field Trip Agenda
- List of Discovery Boxes available
- Curriculum Correlations by grade-level

Blue Jay Point County Park (as part of Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space) has a Master Level Service Agreement with WCPSS, to help make arranging a field trip as easy as possible for you.

You can make reservations now, and field trip fees are due to Blue Jay 2 weeks before your actual field trip date.

What do your fellow WCPSS 5th grade teachers think about their field trips to Blue Jay?

- “Very interactive—students enjoyed the interaction”
- “Fabulous lesson aligned with our current studies”
- “As always this was an excellent program that my students enjoyed and learned a lot from”
- “Organized, hands-on and educational”
- “Very informational and very interactive for the students”
- “Used 5th grade curriculum/vocabulary and explained these terms”
- “It meets many of the objectives for the Common Core, and provides fun, hands-on activities for the students. (Pond Study)”
- “The staff is knowledgeable, extremely friendly and adaptable to the students’ needs.”
- “Allows students to see real animals in the context of their habitat” (Pond Study)
- “Wonderful prerequisite to our upcoming study of ecosystems” (Habitat Hike)
- “We can afford it 😊”
- “This program offers the perfect review of ecosystem concepts for our state test in May” (Habitat Hike)
- “This is an excellent program and I would recommend it for any 5th grade class” (Night Hike Primer)
- “Presenter was very knowledgeable and held the attention of all students”

Give us a call at (919) 870-4330—we’d love to discuss field trip options for your school!

D’Nise

D’Nise Hefner
Educational Program Director
Blue Jay Point County Park