

# Scouts, Home School Groups, Preschools

## Programs can be done at the Wilderness Station, Old Fort Park and /or Cason Trail

### Preschool \$3

We will guide your preschool class on a nature adventure. They will enjoy a story, go on a hike, and do an activity. Then stay and enjoy a picnic & playground time.

Choose one of four themes:

1. Senses: See, hear, taste, touch, and smell nature. Use all of your senses to experience the beauty.
2. Backyard Animals: If you were a raccoon where do you live and what are you doing now? Children's imagination will soar as they pretend to be the animals that call Tennessee home.
3. Count Down to Fall: Fall is a great time to be outside. Children will look at the leaves, colors, and animals that make this time of year special.
4. Creek Critters (done only at Old Fort Park): Children will wade in the water to find aquatic life – nets and viewfinders provided. (Will get wet and dirty!)

### Topics by Grade Levels:

#### K – 3rd

- If I Were an Owl...
- Aquatic Mammals of the Stones River I
- Creek Critters
- Reptiles Everywhere
- Mammals of TN
- Predator / Prey

#### 4th – 6th

- Owl Pellets
- Aquatic Mammals of the Stones River II
- Exploring the River
- Turtles of TN
- Wetland Ecosystems I
- Turtle Search

#### 7th – 8th

- River Ecology
- Wetland Ecosystems II
- Turtle Search
- Owl Pellets



### Program Descriptions:

**If I Were An Owl...** - \$3 Grade K-3: How would you fill in the blank? Learn about the owls that call Tennessee home including their habitats, feeding behaviors, and other interesting, fun facts Discover what senses an owl relies on to survive in the wild, how they interact with living and non-living things in their environment, and how pollution and other man-made obstacles can affect these special creatures.

**Aquatic Mammals of the Stones River I** - \$3 Grade K-3: Discover what mammals live in the Stones River and how they are able to survive year round. Students will be able to compare and contrast a beaver, an otter, a muskrat, and a mink; while learning about their requirements for survival, special adaptations, and what challenges they face in the wild.

**Creek Critters** - \$3 Grade K-3: Explore a creek and uncover the many critters that depend on the waterways. Discover this wet ecosystem and learn how to determine if our waters are healthy. (Students will get wet – appropriate footwear is required and a change of clothes is recommended.)

**Reptiles Everywhere** - \$3 Grade K-3: Everybody knows that a turtle lives in a shell but how long can it hold it's' breath; how old do rattlesnakes live; and how many different reptiles can be found here in Tennessee? Learn the unique features that have enabled these creatures to live with the dinosaurs and the dangers they face in today's world. A visit from some scaly friends will help us uncover these mysteries and provide an up-close look at some lovable reptiles.

**Predator/Prey** - \$3. Grade K-6: Everybody needs to eat! Learn about the delicate balance of an ecosystem by creating your own food chain. Then try your hand at an activity to see if you'd survive as a predator or a prey.

**Aquatic Mammals of the Stones River II** - \$3 Grade 4 – 6: Discover what mammals live in the Stones River and how they are able to survive year round. Students will be able to compare and contrast a beaver, an otter, a muskrat, and a mink; while learning about their requirements for survival, special adaptations, and what challenges they face in the wild.

**Exploring the River** - \$4 (1 ½ hr) Grade 4 – 6: Take a hike to the Stones River to explore the aquatic life that resides there. Learn about the three ways scientists determine water quality through collecting species, physical traits, and the use of various instruments. Then decide for yourself if our river is clean. (Students will get wet – appropriate footwear is required and a change of clothes is recommended.) Limit: 20 students with minimum of 2 chaperones.

**Turtles of Tennessee** - \$3 Grade 4-6: There are many differences between species of turtles from where they live, to what they eat, to what threatens them. We will study 3 very different turtles that can be found here in Murfreesboro and look at special adaptations they each have. Examine live turtles and shells as we classify each animal to determine their similarities and their differences.

**Owl Pellets** - \$5. Grade 4-8: Learn about the owls that call Tennessee home including their habitats, feeding behaviors, and other interesting, fun facts. Then, study the eating habits of owls and how food chains work in nature by dissecting a regurgitated owl pellet. Older students can then reconstruct the skeletons of shrews, moles, and birds found within their pellet.

**River Ecology** - \$4 (1 ½ hr) Grade 7-8: Study the river from a scientist's view. Learn how to determine water quality through biological testing. Identify characteristics used by scientists to classify organisms into different categories including how to use a simple dichotomous key. (Students will get wet – appropriate footwear is required and a change of clothes is recommended.) Limit: 20 students with minimum of 2 chaperones.

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### **Wetland Field Programs**

Location: Nickajack Wetland

Limit 20 students per program

#### **Wetland Ecosystems 1 – Grade 4-6:**

#### **Wetland Ecosystems 2 – Grade 7-8:**

\$4 (1 ½ hr) – Study and explore a wetland. What makes them unique? What benefits do we receive from these vital areas? What special features do plants and animals have to survive in this habitat? Hands on activities will help to appreciate these misunderstood places. (Students will get wet and muddy – appropriate footwear is required and a change of clothes is recommended.)

**Turtle Search** – \$4 (1 ½ hr) Grade 3 – 8: Join us in our on-going box turtle study as we collect data on these resident turtles to determine their population and health. Find out cool turtle facts and why they are listed as a species of concern in Tennessee. Students will become a part of a research team to collect data on this important species. Learn how to use field equipment to take weights, measurements, and environmental readings.

Note: This is an off-trail experience in the woods; please wear long pants and closed-toed shoes or boots. Bug spray and water is recommended.

Contact Rachel Singer at (615) 217 – 3017 or [rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov)  
to book a date and discuss program options.