

Outdoor Education School Programs – Large Groups

If you have over 60 students....

Location(s): Barfield Crescent Park, Old Fort Park or Cason Trail (school picks)

9 am – 10am Staff Led Program
10 am – 11am Post Activity and Hike with your class
11 am – 11:30am Sack Lunch in the park (not provided by MPRD)
11:30 am – 2 pm Free Time/Playground and Green space
(Times can be adjusted to fit school schedules)

\$40 pavilion rental + \$3 per student participating (unless otherwise noted)

** Post activities provided

** All programs correlated with TN State Curriculum Standards in Science

** Staff present for program and post activities

Topics by Grade Levels:

K – 3rd

- If I Were an Owl...
- Aquatic Mammals I
- Reptiles Everywhere

4th – 6th

- Whooo's There
- Owl Pellets
- Aquatic Mammals II



Descriptions:

If I Were An Owl... - \$3. Grade K-3: How would you fill in the blank? 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 & II - \$3. Grade K-3 and 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.

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.

Whooo's There? – Grade 4-6: Learn about the owls that call Tennessee home including their habitats, feeding behaviors, and other interesting, fun facts. Then let us introduce you to our resident Eastern Screech Owl.

Owl Pellets - \$5 Grade 4-6: 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.

How to Make a Reservation

1. Pick a date.
 - We accommodate school groups on Thursdays and Fridays.
 - Call early as we fill up fast, especially in the spring and fall.
2. Pick a program or programs.
 - Choose one from the above page that is appropriate for your group.
3. Call to schedule your group.
 - Contact Rachel Singer at 615-217-3017 or rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov to reserve a date and discuss program options.

Scroll down for more programs...

Outdoor Education School Programs – Small Groups

If you have under 60 students...

Location(s): Wilderness Station

\$2 per student participating (unless otherwise noted), per program.

Minimum number of programs will be determined by multiples of 20.

(For a group of 40 students, the minimum number of programs will be 2; 60 students will be 3)

* All programs correlated with TN State Curriculum Standards in Science

** Staff led programs with rotation style schedule

** Groups should be split into a maximum of 20 students

Topics by Grade Levels:

K – 8th

- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Mammals of Tennessee
- Exploring the River

3rd – 5th

- Predator / Prey
- Animal Signs
- My Tennessee Home
- Endangered Species
- Turtles of Tennessee

K – 3rd

- Animal Senses
- Living Things
- Insect IQ
- Plant Basics
- Earth Matters I
- Earth Matters II

(2nd & 3rd Grades)

4th – 8th

- Tree of Life
- Owl Pellets

Descriptions:

Reptiles and Amphibians - \$2. Grade K-8: What's the difference between a lizard and a salamander? How about a turtle and a toad? Discover some similarities and many differences between these two classes. Our resident educational animals will help out through a hands-on exploration of these unique animals.

Mammals of Tennessee - \$2. Grade K-8: Why are we in the same class as a bat? Learn what special characteristics mammals have to make them mammals - including us. Discover our native mammals through a hands-on exploration of pelts and skulls.

Exploring the River - \$4. Grade K-8: Hike down to the west fork of 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. Allow two hours for this program.

Animal Senses - \$2. Grade K-3: Animals rely on their senses to survive in the wild. On this hike we will learn how to use all five of our senses more effectively and explore the unique ways animals use their senses in the wilderness.

Living Things - \$2. Grade K-3: The forest is full of life. Join us on this hike as we look at living things in their natural environment.

Insect IQ - \$2. Grade K-3: What makes an insect an insect? What special features do they have to help them survive in a giant's world? Learn all about our six-legged friends and be amazed at the special creatures that can be found almost everywhere.

Plant Basics - \$2. Grade K-3: Plants are an essential link in the food chain. Where would we be without these green machines? Come discover the ins and outs of plants such as parts, functions and pollination through a hands-on exploration of these important living things.

Earth Matters I - \$2. Grade K-3: Did you know the Earth has skin like we do? It's called soil! Soil is vital to every living thing on our planet, plus it recycles itself. Come learn more about soil, recycling, rocks and decomposition. Because our Earth Matters!

Earth Matters II - \$2. Grade 2-3: What's the most common rock in Tennessee? What is it made of? Join us on this hike to find out, and learn more about other rocks found in our diverse state.

Predator/Prey - \$2. Grade 3-5: 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.

Animal Signs - \$2. Grade 3-5: Explore the many clues left behind by our animal inhabitants through this fun hike. Just because we can't always see them doesn't mean they're not there! Learn how to become an animal detective.

My Tennessee Home - \$2. Grade 3-5: Tennessee is one of the most diverse states in this country and we are lucky enough to share in its beauty. On this hike, we will learn about and admire the nature symbols that define the state of Tennessee.

Endangered Species - \$2. Grade 3-5: Many species of plants and animals are diminishing at an alarming rate. What can we do about it? Learn why this is happening, what species are at the highest risk, and what can be done to turn this trend around.

Turtles of Tennessee - \$2. Grade 3-5: 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.

Tree of Life - \$2. Grade 4-8: Trees are connected to life in many different ways: they provide air for us to breathe, shelter to various animals and food for living things. Find out how they work and then meet a tree up close and personal.

Owl Pellets - \$5. Grade: 4-8: Unlock the mysteries of these great night stalkers. Discover special adaptations, listen to their calls and find out what they eat through this cool hands-on activity.

How to Make a Reservation

1. Pick a date.
 - We accommodate school groups on Thursdays and Fridays.
 - Call early as we fill up fast, especially in the spring and fall.
2. Pick a program or programs.
 - Choose one (or more) from the above page that is appropriate for your group.
 - Programs run approximately 45 minutes each (unless otherwise noted).
 - Groups should be split into a maximum of 20 students.
3. Call to schedule your group.
 - Contact Rachel Singer at 615-217-3017 or rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov to reserve a date and discuss program options.

