



# Academic Guide 2016 – 2017



Western North Carolina Nature Center  
***Asheville's Wildlife Park***  
75 Gashes Creek Road  
Asheville, NC 28805  
Telephone (828) 259-8080 Fax (828) 298-2644  
***[www.wncnaturecenter.com](http://www.wncnaturecenter.com)***

**ASHEVILLE**   
Parks & Recreation  
[www.ashevilenc.gov](http://www.ashevilenc.gov)

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**Mission Statement:**

The Nature Center is a living museum exhibiting plants and animals native to the Southern Appalachians. The educational philosophy of the Nature Center is to interpret the natural environment of Western North Carolina in a holistic manner, treating each organism or environmental factor as a component of the overall ecosystem. Our goal is to foster understanding of the Southern Appalachian bioregion so that individual components of the ecosystem, including humans, may be seen and understood in the proper perspective.

**General Information:**Hours of Operation:

- Daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Petting Area open 10:00-12:00 a.m. & 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Trillium Glenn Nature Trail closes at 4:30 p.m.

*(availability and times may change due to weather conditions)*

Opportunities for Groups of 10 or More Students:

- 30 Minute Discovery Programs
- 60 Minute Investigation Programs
- Self-Guided Tours
- Offsite Programs

All programs are available Monday through Friday (*Note: No educational programs are offered in May, but you may visit for a Self-Guided Tour*).

Reservations may be made by completing a **Reservation Request Form** on Page 9. Should you have any questions, call Keith Mastin at 828-259-8082.

Custom programs also available! Nature Center staff can assist in designing a program for students with a minimum of two weeks advanced notice.

# Planning Your Trip

## Reservations:

- Please fill out the **Reservation Request Form** below (page 9) and FAX it to 828-298-2644 or email it to [kmastin@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:kmastin@ashevillenc.gov) .
- If any student has a special need and/or needs special assistance, please indicate at the time of scheduling.
- A reservation is required to guarantee group rates.

Group Admission Fees: (prices include 7% State Sales Tax, effective February 23, 2016)

**Home School groups** (10 or more paying individuals with reservation) for Self-Guided Tour:

Asheville City Home School (preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade)      \$3.95 + 7% State Sales Tax per student or adult  
 Non-Asheville Resident Home School      \$4.95 + 7% State Sales Tax per student or adult

**Public & Private Schools** (10 or more paying individuals with reservation) for Self-Guided Tour:

Asheville City School (preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade)      \$3.95 + 7% State Sales Tax per student or adult  
 Non-Asheville School      \$4.95 + 7% State Sales Tax per student or adult

(NOTE: Public & Private School teachers, teacher assistants, and bus drivers free)

**Scheduled Educational Programs** (add this to Admission Fee: for reserved classroom programs)

\$1 per program per student and/or adult chaperone (Tax is not charged for educational programming)

## Payment:

- School groups with **Self-Guided Tour** reservations can pay upon arrival. No pre-payment required. Groups must consist of 10 or more paying individuals for the school discount. School groups that have made a reservation for a **Guided Educational Program** must submit a non-refundable payment of one dollar per person per program (\$1.00/person/program) for the entire group including both students and adult parent chaperones at least 2 week prior to your arrival date. Teachers, teacher assistants, and bus drivers of private and public schools are given free admission.
  - Payments are accepted as check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). Make check payable to the WNC Nature Center. An **Invoice** will be included with your Reservation Confirmation. Teachers will be notified of their payment status prior to arrival via email.
  - **Any adult wishing to pay directly at the door on the day of arrival will be charged the full admission fee of \$10.95/person plus 7% state tax.**
- The Nature Center will remain open rain or shine. Have your students dress appropriately. Should the WNC Nature Center close during your scheduled event for any reason, we will reschedule your event or reimburse your organization in full.
- **Nature Center Family Memberships and other affiliated zoo memberships are valid for adult/parent chaperones ONLY. They are not valid for students with a group or school reservation.**

## Cancellations:

If a group must cancel a scheduled visit, please call the Nature Center at least 14 days prior to the scheduled arrival. A service fee of \$50.00 will be applied to all cancellations less than 14 days from reserved arrival date. When cancelling, please speak directly to a Nature Center staff person or email the information to [kmastin@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:kmastin@ashevillenc.gov). Call (828) 259-8082 between 8-9am to cancel. There is no refund for no-show reservations.

## Teachers and Chaperones:

Teachers and chaperones must stay with students and supervise at all times during the visit. The minimum recommended chaperone/student ratio is 1:5 for grades 1-3, and 1:10 for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Safety and supervision comes first when visiting the Nature Center.

## Check-In:

- Please arrive and check-in 15 minutes prior to time of reservation. The Nature Center opens at 10:00 a.m. daily. Reservations may check in beginning at 9:45 a.m.
- Only the lead teacher should check-in for the school group with their **Reservation Confirmation Form** which will be sent when payment has been received by our office.
- Anyone needing use of the restrooms immediately upon arrival may enter with adult supervision.

## Gift Shop:

Captain Dave's Coffee Café in the log Cabin is open Wednesday through Sunday for gift and food sales. The Admissions Office also has small gifts for sale (pencils, magnets, games, post cards, etc.). Visit the Plush Animal Vending Machine just outside the Friends of the WNC Nature Center Office in our Main Lobby: \$8.00/plush animal (cash, Visa, MC). We also have a Nature Center Animal Penny Press Machine in the same lobby (51 cents/penny press animal).

## Safety:

Safety is the Nature Center's top priority for all visitors, staff and animals. To create a safe haven for all, please do not throw items, run on the trails or make loud noises. Above all please **DO NOT FEED** the animals. Visitors not abiding these safety rules will be asked to leave the Nature Center with no refund of admission fee. Teachers and chaperones must stay with students and supervise at all times and enforce the Nature Center code of conduct.





## Parking and Directions to the Nature Center

- From I-40, travel to Asheville Exit 53-B (watch for large signs reading “WNC Nature Center”). This takes you onto Interstate 240. Take I-240 into Asheville and take your first designated exit, Exit 8 (brown sign). At your first intersection (traffic light), turn north (right) onto Fairview Road and travel 0.6 mile to a t-intersection (WNCNC sign). Turn right onto NC-81 and travel 0.6 mile. Turn right onto Azalea Road (blue sign) and then immediate right (another blue sign) onto Gashes Creek Road, crossing the concrete bridge,
  - **Buses:** after bridge, turn **RIGHT**, travel around the pool and park in the upper level above the pool. Students will walk up to B or C level.
  - **Individual cars or those with Handicap Parking:** go left after crossing the bridge. You may either drop off at the upper levels and park by buses, or park in Level A (handicap & strollers parking only), B or C.

## North Carolina Competency Goals for Discovery Programs

Grade Level	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7-8	9-12
Wild About Wildlife	KP2.1 KE1.2 KL1.1 KL1.2	1L1.1 1L1.2 1L2.2	2L1.1 2L1.2 2L2.2	3P1.2 3L1.1 3L1.2	4L1.1 4L1.3 4L1.4 4L2.1	5L1.1 5L2.1 5L2.2 5L2.3	6.L.2.2 6.L.2.3	7L1.4 7L2.1 8L4.2	Bio 2.1.2 2.1.3 2.2.1 2.2.2 3.5.1
Snakes and Turtles	KP1.2 KP2.1 KL1.1	1L1.1 1L1.2 1L1.3 1L2.2	2L1.1 2L1.2 2L2.2	3L1.1 3L1.2	4L1.1 4L1.3 4L1.4	5L1.1 5L1.2 5L2.1	6.L.2.2	7L2.1 8L3.1 8L3.2 8L3.3 8L4.2	Bio 2.1.2 2.1.3 2.1.4 3.4.2
Down on the Farm	KP2.1 KL1.1 KL1.2	1L1.1 1L1.3 1L2.2	2L1.1 2L2.2	3L1.2	4L1.1 4L1.4 4L2.2				
Nature At Night			2L1.1 2L1.2 2L2.2	3P1.3 3E1.1	4P3.1 4E1.2 4L1.1 4L1.3	5L2.1 5L2.2 5L3.2	6.L.2.2 6.L.2.3		
Forest Sounds		1L1.1 1L1.2 1L2.1	2P1.1 2P1.2	3L1.1 3L2.1 3E2.1	4P3.1 4L1.1 4L1.4	5P1.1 5E1.1 5E1.3			
Wild Tales	KL1.1 KL1.2 KP2.1	1E1.1 1L2.2							
Masters of Metamorphosis	KP1.2 KL1.2	1L1.1 1L1.2 1L1.3 1L2.2	2L1.1 2L1.2						

## Self-Guided Tours

Our 43-acre facility houses more than 150 animals native to the mountains of North Carolina, our beloved Appalachians. During a self-guided tour, you can explore the Nature Center at your own pace and use our animals and facilities to meet your own educational goals. Sketch the cougars, practice map reading skills, go on an animal alphabet search, or just have fun exploring! We also offer two short, free public programs each day on an animal topic open to all visitors, one at 11:30 am and the other at 3:00 pm.

We have additional materials available to assist teachers and leaders during you're a self-guided visit:

### **1. Scavenger Hunts**

Grade Level: 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Age-appropriate scavenger hunt packets encourage students to search for clues and answer questions concerning each group of animals. The **"Scavenger Hunt"** packets are sent to teachers who then make copies of the packet for their students prior to coming to the center. Bring pencils and clipboards for your students.

### **2. "Ed-venture" Packs**

Grade Level: 5<sup>th</sup> grade

5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers are encouraged to reserve our new teacher-led weather packs. We have assembled courier bags with various weather instruments including a wind meter, compass, sling psychrometer, and soil thermometer. The instruments correspond with activities targeting 5<sup>th</sup> grade science objectives under the NC Standard Course of Study.

By using these instruments, students will begin to recognize weather elements and think in terms of "earth system science". We have produced short instructional videos to share with your students explaining the different instruments and how they work. Both of these videos ("Ed-Venture Pack Part 1" and "... Part 2") can be viewed on our YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/wncnaturecenter>).

One pack can be utilized for an average class size. The pack contents were provided by a grant from REI and there is no charge for their use. Regular group admission rates apply to those planning to use the packs on our grounds.

### **3. "Wild Child" Backpacks**

Is your child a "Wild Child"? We have new backpacks loaded with tools for exploration of our grounds. These are available to the general public to check out as a family and can be especially valuable to homeschoolers. Packs include such things as thermometers, monoculars, hand lenses, colored pencils, field guides, etc. All of the items correspond with six different activities in an activity book specially created for the packs. Leave your driver's license as collateral when you sign out a pack at the front desk. The pack contents were provided by a grant from REI and are free to check out for use on our grounds. Regular admission rates apply.

# Educational Programs

(Classes taught August – April: no programs available in May)

## 30-minute Discovery Programs: Interactive Nature Experiences

### **1. Snakes and Turtles**

Grade Level: K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade | NC Essential Standards: *see page 8 Competency Goals*

A hands-on session of exploration and fun for students to see and touch live reptiles. Learn the similarities and differences between common native reptiles. Reptile ecology, biology and appreciation will be the primary objectives in class discussion with an opportunity to explore the display table at the conclusion of the program.

### **2. Down on the Farm**

Grade Level: K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade | NC Essential Standards: *see page 8 Competency Goals*

While exploring the Educational Farm, students will use their senses to discover the sights, sounds, and smells of a farm. They will also learn differences between groups of animals, classification, and the common use and products of farm animals. Classes will examine feedstuffs (grains), learn about milk, explore human culture relating to the domestication of animals, and discover what wool feels and smells like at our hands-on stations, with time to explore the wonders of the petting area after your program.

### **3. Nature At Night**

Grade Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade | NC Essential Standards: *see page 8 Competency Goals*

Nature doesn't go to sleep at night so take an adventure as students learn methods of exploring nature at night. Explore unique survival adaptations of nocturnal creatures such as camouflage, sound, sight, echolocation, migrations, and how they survive human impacts and natural disasters. Though we do not have live bats, we will present live animals in class for an interactive approach to learning.

### **4. Forest Sounds**

Grade Level: 1 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade | NC Essential Standards: *see page 8 Competency Goals*

Our sense of sight is so very demanding on our feeling of security, we often fear things we hear and can't see. Our discovery into the world of forest sounds opens up a new realm of curiosity for children. By learning the reasons animals make different sounds, the seasonal timing of them, and what these things indicate about our forest, we begin to understand another dimension of our incredible mountains.

### **5. Wild Tales**

Grade Level: K – 1<sup>st</sup> grade | NC Essential Standards: *see page 8 Competency Goals*

Animals have been part of stories and myths throughout history. In some cultures, stories are the primary forms of education. Today, storytelling provides a creative way for students to connect to the natural world and for them to use their imagination. Gather around the fireplace in the log cabin and explore some traditional stories and myths using some live animals.

### **6. Masters of Metamorphosis**

Grade Level: K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade | NC Essential Standards: *see page 8 Competency Goals*

Kids are fascinated by growing up. "Who's more grown up? When will I be all grown up?" Metamorphosis is a special way some animals grow up. Children will meet a live animal, role play the life cycle of a butterfly, and turn a play dough tadpole into a frog. Students will learn that metamorphosis is unique to amphibians and insects and how these animals help people.

## 60-minute Investigation Programs: Hands-on Animal Science

### **1. Wild About Wildlife Guided Tour**

Grade Level: 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade - NC Essential Standards: see page 8 Competency Goals

This outdoor program with an experienced guide will give students an opportunity to learn more about native wild animals as they tour animal habitats and visit the fox, raccoon, cougar, bobcat, coyote, and wolf habitats. Natural science concepts such as behavioral adaptations, food chains, communication and other survival techniques will be covered.

### **2. Crafting A Habitat**

Grade Level: K - 1<sup>st</sup> - NC Essential Standards: KL1.1, KL1.2, 1L1.1, 1L1.2, 1L2.2

Take an adventure as students learn about animal habitats. Explore unique survival adaptations of nocturnal & diurnal creatures such as burrowing, nest making, cave dwelling, as well as migration. Small group dynamics will incorporate habitat design, essential survival ingredients, and creativity. Come prepared to challenge your students in this indoor/outdoor experience.

### **3. Life Cycles**

Grade Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> - NC Essential Standards: 2E1.1, 2E1.3, 2L1.1, 2L1.2, 2I2.1, 2L2.2

Explore the unique adaptations of animal life cycles including reptiles, amphibians, insects, and mammals. Follow our instructors from egg production through to maturity and discover how metamorphosis challenges their daily existence. Students will gain an understanding of energy flows, consumerism, and trophic levels. Mini-stations will allow participants an up close view of Appalachian species and their fight for survival in our mountains.

### **4. Locomotion: Anatomy and Physiology**

Grade Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> - NC Essential Standards: 3P1.3, 3P2.2, 3P2.3, 3L1.1, 3L1.2, 3L2.1

To survive in any environment, one must adapt to its demands of weather, topography, and food/water/shelter availability. This course will enhance the students understanding of how animals use their bodies and their surroundings to find their "life-essentials". Discussion on anatomy and physiology of the animal kingdom will include some comparison with the human body. Live animal presentations and observation will encourage students to view animals in a new light of discovery.

### **5. Avian Attributes**

Grade Level: 4<sup>th</sup> - NC Essential Standards: 4L1.1, 4L1.2, 4L1.3, 4L1.4

We will use the world of birds to explore how animals adjust to their environment. Students will observe the behavior of a live raptor then design a bird using play parts. Survival is the name of the game and it is the same for humans. Can we adapt to change as well as birds?

### **6. Zoo Ecosystems**

Grade Level: 5<sup>th</sup> - NC Essential Standards: 5P1.2, 5L2.1, 5L2.2, 5L2.3, 5L3.1

It might be a challenge to provide a suitable habitat for a non-native species of animal brought from another continent to North Carolina. Here at the Nature Center, we have only indigenous species, those that are native to our ecosystem. How do we recreate a habitat that an animal will adjust to and feel comfortable in? Groups will challenge each other with their creativity and design of new animal habitats once they learn the basic needs of their chosen species. Group discussion, participation, and public speaking are a part of this wonderful program.



## Offsite Programs

### ***Fur, Feathers, and Scales***

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Program Length: 45 minutes

An opportunity for students to learn the importance of preservation and conservation through a one-hour presentation (45-minute presentation/15-minute Q&A) with a live snake and turtle, animal skeletons, skins, feathers, skulls and more. Students have a chance to interact closely with live native animals and touch the many samples on the display table.

***Special Programs:*** Teachers may also request a specific topic of discovery for their class.

### **Offsite Program Fees: *prices subject to change***

Nature Center staff will bring select programs to classrooms in Buncombe County at

\$300.00 per 45-minute session (M-F, 9:00am – 3:00pm)

\$375.00 per 90-minute session (M-F, 9:00am – 3:00pm) and

\$400.00 per 45-minute session pre/post hours (M-F, before 9:00am & after 3:00pm, including Saturdays and Sundays)

Outside of Buncombe County, our program fees are

\$400.00 per 45-minute session (M-F, 9:00am – 3:00pm)

\$475.00 per 90-minute session (M-F, 9:00am – 3:00pm) and

\$500.00 per 45-minute session pre/post hours (M-F, before 9:00am & after 3:00pm, including Saturdays and Sundays)

*NOTE: Offsite programs are available year-round, but are limited in September, October, March and April due to the large number of groups visiting the Nature Center during this time.*

### **New additions to the Nature Center Facility**

FREE PLAY Areas

Living Willow Hut

Arachnid Adventures Bathrooms

Animal Garden

Plush Animal Vending Machine & Penny Press Machine

Captain Dave's Pirate Dawgs (food and gifts) in the Log Cabin

Kids historic sluice area with gem discovery & water play area

New displays in Appalachian Station

### **Coming soon to our facility**

New Front Entrance on the Barn Level (2017)



## Reservation Request

Please complete the reservation form and email it to [kmastin@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:kmastin@ashevillenc.gov)

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Teacher (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Requesting Date(s) of Arrival: Choice #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Choice #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Choice #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ (Nature Center open 10 am – 5 pm)

**NOTE: Please ensure you can obtain transportation prior to making your reservation with us!**

Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_ How many classes attending this date: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Number Students in Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Adult Chaperones: \_\_\_\_\_

Class / Program(s) Requested (**classes offered August 15 through April 30<sup>th</sup>**):

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### **Associated Fees: admission fee + 7% State Sales Tax (effective February 23, 2016)**

#### Public/Private School: 10 or more paying individuals

(teachers, teacher assistants, commercial bus driver free)

Asheville Schools admissions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.95 + 7% Sales Tax/person = \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Asheville Schools admissions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$4.95 + 7% Sales Tax/person = \_\_\_\_\_

Scheduled educational program \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$1/person = \_\_\_\_\_

#### Home School: 10 or more paying individuals

Asheville Schools admissions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.95 + 7% Sales Tax/person = \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Asheville Schools admissions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$4.95 + 7% Sales Tax/person = \_\_\_\_\_

Scheduled educational program \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$1/person = \_\_\_\_\_

**ESTIMATED TOTAL PAYMENT:**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHERS:** Make check payable to the **WNC Nature Center**.

Your contact person's name at the Nature Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Nature Center will strive to send a confirmation within 48 hours of your request.*

## Captain Dave's Pirate Lunch Combo 2016

Dear Nature Center Reservations,

We are happy to present to you an option for dining at the WNC Nature Center. A local food vendor contracted through the City of Asheville will be offering group meals with a menu listed below for only \$5.00 should you wish to ease your burden of packing, labeling, and sorting bagged lunches for your group.

### Captain Dave's Pirate Combo

Hot Dog OR Nachos & Cheese

Soft Drink OR Juice Box

Choice of Chips

Cookie

All for only \$5!

To preorder, contact Tara @ 828-280-2207 or email [captaindavespiratedawgs@mail.com](mailto:captaindavespiratedawgs@mail.com). Groups of 20 or more that preorder will receive a 10% discount. We ask that pre-orders be placed at least 48 hours in advance. We accept cash, PayPal and all major credit cards