



Academic Guide

2011 – 2012



Western North Carolina Nature Center
Asheville's Wildlife Park
75 Gashes Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28805
Telephone (828) 298-5600 Fax (828) 298-2644
www.wildwnc.org



ASHEVILLE
*Parks, Recreation
& Cultural Arts*
www.ashevillenc.gov



INDEX

- Mission Statement and General Information.....	1
- School Year Programs.....	2
- Self-Guided Tours, Offsite and Special Programs.....	5
- New Projects and Youth Programs.....	6
- Planning Your Trip	7
- NC School Competency Goals	9
- Reservation Form.....	10

MISSION STATEMENT

The Nature Center is a living museum exhibiting plants and animals native to the Southern Appalachians. The education 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 in order that individual components of the ecosystem, including humans, may be seen and understood in the proper perspective.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operation:

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

WNC Nature Center
 75 Gashes Creek Road
 Asheville, NC 28805
 Phone: (828) 298-5600
 Fax: (828) 298-2644
 Website: www.wildwnc.org

School Year Educational Programs (August – April)

Nature Center staff can assist in designing a program for students with a minimum of two weeks advanced notice. All programs are available Monday-Friday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 828-298-5600, ext 305. **(Note: No programs in May).**

Wild About Wildlife

Grade Level: 1st - 12th grade
Program Length: 45-60 minutes

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.

Snakes and Turtles

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 12th grade
Program Length: 30-45 minutes

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. See page 4 for a class on amphibians: "The Life of a Frog".

Down on the Farm

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 4th grade
Program Length: 30-45 minutes

While exploring the Charles D. Owen 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. Examine feedstuffs (grains), where eggs come from, and what wool feels and smells like, with time to explore the wonders of the petting area after the program.

Cycles, Systems, and Sunlight: From the Farm to the ForestGrade Level: 5th (Advanced)

Program Length: 45-minutes

This program uses our educational farm as an accessible example of nutrient cycles and energy flows. We will compare these cultivated systems to natural settings with an emphasis on the relationships between producers, consumers, and decomposers. Students will grasp the importance of soil and sunlight to our lives on earth. Further discussion will include our impact on natural systems and our responsibilities to them.

Forest Sounds

Grade Level: 1 - 5th grade

Program Length: 30 – 45 minutes

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.

Locomotion - Animal MovementGrade Level: Kindergarten – 4th grade

Program Length: 30-45 minutes

This new program emphasizes how animals move using various appendages to transport themselves. Students will sit on the floor with a guide who will release an animal in the center of the group for all to view their locomotion adaptations. Discussion and display will include reptiles, amphibians, insects, birds and/or mammals. This program will fulfill animal anatomy and physiology curriculum needs. No venomous species will be used.

Bugs to ButterfliesGrade Level: Kindergarten – 3rd grade

Program Length: 30-45 minutes

How many wings does a butterfly have? How many legs does an ant have? Is a spider an insect? How do insects benefit nature and humans? Sometimes the little things are overlooked. Take a journey with butterflies, insects and the natural world when students inspect live and mounted insects for a close-up look at this small class of animals. (NOTE: Our Butterfly House & Exhibit is not open this year, 2011. A permanent Butterfly House will be constructed by summer 2013)



Nature at Night

Grade Level: 2nd - 6th grade
Program Length: 30-45 minutes

Nature doesn't go to sleep at night so take a journey on a nocturnal adventure as students learn methods of exploring nature at night. Explore unique survival adaptations of animals such as camouflage, hearing, sight, odors and much more. Live native nocturnal species will be presented in class for an interactive approach to learning.

Feathered Frenzy - The World of Birds!

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12th
Program Length: 30-45 minutes

Did you know not all owls are nocturnal? What is the difference between a "call" and a "song"? Why do birds rarely survive a broken wing in nature? We shall present live raptors to your students while discussing their habits and habitats. Camouflage, beak adaptation, coloration, feathering, nest building, courtship, migration, and much more will be examined during the presentation.

The Life of a Frog

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 4th grade
Program Length: 30-45 minutes

Students and teachers will take a journey through the life of an amphibian as it makes its transformation from a tadpole in water to a frog, toad or salamander. An artifacts display table, live animals, and mounts will enhance the class experience. Students will learn the stages of metamorphosis and the characteristics of amphibians. See page 2 for a class in reptiles: "Snakes and Turtles".

Wild Tales

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 1st grade
Program Length: 30-45 minutes

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.

SELF GUIDED TOURS (Offered daily for all ages)

Self-guided tours give students and teachers a chance to explore the Nature Center on their own using scavenger hunt packets 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.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

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

\$200.00 per 45-minute session (M-F, 9:00am – 3:00pm)

\$275.00 per 90-minute session (M-F, 9:00am – 3:00pm) and

\$350.00 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

\$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)

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

Our featured offsite program is called Fur, Feathers, and Scales.

Fur, Feathers, and Scales

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 6th 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.

Nature Center's newest items:

1. ***"Ed-venture Backpacks"***

All visitors may request use of our educational backpacks filled with environmentally themed activities to do here at the Nature Center during your visit. Though limited to small groups of 20 students, each of the three packs are free for use to families, civic groups, and schools, both private and public. There are lesson plans, materials and experimental equipment within each pack. Ask for a quick reference for the packs when making your reservation to our facility. Packs may be reserved on a two-hour basis with a driver's license at check in at the front desk.

2. ***Scavenger Hunt Packets***

We send a version of our Scavenger Hunt Packets with every reservation confirmation. If your confirmation did not include our packet(s), simply call us at 828-298-5600, ext 305 or email Keith Mastin at kmastin@ashevillenc.gov. These are wonderful additions to your experience and can give your students an in-depth look at informational materials presented to our guests through signage and displays. You can even turn it into a bit of competition between classes or teams!

Programs for youth and families at the WNC Nature Center:

February	Junior Naturalist Volunteer Applications on line (summer program for kids 12-15 yo)
March	Elk Experience to Cataloochee Valley (family, ecology of elk, 5 hour experience)
April	Deadline for Junior Naturalists Volunteer Program
May/June	Training for Junior Naturalists
July	Belle Chere (downtown event)
August	Overnight Delight (family overnight stay at Nature Center, ecology, crafts, tents)
September	Elk Experience to Cataloochee Valley
October	Hey Day (biggest event of year, family fun, arts, crafts, music, food, animals) Howl-O-Ween (all day family event, costumes, prizes, crafts, animals)
November	Wolf Howl Programs (evening ecology on wolves, snacks and adventure outdoors)
December	Holiday Event



Planning Your Trip to the Nature Center

Hours:

Groups are invited to tour the Nature Center daily, 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Reservations:

- Call (828) 298-5600, ext. 305, Monday-Friday, with the following information:
 - Name of school or group and name of lead teacher (plus email)
 - Address and phone number of the school or group
 - Grade level and number of students and adults
 - Preferred program(s), date(s), and time of visit
- A minimum class size of 10 students (a maximum of 30) is required for any educational program. Groups with less than 10 students will be asked to pay the full admissions rates.
- 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.

Cancellations:

If a group must cancel a scheduled visit, please call the Nature Center at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled arrival. When cancelling, please speak directly to a Nature Center staff person (after 8:00am). A phone message will not be accepted as a cancellation. **Call (828) 298-5600, X305** between 8-9am to cancel. Groups will be charged full admission if cancellation is made on same day of reservation or not received at all.

Group Fees:

Home School groups (10 or more children with reservation)

Self Guided Tour

Asheville City Home School (preK-12 th grade)	\$2 per student or adult
Non-Asheville Resident Home School	\$3 per student or adult

Public & Private Schools (10 or more children with reservation)

Self Guided Tour

Asheville City School (preschool-12 th grade)	\$2 per student or adult
Non-Asheville School	\$3 per student or adult
<i>(school teachers, teacher assistants, and bus drivers free)</i>	

Classroom Program

\$1 per program per student and/or adult chaperone

Teachers and Chaperones:

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

Payment:

- Payment due at check-in in the form of one payment for the entire group including students and adults made during check-in. Any overpayment will be reimbursed in cash.
- Payment is accepted in cash, check, or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). Make check payable to the City of Asheville.
- Any adult wishing to pay separately will be charged the full admission fee of \$8.00/person.
- Anyone arriving late and separately from the group will be charged the full admission fee of \$8 per person.
- **Nature Center Family Memberships or any other affiliated zoo memberships are not valid with a group reservation or school reservation.**

Check-In:

- Please arrive and check-in 15 minutes prior to time of reservation. The Nature Center opens at 10:00 a.m. daily. 10:00 a.m. reservations may check in beginning at 9:45 a.m.
- Only the lead teacher should check-in for the school group with the following information: number of students, teachers (+ teacher assistants), and chaperones.
- Other members of the group should remain **outside** until check in is complete.
- Please separate students into their assigned groups prior to entering the Nature Center.
- Anyone needing the use of the restrooms immediately upon arrival may enter at once with adult supervision.

Gift Shop:

- Gift Shop items range from 25-cents to \$60. A variety of drinks are for sale, but no prepared foods are available.
- Maximum 10 students and 2 chaperones in the gift shop at one time.
- Gift bags are available with at least a two-week notice prior to visit. Prices range from \$1 to \$5 per bag. Ask for details when making reservations.

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.

Directions to the Nature Center:

From I-40, travel to Asheville Exit 53-B (watch for large brown 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). Turn north (right) onto Fairview Road and travel .7 mile to a t-intersection (brown sign). Turn right onto NC-81 and travel .7 mile. Turn right onto Gashes Creek Road (brown sign) and then immediate right (another brown sign), crossing the bridge and baring left up the hill. Travel .3 mile. See Nature Center on right and follow signs to parking and main entrance.



NORTH CAROLINA COMPETENCY GOALS

Grade Level	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7-8	9-12
Forest Sounds		1.02 1.04 1.05 2.01 4.01	1.01 1.03 2.06 4.01	1.02 4.02 4.04 4.05	1.01 1.03 1.04 1.05	1.02 1.03 1.05 1.06			
Cycles, Systems & Sunlight						1.02 1.04 1.06 2.05 3.01 3.02			
Locomotion : the Art of Animal Movement	1.01 1.02 1.03 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 1.04	1.03 1.04	1.01 1.04	1.01 1.02 1.03				
Wild About Wildlife	1.02 1.03 1.04 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 1.04 3.01	1.031.0 4	1.04	1.01 1.02 1.03	1.01 1.02 1.03 1.04 1.05	2.02 2.03 2.04	2.03 2.04 3.01 3.03 3.05	2.06 3.02 4.01 5.03 5.05
Snakes and Turtles	1.02 1.03 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 1.04 3.01 4.01	1.03 1.04		1.01 1.02 1.03	1.01 1.02 1.03 1.04 1.05	2.02 2.03 2.04 4.06	2.03 2.04 3.01 3.03 3.05	2.06 3.02 4.01 5.03 5.05
Nature at Night			1.03 1.04 4.02	1.01 1.02 1.04	1.01 1.02 1.03	1.01 1.02 1.04	2.01 2.03 2.04		
Bugs to Butterflies	1.02 1.03 3.01 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 1.04 3.01 4.01 4.04	1.03 1.04 4.02	1.03 1.05					
Feathered Frenzy: The World of Birds	1.02 1.03 3.01 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 3.01 4.01	1.03	1.01 1.04 4.01	1.01 1.02 1.03	1.01 1.02 1.03 1.06 2.03	2.03 2.04		5.01 5.03 5.05 7.01 7.02
Wild Tales	1.01 1.02 1.03 1.04	1.02 1.03 4.01 4.03							
Life of a Frog	1.02 1.03 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 3.01 4.01	1.03 1.04 4.02		1.01 1.02 1.03				
Down on the Farm	1.023.0 2	1.02	1.03 1.04 3.01 3.02	1.03 3.01 3.02	1.01 1.02 1.03				
<u>Offsite Program:</u> <i>Fur, Feathers, Scales</i>	1.02 1.03 3.02 3.03	1.02 1.03 1.04 3.01 4.01	1.03 1.04	1.01 1.04	1.01 1.02 1.03	1.01 1.04 1.05	2.02 2.03 2.04		



Reservation Information

Please complete the reservation form and contact the Nature Center at
(828) 298-5600, extension 305 or 304

Name of Group: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Teacher (s): _____

Teacher's Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Arrival: _____ Time of Arrival: _____ (Nature Center open 10 am – 5 pm)

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

Number Students in Group: _____ Number of Adult Chaperones: _____ Grade(s): _____

TEACHERS: Please collect all fees from each person in your group including adult chaperones before arriving at the Nature Center. Nature Center and other facility memberships do not apply to the special event trip admission. Please pay as a group using cash, check, Visa or MasterCard. Make check payable to the City of Asheville.

Class / Program Requested:

Fees:

Public/Private School – Students & Adult Chaperone

(teachers, teacher assistants, bus driver free)

Asheville Schools admissions _____ @ \$2 each = _____

Non-Asheville Schools admissions _____ @ \$3 each = _____

Scheduled educational program _____ @ \$1 each = _____

Home School (groups 10 or more)

Asheville Resident admissions _____ @ \$2 each = _____

Non-Asheville Resident admissions _____ @ \$3 each = _____

Scheduled educational program _____ @ \$1 each = _____

Gift Bags

_____ bags @ \$1 each = _____

_____ bags @ \$2 each = _____

_____ bags @ \$3 each = _____

_____ bags @ \$4 each = _____

_____ bags @ \$5 each = _____

TOTAL PAYMENT:

Your contact person's name at the Nature Center: _____

The Nature Center will send a confirmation when your reservation is made.



**75 Gashes Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28805
828.298.5600
wildwnc.org**

Reservation form on inside back cover.