National Whitetail Deer Education Foundation



& Deerassic Park Education Center ®

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www.deerassic.com

School & Group Field Trips

Deerassic Park Education Center is dedicated to providing high quality outdoor education experiences to youth to encourage them to be active in the outdoors and to nurture an appreciation for all the opportunities nature and the environment have to offer.

Below is a list and description of the outdoor activities and education that school and group field trips can be involved in at Deerassic Park Education Center. Please let us know which programs and activities your group would be interested in pursuing.

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| *Program* | *Description* | *Max/Min* | *Grades* |
| *400-Acre Wood*(50 minutes) | Students will play the role of managers of a 400-acre (162 hectare) piece of public forest. Through this role, students will begin to understand the complex considerations that influence management decisions about forest lands. | 26/4 | 7th-8th |
| *Aerial Archery*(30-60 min.) | Having previous archery experience is a prerequisite to this activity. Students will try some advanced archery techniques by using the NASP style compound bows to try and shoot circular foam targets out of the air thrown by a Deerassic worker. They will use flu-flu arrows (designed for aerial flight) to try and “shish-kabob” the foam targets. | 12/4 | 5th+ |
| *Are You Me?*(20-40 min.) | Students will recognize various young stages of aquatic animals and match them with corresponding adult stages. Using picture cards, students match pairs of juvenile and adult aquatic animals.  | 26/6 | 3rd+ |
| *Archery I*(30-60 min.) | Hay bales and targets/balloons are set so students can use the NASP style (kid friendly) compound bows to work on their target shooting skills | 26/4 | 3rd+ |
| *Archery II:**SAFE Archery*(30-60 min.) | This inflatable option can be done inside or out depending on the weather. Four “floating” balls become the targets as students shoot modified arrows with recurve bows. Excellent option for “Beginners” with no shooting experience. This can also be turned into a competition for the advanced shooter.  | 26/4 | Pre-K+ |
| *Archery Tag*(30-60 min.) | A fast paced game where two teams compete with recurve bows, foam tipped arrows, and safety masks to “knock” each other out of the ring. An octagon with inflatable barriers to hide behind is set for the teams to compete in this safe but fun game. Last one standing wins! | 12/4 | 3rd+ |
| *Butterfly Exploration* (15-30 min.) | Youth are invited to examine examples of the changes that happen throughout the lifecycle of native butterflies. Seasonally available, our live butterfly enclosure allows students to walk through the habitat and see these creatures up close. | 26/4 | Pre-K+ |

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| ***Program*** | ***Description*** | ***Max/Min*** | ***Grades*** |
| ***Stream Studies******“Creeking”***(30-90 min.) | Walk in the bottom ravine of our property where the creek runs. Depending on the season and amount of rainfall, students will be able to catch salamanders and crawdads. Nets, containers, and identification sheets make identifying all the critters easy. This field inquiry lesson will introduce students to many aquatic vertebrates, invertebrates, and to the concept that their presence or absence can help us determine the quality of the water in streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds.  | 26/4 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Canoeing/******Kayaking*** (30 min. – 3 hrs.) | Available for small groups or as a station, participants have the opportunity to spend some time on the water exploring the sport of canoeing/kayaking. Classes range from a quick start on the water experience to a full ACA Introduction to canoeing/kayaking class.  | 14/4 | 3rd+ |
| ***Disc Golf***(30 min. – 2 hrs.) | Coming soon! We will offer students the opportunity to try this one-of-a-kind sport that gets them active and outdoors. Students will throw Frisbees through a course set up with disc catchers (works like golf but catchers instead of holes).  | 24/6 | 3rd+ |
| ***Field Games***(30 min. – 2 hrs.) | We are now bringing physical education outdoors! Choose from all sorts of games including but not limited to: whiffleball, kickball, dodgeball, capture the flag, and ultimate Frisbee! Get your students active and outdoors! | 30/12 | 3rd+ |
| ***First Impressions***(30-50 minutes) | Children combine movement and art to show how they think and feel about animals | 25/6 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Fishing*** (30-90 min.) | Utilizing our large floating dock, three acre stocked pond, cane poles and worms; youth will be exposed to the basics of fishing, with an opportunity to catch bluegill and bass. All materials are provided by the park. | 24/4 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Forest Consequences***(30-45 minutes) | This activity portrays that good habitat is the key to wildlife survival, a population will continue to increase in size until some limiting factors are imposed, limiting factors contribute to fluctuations in wildlife populations, and nature is never in “balance,” but is constantly changing.  | 25/10 | 1st+ |

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| ***Program*** | ***Description*** | ***Max/Min*** | ***Grades*** |
| ***Get in Touch with Trees***(30 minutes) | Using a “mystery box,” students will explore their sense of touch and discover different shapes and textures in nature | 26/6 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Got Water?***(40 min.) | Have you ever considered what an ant has to go through just to get a drink of water? | 25/6 | 3rd-5th  |
| ***Hiding in Plain Sight***(30-40 min.) | Students play a game of hide and seek to learn about important adaptations in many wild animals. | 25/6 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Invasive Species***(30-50 minutes) | Students will research invasive species to determine how these species got to their new locations and what characteristics make them so challenging. | 26/6 | 5th-8th  |
| ***Lunch for a Bear***(30-50 minutes) | Children identify the kinds of food that black bears eat by creating a plate of “bear food.” Students are introduced to the concept of limited resources. Students are also introduced to the concept of omnivores and how they require a variety in their diet to survive. | 25/4 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Marksmanship &******Firearm Safety***(30-60 min.) | Working with air rifles, students learn the basics of firearm safety along with basic marksmanship utilizing hay bales and targets/balloons.  | 26/4 | 3rd+ |
| ***Migration Headache***(45 minutes) | If you were a bird, would you survive your winter trek down south? | 26/6 | 6th-8th  |
| ***Nothing Succeeds Like Succession***(30-50 minutes) | Students will read a story about succession and investigate the connection between plants, animals, and successional stages in a local ecosystem | 26/4 | 4th-8th  |

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| ***Program*** | ***Description*** | ***Max/Min*** | ***Grades*** |
| ***Oh Deer!***(30-45 minutes) | Students portray deer and habitat components in a physical activity. This activity portrays that good habitat is the key to wildlife survival, a population will continue to increase in size until some limiting factors are imposed, limiting factors contribute to fluctuations in wildlife populations, and nature is never in “balance,” but is constantly changing. Can be a standalone activity or combined with “Wonders of the Whitetail.” | 25/10 | 1st+ |
| ***Owl Pellets***(30-50 minutes)***ADDITIONAL $3.00 CHARGE PER STUDENT*** | Students will dissect an owl pellet and learn about what owls eat. An owl pellet is a dense mass of bones, fur, and feathers an owl coughs up after digesting a meal. It is odor-free and safe for children when properly prepared, offering a real-life look at owls and their diet. An owl pellet also illustrates who eats what in a simple food chain.  | 26/6 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Paddleboarding***(30 min.-3 hrs.) | Available for small groups or as a station, participants have the opportunity to spend some time on the water exploring the sport of paddleboarding. Classes range from a quick start on the water experience to a full ACA Introduction to paddleboarding class.  | 14/4 | 5th+ |
| ***Plant Diversity***(50 minutes) | Students will pretend they are visitors from outer space, viewing life on Earth for the first time. By describing in minute detail all the life they find in a small plot of land, they will become more aware of the diversity and abundance of life on Earth and will better understand its importance. | 26/6 | 4th-6th  |
| ***Pollution Search***(30-50 minutes) | Students take a hike around and through the woods to get a closer look at pollution: what it is, what its sources are, and what people can do to reduce it. | 25/5 | 2nd+ |
| ***Sounds Around***(15-30 minutes) | This activity helps students “tune in” to the sounds in their environment and helps them identify and lessen local noise problems. They also learn how different sounds in nature have inspired cultural stories. | 26/6 | Pre-K-K |
| ***The Closer You Look***(50 minutes) | All students, no matter how young, have an idea of what a tree looks like. But, many are unfamiliar with the actual structure of a tree. In this activity, students will go outdoors or view pictures to take a closer look at trees and their parts. | 26/6 | Pre-K-6th  |
| ***Program*** | ***Description*** | ***Max/Min*** | ***Grades*** |
| ***Pond Studies******“Tadpoling”***(30-90 min.) | Utilizing nets, students will be able to catch some of the macroinvertebrates that inhabit our pond. Identification guides are provided to determine if pond life is at a good level or in need of assistance. Amphibians are also on the possible to be caught list, depending on the season. Many tadpoles are caught in various stages of metamorphosis. | 26/4 | Pre-K+ |
| ***Trees as Habitats***(50 minutes) | Students will inventory the plants and animals that live in, on, and around trees and discover how plants and animals depend on trees in many ways. | 26/4 | 3rd-8th  |
| ***Water Canaries***(45 minutes) | What are the “water canaries” telling you about local water quality? | 26/6 | 6th-12th  |
| ***Where Does Water Run?***(45-60 minutes) | Take a closer look at what happens when it rains. | 26/6 | 6th-12th |
| ***Wonders of the******Whitetail Deer***(30-60 min.) | Students visit our live deer herd and learn fascinating facts about the whitetail deer including its interrelationship with humans through history, life cycle and habits. Can be combined with field game, Oh Deer! This presentation can also include a classroom component if the weather isn’t cooperating. | 25/6 | Pre-K+ |

***We can also come to you!***

***Classroom and On-Site presentations are also available depending on season***

Traveling to your classroom or site, we can provide our hands on education kit of hides, bones, antlers and artifacts, accompanied with an instructor to present. This presentation examines the important role of Whitetail Deer throughout North American history ranging from pre-historic native cultures through the modern day.

***To schedule your trip to Deerassic Park Education Center or to arrange for us to come to you, please call (740) 435-3335 or email luke@deerassic.com***