



**Helping Youth & Families Reconnect
with the Outdoors Since 1996**

**2019 Guide to
School, Youth &
Small Group Programs**

DEERASSIC PARK EDUCATION CENTER



CAMBRIDGE, OHIO





← Philosophy →

The guiding philosophy at Deerassic Park Education Center is to reconnect youth and families with outdoor activities and recreation, fostering and developing a life long appreciation for the outdoors and nature.

This is accomplished primarily through programs and events involving regional youth and their parents.

Seeing a trend in the late 1990's and into the early 2000's of declining youth involvement in the outdoors, Deerassic Park Education Center was established to combat these declines. Since then, the staff at the facility have provided a myriad of programs and events designed for youth and families to experience the outdoors and become participants in a variety of outdoor activities.



Encouraging the curiosity of youth is a high priority at Deerassic Park Education Center. Nurturing their natural curiosity in the environment helps to grow their understanding of the world.

About Deerassic Park

Founded in 1996, The National Whitetail Deer Education Foundation is dedicated to providing outdoor education at little to no cost for programs and events. The Education Center is located on 155 acres, with a main building, a 3 acre pond, a shooting range, a nature center, trails and event areas including 15,000 sq. ft of pavilion space. The Deerassic Park Education Center also maintains an educational herd of deer for youth and families to view, while the main building houses a unique collection of mounted animals and artwork.

Throughout the year, Deerassic Park Education Center provides community and educational events and programs to reach out to youth and families. These include: school field trips to the park, annual family events such as Spring Fest and Fall Festival, summer programs and educational opportunities. The classes and programs taught include but are not limited to: canoeing, archery, riflery, nature hikes, deer lectures, kayaking, SAFE archery, paddleboarding, disc golf, archery tag, field games, ultimate Frisbee, aerial archery, creeking, and conservation education. These activities are also enjoyed by our summer camp attendees. Deerassic offers day camps that include: Archery Camp, Junior Day Camp, Big Foot Lock-In, and Senior Day Camp.

Over 12,000 youth come to the park annually for these education programs. Deerassic Park Education Center also provides Ohio Division of Natural Resources education programs such as Passport to Fishing, and Hunter's Ed.

Educational Programs & Activities

Field Trips at Deerassic Park are fun! Who doesn't want to spend the day outdoors doing programs and activities that make lasting memories for youth?

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.

A field trip day generally consists of 4-6 programs with a break for lunch (depending on your arrival/departure time). Our age/grade guidelines are only suggestions; you know your students and their educational level best.



Educational Topics for Schools

Educators can check out the grade specific listing of classes offered and their correlating Academic Content Standards. We are proud to work with you to provide hands-on learning opportunities tailored to your specific needs.

Our Planning guide and 48 page Lesson Plan guide is available for download at:

Deerassic.com



Youth learn from hands-on experiences that they treasure for a lifetime.





NATIONAL WHITETAIL DEER EDUCATION FOUNDATION
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2019 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.

Popular Field Trip Options:

Popular Classroom Visit Options:

<i>Program</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max/Min</i>	<i>Grades</i>
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 launched by our target thrower. They will use flu-flu arrows (designed for aerial flight) to try and "shish-kabob" the foam targets.	16/4	5 th +
Antler Scoring (5 - 40 min. periods)	Students will learn the proper scoring system for deer antlers. Just calling a buck an 8-point or 10-point doesn't really tell you the size of the antlers. Here at Deerassic we use the Buckmasters Official Scoring System that teaches kids math, how to read a tape measure, and how to use those numbers and measurements to get a total "score" for a deer's antlers. Students will also have the opportunity to bring in their own harvested bucks to be scored and possibly entered into the record books!	30/6	6 th +
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.	30/4	3 rd +
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.	30/4	Pre-K+

Program	Description	Max/Min	Grades
Archery Golf (30 min. – 2 hrs.)	This works just like a regular game of golf or our popular program “disc golf”. Students use bows and foam golf ball tipped arrows and shoot their way through a golf course that uses the disc golf catchers as “holes”. Once students make their arrow into the catcher they move on to the next “hole”.	24/4	3 rd +
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.	30/4	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.	30/4	3 rd +
Disc Golf (30 min. – 2 hrs.)	We 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	3 rd +
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	3 rd +
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+

Program	Description	Max/Min	Grades
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+
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.	30/4	3 rd +
Nature Center (30 min. – 2 hrs.)	Take a walk through our BRAND NEW, amazing Nature Center! This one-room cabin includes everything you need to know about Ohio native animals. Our instructors will give you a general tour over everything within the nature center which includes but is not limited to: LIVE reptiles and amphibians , animal pelts, skulls, artifacts, taxidermy mounts, informational posters, rocks and minerals, Native American arrowheads, and much more! To get a more in-depth look at one specific topic, look through the program options below.	30/6	Pre-K+
Nature Center – Skull I.D. Lab	Students will learn different characteristics of Ohio animal skulls to be able to determine and identify them from one another.	30/6	K-12
Nature Center – Animal Tracks	Students will learn the difference in animal tracks from different mammals native here in Ohio. Students will be able to see differences in characteristics to determine which track comes from which animal.	30/6	K-12
Nature Center – Scoop On Poop	A kid favorite! The fascination with animal scat! Kids enjoy this fun interactive presentation on Ohio mammal scat. Students will learn interesting facts about animal poop and get to see replica examples. With teacher permission, this includes students getting to enjoy “animal poop” chocolate treats.	30/6	K-12

Program	Description	Max/Min	Grades
Nature Center – Animal I.D. Lab	A general I.D. of Ohio's native animals. Students will use taxidermy mounts, pictures, videos, and live animals to determine what they are based on certain characteristics. They will then learn about each animal's habitat, diet, reproduction, tracks, and behaviors. Just like any other nature center activity, they will have a much better understanding of what's around them.	30/6	Pre-K+
Nature Center – Native American Arrowheads	Take an in-depth look at our past time. Students will learn about the Ohio Native Americans, the tools and weapons they used to survive, and the different arrowheads they used.	30/6	3 rd +
Nature Center – Fur Talk	Students will use different characteristics they identify from looking and touching different animal pelts to determine which each one is. They will also learn more about these animals such as: habitats, diets, and behaviors.	30/6	Pre-K+
Nature Center – Song Birds	Weather permitting, students will observe different song birds and other critters that visit our bird feeders by looking through the nature center windows. Students will try and I.D. these birds while also learning more about them, hear their different calls, and know what to look for.	30/6	Pre-K+
Nature Center – Rocks & Minerals	Take a closer look at rocks! Students will get the chance to learn more about the rocks and minerals we have here on Earth. Kids will get to identify rocks as well as learn about the rock cycle, and use magnifiers to see these rocks close up! The lesson will break them down based on categories such as: minerals in scale of hardness, streak, luster, cleavage, fracture, specific gravity, ores of metals and non-metals, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.	30/6	3 rd +

Program	Description	Max/Min	Grades
Owl Pellets (30-50 minutes)	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.	30/6	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	5 th +
Pollution Search/ Recycling (30-50 minutes)	Students learn about the different types of pollution, different types of recyclables and the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle.) They will then 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, as well as find different recyclables and place them in their appropriate recycling bins.	30/6	2 nd +
QDMA (Quality Deer Management Association) Program (5 - 40 minute periods)	Great for middle school-high school aged kids. This 5-day program is perfect for an in-school visit. Deerassic comes and takes over your classroom for the week to teach kids the importance of quality deer management. This curriculum includes powerpoints, videos, worksheets, hands-on activities, and a final test to teach students things such as: deer biology and anatomy, deer history, aging and scoring bucks, trail camera surveying and analyzing, etc. Teachers can choose whether they use the worksheets and test towards the students' grades or it can just be a week of fun learning for the kids!	30/6	6 th +
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. This presentation can also include a classroom component if the weather isn't cooperating.	30/6	Pre-K+



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**Note most of these activities correlate with high school standards as well and we receive a good portion of high school trips!

<i>Ohio Science Standard</i>	<i>Lesson Plans</i>
ESS Kindergarten PS Kindergarten LS Kindergarten	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing Animal Tracks, Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Fur Talk, Hiding in Plain Sight, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 1 st Grade PS 1 st Grade LS 1 st Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing Animal Tracks, Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Fur Talk, Hiding in Plain Sight, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 2 nd Grade PS 2 nd Grade LS 2 nd Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing Animal Tracks, Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Fur Talk, Hiding in Plain Sight, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 3 rd Grade PS 3 rd Grade LS 3 rd Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing, Marksmanship Animal Tracks, Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Fur Talk, Hiding in Plain Sight, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 4 th Grade PS 4 th Grade LS 4 th Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing, Marksmanship Animal Tracks, Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Fur Talk, Hiding in Plain Sight, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 5 th Grade PS 5 th Grade LS 5 th Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing, Marksmanship Animal Tracks, Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Fur Talk, Hiding in Plain Sight, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 6 th Grade PS 6 th Grade LS 6 th Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing, Marksmanship Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, QDMA, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 7 th Grade PS 7 th Grade LS 7 th Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing, Marksmanship Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, QDMA, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail
ESS 8 th Grade PS 8 th Grade LS 8 th Grade	Pollution Search, Rocks & Minerals Fishing, Marksmanship Butterfly Exploration, Stream Studies: Creeking, Nature Center, Owl Pellets, QDMA, Scoop On Poop, Skull ID, Wonders of the Whitetail

**Keep in mind, all remaining field trip and in-class visit activities fall under other Ohio Academic Standards including:
Ohio PE Standards: Aerial Archery, Archery I, Archery II, Archery Golf, Canoeing/Kayaking, Disc Golf, Field Games, Paddleboarding

Ohio Math Standards: Antler Scoring

Ohio History Standards: Native American Arrowheads, Animal ID, Wonders of the Whitetail



Wonders of the Whitetail

Students visit our live deer herd and learn fascinating facts about the whitetail deer, including its interrelationship with humans throughout history, life cycle, and habits.

Levels

Grades k-8

Duration

15-30 minutes

Background

The state mammal for Ohio, the whitetail deer has been ingrained into the lives of Ohioans for centuries. Traditionally used as a food source by humans, the population of this species has been kept under control since the loss of their main predators from the state. Hunting seasons are particularly important to local economies of the state, so it is important for Ohioans to understand and respect this incredible animal.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn the different names for male, female, and young deer, which deer have antlers, and why they the name "whitetail"
2. Discuss modern day population issues and learn about carrying capacity
3. Understand the different types of habitats that deer can inhabit and why
4. Learn about deer lifecycles and what they eat
5. Students will become detectives and learn of the different signs whitetail deer leave in areas that have inhabited
6. Students will have the opportunity to see and touch live whitetail deer

Equipment

Antlers (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
deer skin (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
deer fur (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
deer bones (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
Powerpoint (inside lecture only)
Oh! Deer! Instructions

chewed antler (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
fox fur (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
coyote fur (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
buckeye nuts (Deerassic Deer Trunk)
Photos of deer (outside lecture only)

Directions

1. Begin by discussing safety rules with students, making sure they understand the boundaries of the investigation (loud noises will scare the deer, approach them slowly, etc.).
2. Show students pictures of deer and ask if they can identify the differences between males, females, and young. Ask if they know the names. Elaborate on what antlers are, which deer have them, and the purpose of them. Explain why they are called whitetails.
3. Discuss history in Ohio and what has changed over the years. Many historical predators no longer live in the state (bear, wolves, etc.). Ask students if they or their families hunt and discuss carrying capacity (play Oh! Deer! – Project Wild – if time allows). Humans are doing their part of maintaining a healthy deer herd.

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN CONTINUED

4. Where do deer live? Deer are generalists and can adapt to many different kinds of habitat. Ask students what they like to eat and compare it to what deer like to eat.
5. Explain deer life cycle and how bucks lose their antlers. Discuss what happens to shed antlers and show the chewed antler.
6. Ask students if they know different signs of whitetail (rub, scrape, tracks, scat, etc.).
7. Discuss the deer herd on the Deerassic Property. How many deer? What do we feed them? Explain that deer only need 5 acres of land to survive. Explain why they have tags. Explain how we received the deer and that they are not taken from the wild.
8. Invite students to touch the furs and antlers and offer to answer any questions they may have



Cost of Programs

The programs at Deerassic Park Education Center are made possible through the generosity of our supporters at the Deerassic Classic Give-away & Outdoor Expo held annually in August.

When we have a trip scheduled to the park, we will have between 4 and 8 staff working with your students. This fee helps cover the staffing costs of the programs at the park.

We ask for a fee of \$5 per participant in a field trip or small group setting, however, we never want to deny a child a trip to the park. Please let us know if you have concerns with this cost regarding the program costs.

**Starting at \$5
per Youth**

**Chaperones are
always free!**

Transportation Grants

We understand that one of the biggest challenges that schools and youth programs face is transportation costs. The cost of getting your students to the park can be daunting.

In 2014, this was the greatest concern of the educators we met with to help shape our educational programs. They said it didn't matter how great we made our programs if the educators couldn't get their students to the facility.

As part of our commitment to education, the Board of the National Whitetail Deer Education Foundation annually funds over \$6,000 in Transportation Grants to get youth out to the park.

This simple one page application for assistance can be found at Deerassic.com under the Education Programs tab.

We look forward to partnering with you!



Recognizing Excellence in Achievement

Our Student of the month program is built to be as convenient for the schools as we can possibly make it.

Whether you have a student of the month program already in effect or are looking to start one within your school we want to work with your school to develop a plan that fits your needs.

The Deerassic Park Student of the Month Program is offered at no cost to participating districts.

For more information please contact our Education Coordinator at: luke@deerassic.com

Deerassic Park Student of the Month Program



Education at Your School

If you are limited in the time that you can make available for your students to come to the park, or don't want to bring your students out to the park, we can come to you!

With the help of our "Deerassic-On-The-Go" Grant, you can get full funding to bring the outdoors to your school! Not to mention, our programs correlate with school's curriculums and common core classes.

Many of our programs are designed for us to take on the road. We can be a stand alone event at your school setting up an onsite field trip with rotating classes or we can do course specific lectures and programs based on your needs.

The possibilities really are endless, and we're excited to bring outdoor education to your school and students. Even if you're not sure of what you want to do, contact us and we can help you plan a great class or program for your students.



Education at Your Event

We love taking our show on the road. You can find us at many places through out our community, at trade shows, PTA programs, festivals and other programs.

We are equipped to provide Archery, our Educational Fur Trunk, S.A.F.E. Archery, Archery Tag, BB Gun Trailers, BB Gun Inflatable Range, Shooting Simulators along with other programs all geared towards providing high quality, safe educational experiences at the events.

Our education team loves to travel, so let us know how we can be of help for your next event. Contact at luke@deerassic.com or give us a call at 740.435.3335



Small Group Programs & Trips



While Small Group Programs & Trips can be scheduled just like field trips, hosting a small group allows more time and flexibility in programming options. We encourage you to consider some of the following opportunities when planning your visit.

Group planning starts with a minimum of 12 participants.

Classes & Programs

Hunter's Education

Our hunter and trapper education programs are designed for every age and ability. We will help you understand where and when it's legal to pursue the game you'd like to hunt.



Passport to Fishing

This curriculum developed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife is dedicated to introducing youth to fishing. By covering topics such as habitat, handling, knot tying, rigging, casting, and regulations, these students leave the class with the knowledge required for a lifetime of fishing enjoyment.

Pond to Table

This unique class offers students an opportunity to fish in our stocked pond of bass, catfish, and blue gill. Youth will master the art of catching their fish, followed by a lecture and demonstration of cleaning their fish. They will then have the opportunity to fry their catch. Finally, they'll get the chance to eat their catch. This course helps promote the understanding our relationship to nature and our food source.

Ohio Boaters Education Course

The Ohio Boaters Education Course is the State of Ohio's required course to help persons become a licensed boater. This eight hour course will certify the student to obtain their boating license.



Canoeing & Kayaking

Deerassic Park Education Center offers Canoeing & Kayaking courses that will help students gain an understanding of the basics of canoeing or kayaking. This class can be a quick introduction or a more in-depth training depending on the needs of the group. This program is also mobile, and we can meet you at a selected sight if necessary.

Ongoing Educational Opportunities

Deerassic Park Education Center is committed to making the most of its facilities and programs throughout the year. We offer many programs and events that are free and open to the public.

Some examples are:

The Outside is IN!

This has shifted to something we take to the schools. With our Deerassic-On-The-Go Grant, your school could be the next to book Deerassic bringing the outside IN!

Wild Wednesdays

Wild Wednesday's is our lecture/hands-on series geared towards adults and kids alike. This program explores a topic of interest regarding the outdoors and changes monthly.

Spring Fest

Spring Fest is our annual Spring Kick-Off event with a youth giveaway and thousands of dollars worth of prizes. This event has activities throughout the day and is a great day for families to get outside!

Kicking Bear

Kicking Bear One-on-One is an overnight archery experience with camping, meals and activities throughout the evening and into the next day.

**For a complete Calendar of Events
Visit Deerassic.com**





Where the Outside is in!

DEERASSIC PARK EDUCATION CENTER

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