

2023 Cradle of Forestry- Field Trip & Tours Guide

Science Focused Programming

Arthropod Hunt (2nd through 5th grades): Students will peak under leaf piles and sift through pond water to discover arthropods and investigate the roles these animals play in the forest ecosystem. Students will compare arthropods living in two different habitats; woodland forest and a freshwater pond. This program addresses the concepts of arthropod body structure, adaptations, lifecycles, metamorphosis, and diet. Bring shoes that can get wet and muddy.

Community Science (4th through 8th grades): In this program students will focus on learning about citizen science, forest management, what tools scientists use, and how we can help! This is a hands-on program taking place along the Cradle's paved trails and at our new Citizen Science Lab in our exhibit hall. Your program can focus on Ecology, Forestry or Hydrology!

Ecology: In the Ecology lab (best for 4th grade & up) students will take part in a BioBlitz, recording plants and animals found in Pisgah National Forest. Students will practice using field guides to identify plants and animals, and learn different wildlife monitoring techniques such as camera traps, tracking, and collection.

Forestry: In the Forestry lab (best for 5th grade & up) students will learn how to identify and measure local tree species and help us monitor an invasive species attacking our hemlock trees. Students will measure tree height, diameter, and board feet.

Hydrology: In the Hydrology lab (best for 4th grade & up) students will learn how water moves through a watershed as well as the benefits of clean water. Students will observe and measure 3 different types of water quality indicators and learn about beavers, wetlands and forest succession as they visit the Pink Beds watershed.

Forest Festival Trail- Guided Tour (All ages, even adults!): This 1.3-mile trail explores Dr. Schenck's forestry experiments, a portable saw mill, and a logging locomotive that students can climb aboard. The trails stimulate discussions about wildlife, habitat, how plants grow, succession, energy cycling, and forestry concepts.

Social Studies Focused Programming

The Great Wagon Road Game (3rd grade & Up): Learners will become immersed in the mid 1700's when European settlers first settled in WNC. Students will play an interactive role-playing version of the "Oregon Trail" game of their teacher's youth. The Cradle of Forestry has brought the game to life along our Biltmore Campus Trail (1 mile). This interactive walking game takes you around the trail to learn more about the trials and tribulations the first European settlers faced as they traveled the Great Wagon Road and settled our beautiful mountains. Learners will travel in "wagon groups", "purchase" supplies (no real money involved in the game) for the journey and stop to roll the dice of destiny that will choose their cards of fate.

Tools, Toys and Resources (K through 5th grades): This program provides a hands-on experience to capture students' imaginations as they compare a child's daily life from the past to their own daily routines. Students will be immersed in an Appalachian Mountain community from the early 1900's by helping with chores and visiting historical buildings along our Biltmore Campus Trail (1-mile paved loop).

Biltmore Campus Trail- Guided Tour (All ages, even adults!): This 1-mile trail passes seven historical buildings, including a schoolhouse, commissary, blacksmith and student quarters. Visitors will learn about the beginning of the Biltmore Forest School in 1898, the community that was living here at that time and the effects on forestry in the area.

Please contact us to book your field trip today!