

Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center Field Trip Planner

For more information or to schedule a program, email EHCEducation@GwinnettCounty.com or call 770.904.3500 or 678.765.4680. Learn more at B2Anywhere.com.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Our programs offer two hours of tailored instruction to suit each school's unique needs. With minimum class size of 15 students, the maximum capacity can vary. Due to the popularity of our high-quality field study programs, we recommend booking in advance. Reservations are required.

Schedule Your Visit

Contact us first to choose your date and location by calling 678.765.4680 or emailing EHCEducation@GwinnettCounty.com. Program activities are subject to change.

Choose Your Field Study

After selecting and confirming a date, choose your desired program(s), and submit the completed reservation form. To ensure we can accommodate all visitors, please mention any special requirements at this stage.

Pay the Deposit

Program dates will be confirmed upon receipt of the \$50 deposit. On the day of your visit, you'll receive a final invoice for the remaining balance, which will be due upon arrival.

Cancel or Reschedule

If a program needs to be rescheduled unexpectedly, we will make every effort to accommodate your needs. However, our program calendars tend to fill quickly, so the available dates may be limited. We will only reschedule programs due to inclement weather or forecast if a school system is closed. If rescheduling is not possible, we will refund the deposit.

Program Locations

- Elisha Winn Site, Dacula
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, Buford
- Freeman's Mill Park, Lawrenceville
- Isaac Adair House, Lawrenceville
- Lawrenceville Female Seminary, Lawrenceville
- McDaniel Farm Park, Duluth
- Yellow River Post Office Site, Lilburn

Some programs are available at other park locations, weather and date permitting.

Program Fees

- Pre-K through High School programs are \$8 per student and chaperone.
- High School labs are \$9 per student and chaperone.

- Teachers and staff accompanying students are free.
- Non-Gwinnett resident fees will apply at \$20 per group, per day.

Before Your Visit

- Programs are held rain or shine; please ensure everyone dresses for the weather.
- Wear sneakers; open-toe shoes are not advised since we're connecting with nature.
- Chaperones must pay through the school before arrival.
- Chaperones are to actively assist; other children or babies are not permitted.

During Your Visit

- Teachers must accompany their class.
- Late arrival may reduce program time.

Virtual Field Studies

- High-quality programming on your devices.
- \$100 per class.

QUESTS

Explore STEAM concepts found in the forests of your local park or the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center! Students will enjoy two-hour guided rotations filled with hands-on activities, from exhibits to ecosystems. We tailor your school's cross-curricular experience to suit all grade levels! Quests typically include indoor and outdoor activities (weather and location permitting) but are subject to change.

FOREST QUEST

This is a guided two-hour outdoor curriculum for grades K-5, weather permitting; an indoor museum quest will be substituted during inclement weather.

Georgia Native Plants and Animals

Explore the forest and discover the plants and animals of the Piedmont region, learning how they are interconnected.

Animal Adaptations

Experience hands-on learning with skins, skulls, and scat to identify physical adaptations that help our forest friends survive in their habitat.

Trees

Gain more insight in this up-close study of tree growth, their benefits, and the importance of protecting this vital natural resource.

Rocks and Soil

Dive into the soil and discover the significance of Georgia's rocks and soils.

Hydrology and Stream Exploration

Visit a natural stream, uncover the life and energy in its waters, and see how this aquatic habitat links to the forest and its surrounding ecosystem.

MUSEUM QUEST

This is a guided two-hour indoor curriculum for grades K-5.

Blue Planet Theater

Get immersed in this multi-sensory presentation as you discover the wonders and importance of water!

Chesser-Williams House

Discover the art and science of historic preservation, restoration, and conservation. Enjoy an interpretation of daily life on a mid-to-late 1800s Georgia farmstead.

STEAM Lab

A hands-on exploration of a variety of exciting STEAM activities.

Green Building Tour

Discover this unique, environmentally built museum. Experience Gwinnett's first LEED-certified building featuring current technology and innovative engineering concepts.

Outdoor Interpretive Hike

Enjoy a guided walk along the trails and uncover the dynamic environment that plants and animals call home (weather permitting).

Water Ways Exhibit

Delve into the history of human interaction with the environment and uncover how Georgia's land and water influenced its earliest inhabitants — the Cherokee, Muscogee, and early settlers. Learn how our environment and natural resources impact us today.

EXPLORATORY FIELD STUDY

Our dynamic educators bring science and social studies to life in indoor and outdoor settings (weather permitting). Each exciting, two-hour guided program offers a grade-specific curriculum and an in-depth exploration of a particular unit of study. Unless otherwise specified, these programs take place at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford.

PRE-K

These programs align with the Georgia Early Learning Development Standards, emphasizing outdoor experiences.

Forest Detectives

Explore the trees of our forest ecosystem! Investigate what creatures live among the branches and how they depend on the trees for their survival, and dig for clues with a soil exploration in this mostly outdoor program.

This program is also offered at a park near you, weather and location permitting.

Wild About Weather

Embark on an exciting weather adventure to explore clouds, storms, and sunny days, then go on a cloud hike and enjoy educational play! Our junior meteorologists will create clouds and have interactive water cycle activities in the Discover H2O exhibit.

Georgia Animals In My Backyard

Touch and feel skins and skulls while learning how to protect our local animal friends. Students will uncover the differences between local forest animals, participate in interactive games, and have a playful visit with our resident turtles!

Exhibit Explorers

Little explorers visit exhibits to discover wonders and dive into history. They also explore outdoors to learn about native plants, animals, and insects, and may participate in the STEAM lab exhibit program.

KINDERGARTEN

Exploring Plants and Animals: Wild and Wonderful Georgia

Discover the vibrant life within the forest through a hands-on investigation! Engage in interactive animal grouping games, explore with an extensive collection of skins, and embark on a discovery walk to observe and compare the diverse plant and animal life in our forest. This program is also offered at a park near you, weather and location permitting.

Beneath Our Feet: Exploring Rocks and Soil

Dig into the rocks and soil of the forest! Interactive games and exploration have those small kindergarten hands in the soil and mud as we observe, touch, and weigh nature's wonders beneath our feet.

Exploring Centuries of Childhood: Then and Now

Discover an authentic 1800s homestead to compare and contrast a child's life in the past with today. Sort and classify objects found from different the centuries, engage in hands-on activities, and play games highlighting clothing, toys, houses, chores, and school from the 1800s to the present. This program is also offered at Lawrenceville Female Seminary and virtually.

Living Life on the Farm: Exploring Rocks and Soil at McDaniel Farm Park

Step into the past and discover the important role of a farmer. Through fun, outdoor, hands-on activities, students will compare living and non-living items while assisting at McDaniel Farm.

1ST GRADE

Everything Needs Water

Compare and contrast the basic needs of plants and animals thriving in Georgia forests. Take a water walk to help hydrate the diverse living organisms that depend on this precious natural resource. Participate in a What Belongs In Our Stream activity to drive home the importance of protecting and preserving streams, and enjoy the Discover H2O exhibit and Blue Planet movie!

Light, Sound, and Living Things

Enjoy an exciting day of discovery with hands-on activities and a guided walk in the forest. Students will investigate and evaluate the many ways Georgia animals and plants use light and sound to meet their basic survival needs.

Environmental Heroes: Teddy Roosevelt and George Washington Carver

Uncover the legacy of Carver's contributions to agriculture and scientific research through hands-on gardening, where students discuss farming techniques like crop rotation, cover crops, and composting for healthy soil. Venture along trails to become a conservationist like Roosevelt, learning about the importance of native plants and trees. Listen to stories of the famous Teddy Bear and discover facts about Georgia's bears. This program is also offered at McDaniel Farm Park and virtually.

Early American Heroes: Franklin and Jefferson

Explore the world of American heroes dedicated to science and the environment. Educators dressed in period attire will guide students on a nature hike, using artifacts to compare past and present. Students will play colonial games, explore Franklin's inventions, and learn about Jefferson's contributions. This program is also available virtually.

Weather and Climate

Identify different forms of precipitation, investigate cloud identification, and explore how native Georgia animals react and adapt to various weather situations. Experiment with a range of weather instruments, identify current weather conditions on an interpretive hike, and visit the Discover H2O exhibit.

Magnetism Matters

Dive into the fascinating world of magnetism! Through interactive games and activities, investigate the strengths and everyday uses of magnets, learn why iron is important in our diets, discover how magnets are used for navigation, and view the earth's magnetic field through the eyes of a bird. Don't forget to visit the STEAM lab.

2ND GRADE

Exploring Environmental Changes

Investigate how to protect local ecosystems and understand the effects of weather, air, land, and water pollution impact the environment. Through a forest and river clean-up simulation, discover the necessity of community involvement in protecting ecosystems and experience the multisensory Blue Planet Theater!

A Pollinator's Life: Bees, Bats, Birds, and Butterflies

Investigate life cycles and diversity of essential pollinators like honeybees, bats, hummingbirds, and butterflies, which support agricultural and natural ecosystems. Through exploration centers, learning activities, and a guided walk in the forest, uncover the benefits of these animals and the impact of environmental changes.

Matter Matters

Delve into the three states of matter by comparing and contrasting their unique properties, and learn how solids, liquids, and gases play vital roles in nature. The program includes an exploratory hike and a visit to the Discover H2O exhibit.

Georgia's First People

Experience the daily life of some of our state's first people through various STEAM centers and compare it to modern living. Using local and natural resources, students will create a model of a wattle-and-daub home, then they will examine the forest on an outdoor hike while learning about the Cherokee and Muscogee and how they adapted to and were influenced by their environment. This program is also offered at McDaniel Farm Park.

3RD GRADE

Pollution and Solutions

Engage in hands-on investigations and activities, and take a walk through the forest to the stream to explore different forms of pollution. Students will also identify the causes of these environmental strains and develop solutions to combat pollution! This program includes a visit inside the Discovery Dome.

Mineral Mania

What's the difference between rocks and minerals? How do water and wind transform minerals? How do soil and properties shape daily life? These questions and more are explored as students get their hands on marvelous minerals, investigate the physical attributes of rocks, soil, and minerals, embark on an adventurous trail hike, and chart the mineral resources of our state.

Native Knowledge and Colonial Impact

Compare and contrast how American Indian cultures and early colonists adapted to their environments to produce food, clothing, and shelter. Discover an ancient rock shelter and native plants used by Georgia's first inhabitants. Dive deep into the Chesser-Williams House, explore colonial games, and examine tools allow students to understand the daily life and the survival resources of early Georgians.

Adapting to Georgia's Habitats and Regions

Through hands-on outdoor adventures, investigate and differentiate a diverse array of plants, animals, and habitats unique to each region of Georgia. Research Georgia animals and uncover how these adaptations allow them to survive and thrive. Participate in a hands-in-mud activity to see how animals rely on their adaptations, then embark on an exploratory forest hike allows for discovery of unique plants found in the Piedmont. This program is also available virtually.

4TH GRADE

Extreme Weather

Meteorology is better understood after experiencing Force Five weather inside the Discovery Dome. Interactive stations engage students with weather equipment, a cloud study, and weather scenarios that illustrate frontal systems. Additionally, a visit to the Discover H2O exhibit and an exploratory nature hike will give students an up-close view of how water and weather shape our world.

STEAM Exploration: Simple Machines, Physical Geography, and the American Revolution

Discover how physical geography, math, and engineering impact key battles. Through hands-on experiences with simple machines and period technology, students can engage in activities similar to those of the Daughters of Liberty and tradespeople who supported the independence movement. Educators dressed in period attire recount the civic contributions of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. Explore how scientific concepts of the time influenced the drive for independence and participate in a lively debate. This program is also offered at Lawrenceville Female Seminary and virtually.

What's Eating You? Ecosystems, Food Chains, and Food Webs

Go on a guided forest walk to explore the nearby creek critters and uncover evidence of the aquatic food chain. Learn how diverse plant and animal ecosystems affect the flow of energy needed to maintain balance and how pollution can disrupt this delicate system. This program is also offered at McDaniel Farm Park or a park near you, weather and location permitting.

Get in Gear: Simple Machines at Freeman's Mill

Visit Freeman's Mill Park and explore the historic Freeman's Mill and discover the symphony of simple machines that allowed local farmers to grind their corn into meal and feed their families. Students will learn how people harnessed the energy of water and used technology from the time period to perform essential tasks. They will also discover how Freeman's Mill became a thriving commercial center and a social hub for the community.

5TH GRADE

Harmful and Beneficial Microbes

Become lab scientists and experience the differences between harmful and beneficial bacteria. Students will discover where bacteria thrive and the positive and negative roles they play on a soil hike and through microscopic studies.

Classification: Plants and Animals of Georgia

On a guided forest walk, discover plants and animals and their importance and dependency on each other. Using tools and technology, dig into the scientific importance of soil. An interactive activity with our vast skins, skulls, and scat collection provides an understanding of the grouping and classifications of living things. This program is also offered at McDaniel Farm Park or a park near you (weather and location permitting).

World War I Impacts Georgia: Trenches, Tactics and Technology

Explore the causes and impacts of World War I through the lens of technology, gardening, and food preservation. Using primary sources, investigate life on the home front and in the trenches, the role and contributions of the United States in this worldwide conflict, food conservation, and more. Educators in period attire guide students to create synthetic rubber in the lab and closely analyze various harmful and beneficial microbes that impacted everyone. Interact with unique floor maps to

understand the multiple nations involved in the conflict.

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

Offered at McDaniel Farm Park, discover how the McDaniel family survived the challenges of the Great Depression. Participate in farm life through hands-on activities that allow students to work with cotton, experience chores, see the life of a sharecropper, and more.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meteorology and Hydrology

Student meteorologists collect data using a variety of scientific instruments to predict tomorrow's weather. Build a hurricane and experience the thrill of being inside one while viewing the Discovery Dome's Force Five movie. Hands-on exploration in the Discover H2O exhibit and a guided trail hike provide an up-close experience on how water shapes the landscape and how climate change dramatically affects wildlife. *GSE/AKS – 6th grade science*

Soil Rocks!

Journey through the rock cycle to explore some of Georgia's rocks, minerals, and soil and discover how natural processes change them. Test minerals to understand their physical properties and how these properties translate to rocks, and then explore outside to identify stages of the rock cycle up-close. See how soil supports our natural and built environments while collecting and analyzing soil samples. A soil hike provides a hands-in-the-dirt understanding of the factors necessary for soil formation and the importance of soil conservation. *GSE/AKS – 6th grade science*

Everyday Ecology

Dig into the interactions that make earth so dynamic! Model the defining factors of global biomes and track carbon through an ecosystem. Venture into our temperate deciduous forest to reveal local food webs and symbioses and discover the unique adaptations of aquatic macro-invertebrates in our streams and how they respond to human activity. Elements of this program can be combined with elements from the Classification program. This program is also offered at McDaniel Farm Park or at a park near you (weather/location permitting). *GSE/AKS – 7th grade science*

Classification and Diversity

Through a guided walk in the forest, students explore the taxonomy and reproductive strategies of local flora and fauna. Students collaborate to build a classification model, and identify skulls and leaves using dichotomous keys. Dissection and microscopic study of both a flower as well as an animal friendly frog model allow students to better understand the structure and function of each. *GSE/AKS – 7th grade science*

Waste Water Adventure: In With The Dirty, Out With The Clean

A guided walking tour of the F. Wayne Hill Water Resource Center reveals the mechanics of water treatment including how gravity is used as a physical force to clean water. Experience the transformations of matter and energy throughout the treatment process and understand that energy and nutrients are recovered from what is flushed down the drain! Transportation is needed from Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center to the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center. *GSE/AKS – 8th grade science*

Phenomenal Physics

In this energy-filled experience, discover the physics within our green building, explore natural forces at work in the forest, experiment with forms of energy and energy transformations, and actively engage in the physics found within many childhood games. *GSE/AKS – 8th grade science*

Civil War and Reconstruction in Georgia at the Yellow River Post Office Site

Use the power of place and primary documents to tell the story of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Gwinnett and Georgia. Through interactive stations, students investigate firsthand accounts of daily life, economics, medicine, and more, as voiced by soldiers, the enslaved, and local businesses. These primary sources, combined with an exploration of Gwinnett's only remaining cabin for the enslaved and the Hudson-Nash House and its detached kitchen, provide an impactful unit of study at the historic Yellow River Post Office site. *GSE/AKS – 8th grade social studies*

HIGH SCHOOL

Wastewater Adventure: In With The Dirty–Out With The Clean

A guided walking tour of the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center reveals the many processes wastewater travels through as it is cleaned. Investigate the physical, chemical, and biological methods of treatment at this state-of-the-art facility and understand that energy and nutrients are recovered from what is flushed! Transportation is required from Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center to the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center. *GSE/AKS – Biology, Microbiology, and Environmental Science*

Green Physics

This three-hour, high-flying adventure explores the physics concepts within the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center's green building. Students embark on a forces of nature forest walk and soar to new heights with Treetop Quest to analyze the physics of an aerial adventure course. Contact us for details on additional pricing for this field trip. *GSE/AKS – Physics*

Forest Adventure

Gather data from the trails to identify and discuss local plant diversity. Observe the stages of succession throughout the forest and learn how land development impacts these stages. An investigation into plant and animal interdependence creates a lasting impression of how forest change affects the delicate balance of nature. Explore the environmental impact of non-native species and take a hands-on approach to restore balance in our Georgia habitat. Students make connections with the natural world and get their hands dirty by experiencing the science in the forest! *GSE/AKS – Biology*

Stream Adventure

Investigate the health of a stream by performing various water quality tests including temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Explore and identify macro-invertebrates collected from the stream, getting a snapshot of the stream's health and an understanding of the relationship between water quality and a thriving forest. Team up to identify six different non-point source pollutants, brainstorm how they entered the stream, and theorize what impact pollutants have on that ecosystem. Stream Adventure and Wastewater Adventure can be combined for an additional charge. *GSE/AKS – Chemistry, Environmental Science, Biology, and Microbiology*

Green Building Quest: Understanding Historic and Sustainable Architecture

Take an in-depth look at the characteristics of historic and modern green building techniques, and discover how these thoughts and ideas changed over time. Examine first-hand examples of nineteenth century architecture and explore the unique features of Gwinnett's first green building. Learn how historic buildings and landscapes examine themes of daily life – transportation, communication, economics, food-ways, conflict, shelter, recreation, art, and more. Discover the latest technologies and future career opportunities in these fields. *GSE/AKS – Cross-curricular standards*

Biology Labs

Labs require additional time. Programs can be customized depending on teacher's needs.

GSE/AKS – Biology and Environmental Science

Dissolved Oxygen and Aquatic Primary Productivity

Photosynthesis Leaf Disc Assay Investigation – *9th grade Biology*

Animal Behavior Investigation – *9th grade Biology*

OUTREACH

Our educators bring the activities to you! Tailored to meet your school's specific needs, our science and social studies programs offer students engaging, high-quality instruction. Teachers benefit from the convenience of a unique field study experience right in their own classroom!

Program fees

Up to 29 students – \$270/group

Up to 89 students – \$9/student

90 students or more – \$6/student

PRE-K

Aligned with the Georgia Early Learning Development Standards for early childhood education.

Georgia Animals In My Backyard

Through hands-on investigation with our skins and skulls collection, uncover how Georgia's forest friends look and behave differently. Interactive games and a playful visit with our resident turtle show animals' needs and help students appreciate the role they play in protecting our wildlife.

Bees, Bears, and Breakfast

Black bear, black bear where can he be? Our educators share stories, songs, games, and fun bear facts with your students. It's an exciting adventure as you get to know North America's smallest bear!

KINDERGARTEN

Exploring Plants, Animals, Rocks and Soil

Through investigative plant and animal activities and hands-on exploration of animal skins, explore the relationship between plants, animals, rocks, and soil.

Exploring Centuries of Childhood: Then and Now

Compare and contrast a child's life in the past to current day. Sort and classify objects found throughout the centuries, enjoy hands-on activities, and play games highlighting clothing, toys, houses, chores, and school in the 1800s and today.

1ST GRADE

Everything Needs Water

Through hands-in-dirt adventures and team activities, discover the basic needs of plants and animals in Georgia forests. Participate in a What Belongs in Our Stream activity to drive home the importance of protecting and preserving our streams!

Early American Heroes

Get immersed in the everyday lives of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, who had a passion for science and the environment. Educators in period attire demonstrate several of Franklin's inventions and highlight gardening practices conducted at Jefferson's family home. Use artifacts and replicas to understand the differences and similarities of everyday life between then and now.

2ND GRADE

Georgia's Native People Knowledge and Know-How

Discover the tools and technology the Cherokee and Muscogee utilized in their daily lives. Hear stories that explore Native American understanding of the environment and explore their cultural impact and contributions.

A Pollinator's Life: Bees, Bats, Birds, and Butterflies

Investigate life cycles and the diversity of life through the honeybee, bat, hummingbird, and butterflies, our most important pollinators that support agricultural and natural systems. Through hands on learning activities, discover the benefits of these animals and how environmental changes impact life cycles.

3RD GRADE

Ecosystems and Animal Adaptations

Discover the importance of animal adaptations for survival during this nonstop adventure including a migration survival flight and an interactive experience with skins, skulls, and scat discovery tables!

Native American Knowledge and Know-How

Explore Native American understanding of the environment through stories. Understand their cultural impact and contributions to Georgia and the United States. Discover the tools and technology various Native American groups utilized in their daily lives.

4TH GRADE

What's Eating You? Ecosystems, Food Chains, and Food Webs

Uncover how diverse plant and animal ecosystems affect the flow of energy required to keep the systems balanced and how pollution can disrupt this delicate system.

STEAM Exploration: Simple Machines and the American Revolution

STEAM concepts were crucial factors leading to America's victory in the Revolution. Educators in period attire demonstrate simple machines and period technology. Hands-on experiences replicate activities groups like the Daughters of Liberty and tradespeople adopted to support the call for independence.

5TH GRADE

World War I Impacts Georgia: Trenches, Tactics and Technology

Educators in period attire explore the causes and impacts of World War I on Georgia through technology and food preservation. Interact with special floor maps to understand the various nations involved in the Great War. Analyze various harmful and beneficial microbes that impacted soldiers and those at home and discover new technologies that emerged from the conflict.

Classification Station!

Through hands-on discovery and teamwork, develop a model that illustrates how plants and animals are sorted into nine classification groups, use scientific tools to investigate the physical characteristics of each group, and role play scenarios that demonstrate the differences between inherited versus acquired traits.

6TH GRADE

Meteorology and Hydrology

Learn how meteorologists and hydrologists work together to predict tornadoes and hurricanes and how they prepare communities for these natural disasters. Using various scientific instruments, collect data and make predictions for future weather patterns.

7TH GRADE

Animal Friendly Frog Dissection

Jump into the fascinating frog world. Utilizing animal, student, and teacher friendly models, perform basic frog dissection. Explore the taxonomy of various frog species native to Georgia. Study prepared slides under microscopes to dive deep into the frog life cycle.