# HISTORIC YATES MILL COUNTY PARK

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



SEE WHAT FIELD TRIP
EXPERIENCES ARE AVAILABLE

**Guided Programm**ing and Tours

Self-guided Activities

4620 Lake Wheeler Road Raleigh, NC 27603 919.856.6675

www.wakegov.com/parks/yatesmill























Located just 5 miles south of Downtown Raleigh, Historic Yates Mill was established before the City in the mid-1700s and is now the last operating water-powered mill, out of 70 or more mills that once existed in the Wake County area. The mill ground corn into meal and wheat into flour; sawed logs; and carded wool for the local community for over 200 years. Today it serves as a one-of-a-kind historic site and a center of education for all ages.

## Mill Tours

Fully restored through a partnership among NC State University, Yates Mill Associates, and Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space, the historic mill is currently closed for indoor group tours because of the pandemic. However, we are offering outdoor tour options, that include a guided walk down to and around the mill, using artifacts and props to bring history to life. The park hopes to offer small indoor tours open to the public on weekends in the spring of 2022.

## Park Features

The mill is the centerpiece of a 174-acre park which is managed as a native wildlife refuge (dogs are not allowed) and is part of the North Carolina Birding Trail. Park amenities include over 3 miles of hiking trails, picnic areas, boardwalk fishing, viewing scopes, and wayside exhibits, among other features. The park center features 2,200 square feet of interpretive exhibits including hands-on activities.

## Organized Group Programs

Please call the Group Programs Coordinator at (919) 856-6675 to schedule your customized field trip. Reservations are taken year-round by phone on a first-call basis. Schedule at least one month in advance to ensure dates and programs of your choice. Choose from a variety of outdoor mill tour types, classroom discovery labs, and environmental field experiences to complete your park visit and meet your curricular goals.

Before contacting park staff, please have the following ready:

- Your name and organization
- Phone numbers, email address, and fax number for your organization
- Mailing address and zip code
- Requested trip dates (have alternative dates in case your first choice is unavailable)
- Grade level, class size, number of adults, and special needs requests.

"Escape the Daily Grind" at Historic Yates Mill County Park



# Environmental Experiences





Field Experience	Program Description	Rate & Details
Guided Nature Hike For ages 3 and Up	Take a hike to explore the park's natural communities and diverse wildlife. Want a specific topic covered, such as habitats, animal tracks, or birdwatching? Let our staff know in advance.	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 30 minutes to 1 hour
Pond Party!  For Ages 5 & Up (Grades K and Up)	What's swimming underneath the surface of the pond? Explore tiny animals that call this habitat home in a hands-on pond study. Learn the aquatic food chain through a fun game, the life cycles of pond critters, and how to be a scientist with biological water testing! Then do some nature journaling so you can observe these animals in action. (Journals provided.)	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 1 hour
Animal Adaptations For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	How do animals survive in the wild? Predators adapt to catch prey, and the hunted adapt to avoid being eaten. Study behaviors and body parts that make animals successful, and learn about their physical and behavioral adaptations. We will discuss the flow of the food chain and why this balance is essential to a healthy ecosystem.	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older) Program length: 1 hour
Reptiles Rock For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	Meet some scaly friends and learn about unique reptile adaptations. Learn to tell the difference between amphibians and reptiles, do a fun hands-on reptile discovery lab, and then discover what other reptiles might live at Yates Mill Pond.	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 1 hour
Animal Tracks & Signs For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	Learn to read the tracks and signs animals leave behind. Find out what animals are eating, where they are going, and what they've been up to! Use your nature detective skills to figure out what animals live in the park, then observe animals in action throughout the park.	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 1 hour

# Environmental Experiences





Field Experience	Program Description	Rate & Details
Wonderful Wetlands For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	Marshes, bogs, and swamps have one thing in common—they are all wetlands! Build your own wetland model in a hands-on science experiment, and learn how wetlands are nature's coffee filter. Explore the important role that wetlands play in an ecosystem and all about the critters who rely on it. We'll be reading a fun story, exploring the park wetlands, and doing some nature journaling! (Journals provided.)	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 1 hour
Fascinating Geology For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	Sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks are everywhere! Come explore the rocks of Yates Mill through hands-on science. Discover the hidden identity of rocks, learn the types of rock, learn the rock cycle, and explore how rocks have been used in milling grains. View the special types of rocks that help keep the mill pond intact.	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 1 hour
Butterflies, Bees, and Bats, Oh My! For Ages 5 & Up (Grades K and Up)	Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other animals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. They help plants reproduce and sustain our ecosystems. Learn about the different types of pollinators and what we can do to protect them. Go on a guided field exploration and see some of our park gardens and pollinator hot spots. Do some nature journaling, and play a fun game! (Journals provided)	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 30 minutes to 1 hour
Strolling Storytime For ages 3 and Up	Enjoy a fun children's story related to the theme of your choice (wetlands, ponds, insects, or animals) and take a walk with a staff person while learning about and imitating different creatures found in the park.  Great add-on program for rotational field trips.	\$FREE Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)  Program length: 30 minutes to 1 hour

# Historical Exploration Labs

## **Descriptions & Details**



	Exploration Lab	Program Description	Rat Det
	Little Red Hen: Journey to the Mill For Ages 4-7 (Grades K-2)	Get your young children excited about Yates Mill! Relive the beloved story of the Little Red Hen. Then take a trip around the outside of the mill to gather ingredients for an imaginary loaf of bread	\$FREE Chaperone 1: 8 (age 6 1: 10 (age: Program le minutes to
	History Hike: Exploring the Past For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	Earn your history detective badge! Take a guided hike to Yates Mill and examine artifacts to learn about life in the past as you explore outside the mill.	\$FREE Chaperone 1: 10 (age: Program 30 minute
Yatomil	Artifact Discovery For Ages 7-13 (Grades 2-8)	Go back in time to the 18th century. Compare life then and now. In a guided inquiry, discover the purposes of several unusual objects from yesteryear.	\$FREE Chaperone 1: 10 (ages Program le 30 minutes
	A-Maize-ing Grains For ages 3 and Up	Where does our food come from? Put on your Grain Brain and investigate the grains in your favorite foods. Find out how Yates Mill grinds grain, and then sprout a living necklace to wear home!	\$FREE Chaperone 1: 8 (age 6 1: 10 (age: Program le 30 minutes
		Froups have imitation size of 20 children plus chaperones per class. Rotational field trips of up to 3 classes are available.	

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## Self-Guided Activities & Add-Ons





Activity	Description NOT staff led- Chaperone led	Activity Length
Field Scavenger Hunts	Take your choice of a variety of different scavenger hunts. Some topics can include: Animal Tracks & Signs, Bird Identification, ABC Scavenger Hunt, Turtle Scavenger Hunt, etc.	\$FREE Suggested length: 30 minutes For all ages
Nature Journaling	Test out your nature observation skills by observing wildlife around the pond while using your provided nature journal with prompts.	\$FREE Suggested length: 30 minutes For all ages
Activity Packet	Enjoy some of our fun activity packets that include activities surrounding historical, agricultural, and environmental topics and themes.	\$FREE Suggested length: 30 minutes For all ages

## **Everyone's Welcome Initiative**

Historic Yates Mill County Park welcomes all visitors and affirms its commitment to offering programs and services that are accessible to everyone. We will make every effort to ensure that visitors of all abilities are fully included in all our programs and facilities. We welcome families with children and adults on the autism spectrum.

"My Historic Yates Mill Park Pack": This pack is available to borrow and check out inside the park's visitors center at the front desk. The kit includes a customizable visual schedule, maps, sensory-seeking toys, noise-reducing headphones, and suggestions for making your visit an enjoyable experience.

Please inform your field trip coordinator if you would like to request any of these materials for your visit.



## Virtual Education Programs







Yates Mill's educational programming offers opportunities for students to learn about important parts of North Carolina's unique cultural, environmental, and agricultural history. Our educators lead engaging and interactive virtual presentations to immerse your students in Wake County's fascinating history.

Schools and other organized groups can get an interactive, educational experience from the safety and comfort of their own homes!

Virtual Program

### Description

## Program Length

Pond Exploration

Study Yates Mill Pond and the life that exists in it, large and small. Explore the diverse critters, including macro-invertebrates, that are found in the pond, and consider environmental aspects such as location, wetlands, and pollution.

\$FREE Suggested length: 1 hour

2nd-6th-grade

Artifact Discovery Explore how historians use primary sources, especially artifacts, as well as secondary sources to learn about life in the past. Compare objects from the past with objects today; discover why some artifacts last longer than others; learn how park staff researched the history of the park's gristmill; and examine actual artifacts from the park to try to figure out what they are. Students will also enjoy seeing a short video of the gristmill to better understand the how the mill works and its historical importance to the community.

\$FREE Suggested length: 45 minutes

2nd-6th-grade

**Busy** Beavers Did you know that beavers are actually large rodents with very important jobs? Join us and discover the awesome adaptations of a beaver, what they like to eat, and why these little engineers are so important to our eco-systems. We will test your knowledge in a round of trivia, and you can watch as we "build a beaver" and play the game "The Life of a Beaver."

\$FREE Suggested length: 1 hour

2nd-6th-grade

# Planning A Group Visit





# New Field Trip COVID-19 Protocols

- Class sizes are restricted to 20 children per class plus chaperones. Only three classes can be accommodated in one day.
- Organizers MUST inform park staff as soon as possible if they will be unable to attend, or if any child or adult shows signs of illness before, during, or after the field trip day.
- All classes and activities are strictly held outdoors (indoor restrooms and facilities
  are still available but staff-led activities take place outdoors only).
- Field trips ARE subject to cancellation if staff deem weather conditions to be unsafe, or if rain is forecasted for the day with a heavy impact on programming.
   Please be understanding of this as we do not have an outdoor covered space to utilize. If you would like to schedule a virtual field trip experience as a rain day backup, please inform the field trip coordinator at the time of booking.
- COVID Programming protocols are in place to keep everyone safe. Groups within
  a class will be given a station at a picnic table, and tables are spaced out
  appropriately. We also provide hand sanitizer at each station, and will have
  Clorox wipes and masks available.
- Everything groups need or will use for the program will be at their assigned station to prevent the need for shuffling around or sharing of supplies. We are not currently requiring masks outside (although they are encouraged), but we will refer to the school protocol for this. Please let us know if there are certain guidelines your group is being asked to follow so that we can try to accommodate. We do ask that if anyone gets up from a station or gets close to one another (such as on a guided hike) that they wear their masks or stay a good distance from each other. All of these protocols are addressed at the beginning of your field trip with students as well.
- During programs, staff are stationed up front with more than six feet of distance to teach and are masked when helping with any activities.
- During mobile activities such as a hike, scavenger hunts, or story times, participants are guided about the specific protocols for these activities as they have their own precautions.

## Planning A Group Visit



## What you'll need to know!



#### Pre- and Post-Visit Materials

Educational lesson plans and fun theme-based activities that complement your field trip experience are available upon the booking of your visit.

#### Hours of Operation

The park is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until sunset. Please call 919-856-6675 for the exact closing time for the date(s) of your visit. The A.E. Finley Center for Education and Research (i.e., the park center) is open 7 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gristmill is currently closed for group tours because of the pandemic; staff hope to open the mill for small public tours on the weekends in spring 2022.

#### **Parking**

Parking for cars is located outside the Finley Center; we also have three school bus parking spaces available. Students may be dropped off in front of the Finley Center at the bus loop, before parking.

#### Group Check-In

Your group should remain on the bus while your group leader registers at the Information Desk located inside the Finley Center. Park staff will greet the group outside and review rules and other pertinent information. You will receive a timed schedule for your visit.

#### Lunch

You may bring lunch to eat at the park. You will need to relay to the field trip coordinator that you will need scheduled time for a snack or lunch break. Your lunch destination within the park will be given to you upon the finalization of your trip. Lunch items may be temporarily stored in the park's break room, with staff permission. Please note that refrigeration is not available and the park does not have ice, drink, or snack machines.

#### Cancellations

All cancellations of organized group programs usually require a two-week notice, but please inform park staff as soon as possible if your group will be unable to make it out for any reason. Park staff also reserve the right to cancel due to lack of indoor facilities. If weather is deemed unsafe or if the day is determined to be a washout, park staff may cancel your program. It is recommended to have a backup date in reserve or to have a virtual program as a backup for the day of your program.

#### Weather

Please come prepared to be outdoors. Because all programs are outdoor only, rainy weather may cause the field trip to be cancelled. In the case of school delays, early releases, or school closures, we will work with you to reschedule your group's visit.

Call 919-856-5635 or email us at Yatesmill@wakegov.com