

HISTORIC YATES MILL COUNTY PARK



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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See What Field Trip Experiences
We Have Available

Guided Programming and Tours

Self-guided Activities

4620 Lake Wheeler Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
919.856.6675

www.wake.gov/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 gristmills that once existed in the Wake County area. The mill ground corn into meal and wheat into flour 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.

Park Features

The mill is the centerpiece of a 174-acre park which is managed as a native wildlife refuge (pets 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) 856-5638 to schedule your customized field trip. Reservations are taken year-round by phone or email on a first-come, first-serve basis. Schedule at least one month in advance to ensure dates and programs of your choice. Choose from a variety of mill tour types, classroom discovery labs, environmental field experiences, and additional self-guided activities to complete your park visit and meet your curricular goals.

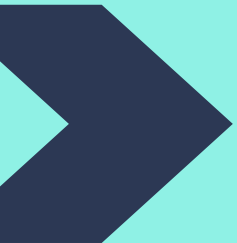
Group Programs are preferred for Monday-Wednesdays

Before contacting park staff, please have the following ready:

- Your name and organization
- Contact phone number, email address, and mailing address
- Requested trip dates (have alternative dates in case your first choice is unavailable)
- Request up to two staff-led activities and one self-guided activity (options in following pages)
- Grade level or ages of students
- Number of students participating
- Any special needs requests.

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





Environmental Experience	Program Description	Details
<p>Fascinating Fossils</p> <p>For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)</p>	<p>Fossils rock! Learn about how life and the Earth change over time, how organisms fossilize, how to identify a fossil, and what prehistoric creatures called NC home. Students will participate in hands-on activities to further enhance their learning.</p>	<p>Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)</p> <p>Program length: 45-60 minutes</p>
<p>Wonderful Wetlands</p> <p>For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)</p>	<p>Marshes, bogs, and swamps have one thing in common—they are all wetlands! Explore the important role that wetlands play in an ecosystem and all about the critters who rely on it. We'll read a fun story, and learn all about the park's wetland</p>	<p>Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)</p> <p>Program length: 45-60 minutes</p>
<p>Animal Adaptations</p> <p>For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)</p>	<p>How do animals survive in the wild? Predators adapt to catch prey, and the prey adapt to avoid being caught. Study behaviors and body parts that make animals successful, and learn about their physical and behavioral adaptations. We will explore the flow of the food chain and why this balance is essential to a healthy ecosystem.</p>	<p>Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)</p> <p>Program length: 45-60 minutes</p>
<p>Reptiles Rock</p> <p>For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)</p>	<p>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 activity, and then discover what reptiles might live around Yates Mill.</p>	<p>Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)</p> <p>Program length: 45-60 minutes</p>
<p>Animal Tracks & Signs</p> <p>For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)</p>	<p>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 here, then we can try to observe animals in action throughout Yates Mill.</p>	<p>Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)</p> <p>Program length: 45-60 minutes</p>

You can select up to two staff-led activities and one self-guided activity



Environmental Experiences (cont.)

Staff-led Activities



Environmental Experience	Program Description	Details
Pond Party! For Ages 5 & Up (Grades K & Up)	What's swimming underneath the surface of the pond? Explore critters that call this habitat home in a hands-on pond study. Learn the aquatic food chain and the life cycles of pond critters! Time permitted, we may even be able to dip for our own critters!	Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older) Program length: 45-60 minutes
Guided Nature Hike For Ages 5 & Up (Grades K & 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.	Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older) Program length: 45-60 minutes
Butterflies, Bees, and Bats, Oh My! For Ages 5 & Up (Grades K & 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.	Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older) Program length: 45-60 minutes
Strolling Storytime For Ages 5 & Up (Grades K & 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. <i>Great add-on program!</i>	Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older) Program length: 30-60 minutes



Rotational field trips of up to 3 groups are available.

Groups have limitation size of 27 children plus chaperones per class.

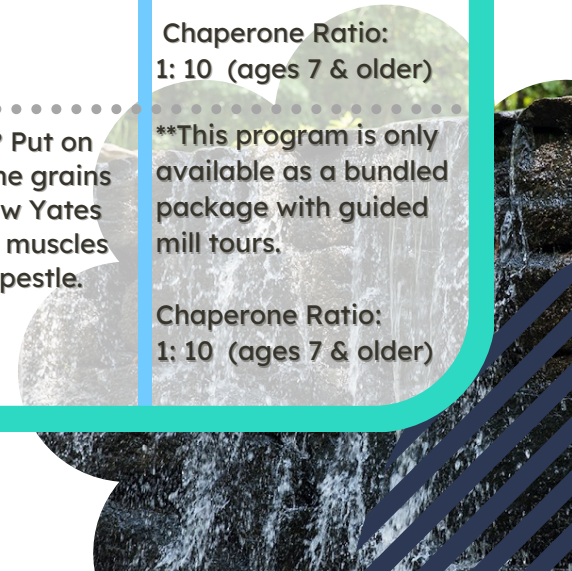


Mill Tours & Historical Explorations

Staff-led Activities



Historical Exploration	Program Description	Details
Little Red Hen Tour For Ages 5-7 (Grades K-2)	Get your young children excited about Yates Mill! Relive the beloved story of the Little Red Hen. Then take a trip inside the mill to gather ingredients for an imaginary loaf of bread Program length: 60 minutes	\$65 for groups of 16 people or less \$100 for groups of 17 to 30 people. Chaperone Ratio: 1: 8 (age 6 & under) 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)
History Detective Tour For Ages 8-13 (Grades 3-8)	Become a history detective! Take a guided hike to Yates Mill and examine artifacts to learn about life in the past as you explore inside the mill. Program length: 60 minutes	\$65 for groups of 16 people or less \$100 for groups of 17 to 30 people. Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)
Mill Heritage Tour For Ages 14 & Up (Grades 9 & Up)	Learn about mill operations and our global mill heritage. Explore local community history and discover how simple hand mills gave rise to complex machines like Yates Mill. Program length: 60 minutes	\$65 for groups of 16 people or less \$100 for groups of 17 to 30 people. Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)
Artifact Discovery For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & Up)	Go back in time to the 18th century. Compare life then and now. Through our activities, discover the purposes of several unusual objects from yesteryear. Program length: 30-45 minutes	**This program is only available as a bundled package with guided mill tours. Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)
A-Maize-ing Grains For Ages 7 & Up (Grades 2 & 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 test out your muscles on an old-fashioned mortar and pestle. Program length: 30-45 minutes	**This program is only available as a bundled package with guided mill tours. Chaperone Ratio: 1: 10 (ages 7 & older)





Self-guided Activity	Program Description	Details
Field Scavenger Hunts For all ages	Can you find everything on our scavenger hunt? Take our A-Z Scavenger Hunt around the park and see how many things you can find.	Suggested length: 30-60 minutes
Nature Journaling For all ages	Test out your nature observation skills by observing wildlife around the pond while using your provided nature journal with prompts.	Suggested length: 30-60 minutes
Activity Packet For all ages	Enjoy some of our fun activity packets that include activities surrounding historical, agricultural, and environmental topics and themes.	Suggested length: 30-60 minutes
Museum Scavenger Hunt For all ages	Look for artifacts while you explore the historical museum inside the Visitor Center.	Suggested length: 30 minutes

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.



GOING VIRTUAL!

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!

We can make programs tailored to different topics, so feel free to reach out if you have another topic in mind!



Virtual Program	Program Description	Program Length
Fascinating Fossils	Fossils rock! Learn about how life and the Earth change over time, how organisms fossilize, how to identify a fossil, and what prehistoric creatures called NC home.	Suggested length: 45-60 minutes Ages 7 & up
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.	Suggested length: 45 minutes Ages 7 & up
Reptiles Rock!	Meet some scaly friends and learn about unique reptile adaptations. Learn to tell the difference between amphibians and reptiles, and discover what reptiles might live around Yates Mill.	Suggested length: 45-60 minutes Ages 7 & up





Group Program Policies:

- Group Programs are preferred for Mondays-Wednesdays.
- Group sizes are restricted to 81 children per day plus chaperones. Groups are broken up into 3 groups of 27 students max.
- 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.
- Some of our classes and activities are held outdoors (indoor restrooms and facilities are still available) so students need to dress appropriately for the weather.
- 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.
- We are not currently requiring masks. Please let us know if there are certain guidelines your group is being asked to follow so that we can try to accommodate. All of these protocols can be addressed at the beginning of your field trip with students as well.

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 available for scheduled group tours, March through November.

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. The park does have water fountains but 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 some 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@wake.gov.**

