



Blue Jay Point Field Trip Facts

Environmental Education Field Trip Program Options & Fees

There are four options available for planning an environmental education field trip to Blue Jay Point. Reservations are required for all programs, field trips, and materials.

1. **General Group Visit – no fee**
Teachers prepare and lead the activities or secure services of a non-park specialist to present their program. No staff-led services are included with this option. Notice of large group trips (50+ people) is appreciated. We have tips to help make your trip a success!
2. **Discovery Box/Resource Loan – no fee**
This includes in-park use of reserved Discovery Boxes (written activity instructions plus necessary equipment), library resources, and miscellaneous equipment. No staff-led program services are included in this option. Reservation of materials is required.
3. **Group Program – no fee**
This option includes services of Blue Jay Point staff conducting a one-hour nature program. Contact staff regarding topics and available dates and times (at least 2 months, but up to a year, in advance). Use of the classroom is limited to program time only (as determined by program leader).
4. **Overnight Lodge – \$50.00/ school group
\$75.00/ gov't or nonprofit \$150.00/ private group**
This option includes overnight use of the Lodge, library resources, Discovery Boxes, and equipment as available. Reservations may be made at least 2 months to a year in advance.

Scheduling a Field Trip

1. **Plan Ahead –**
To be assured of getting the dates desired, schedule field trips many months in advance. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each month is available one year in advance on the first day of that month; hence, the entire month of March 2024 was opened for registration on March 1, 2023. March, April, May, and October are very popular months and fill up quickly. If these months are already reserved, consider exploring the park during the autumn or winter. Payment for Lodge reservations will be due 2 weeks after reservation is made (except for WCPSS according to the Master Level Service Agreement)

2. **Schedule Reservations –**

Reservations are taken year-round by phone or email on a first come-first served basis-schedule early to ensure dates and programs of your choice. You must speak/email with park staff to schedule a field trip, contact the park office at (919) 870-4330. Before dialing, please have the following ready:

- a. Your name and organization
- b. Day & evening phone numbers
- c. Email address
- d. Mailing address and zip code
- e. Requested field trip dates (We suggest having your school calendar handy and several alternative dates in case your first choices are unavailable)
- f. Grade level, how many classes total, and size of classes
- g. Discovery Boxes, equipment, staff-led programs or Lodge dates desired

3. **Suggestions for a Great Day at Blue Jay –**

- a. Be sure to allow enough travel time to arrive 10 minutes prior to program start time. School programs last the amount of time stated. Please schedule additional time for bathroom breaks, lunch, snacks, etc. If your group is late arriving, your program will end at the scheduled time.
- b. Please inform us of any students with special needs when you make your reservation, or at least several days in advance of your program so that we may plan accordingly to ensure that *every* student has a great experience at Blue Jay.
- c. Make sure students are prepared for the field trip by:
 - 1) Wearing activity and weather-appropriate clothing with closed toed shoes
 - 2) Bringing reusable water bottles
 - 3) Using insect repellant and sunblock (Please wait to use insect repellant until *after* a Pond Study or Insect Program!)
- d. You may bring lunch to eat at the picnic tables in the park. We do not have drink or snack machines.

4. **Program Chaperones –**

Please make plans to have 1 chaperone (teachers included) per 5 children (required for Pond Studies, Amphibian Antics and Field Follies). We ask that siblings not attend in order to help us maintain the integrity of the group. Teachers and chaperones are expected to participate and assist with student safety and discipline.

5. **Weather Concerns –**

Rain or shine, the weather is fine!! Alternative indoor activities are planned for each program in case of inclement weather. **In the case of school delays, early releases, or school closures due to weather, we will work with you to reschedule your group's visit. Otherwise, we look forward to your visit!**

6. **Cancellation Requirements –**

All cancellations require a written notice no less than one month prior to the date of the scheduled visit. Any cancellation received less than one month prior to the scheduled visit will result in forfeiture of the entire reservation fee—if you are with a Wake County Public School, an invoice for payment will be sent to your administrator.

7. **Prepare to have fun!**