



Beech Bluff County Park

GROUP PROGRAM GUIDE

FOR GRADES 6 - 8



3321 NC Hwy 42
Willow Spring, NC 27592

BeechBluff@wake.gov

919-255-7290



Parks, Recreation
and Open Space

About Beech Bluff County Park

Beech Bluff County Park is a 300-acre park that was farmed since the late 1700s. Today it offers hiking trails, educational programs, a canopy walk, a playground, a community garden and orchard, picnic shelters and a variety of habitats.

Park Features

Restrooms
Picnic Shelters
Picnic Area

Playground
Exhibit / Interpretive Trails
Garden / Orchard

Art Sculptures
Nature Trails
Open Play Field



View Park Map

Click here to check out our park map for more information on our trails and the park features.

Planning Your Group's Visit

Booking Your Group Program

To schedule your group program, please complete the [Beech Bluff County Park: Group Program Request](#) form. If you have questions or would like more information about our offerings, you can contact us at BeechBluff@wake.gov. All group programs are free to book.

You are able to book up to 4 staff-led programs per visit; there are self-led activities available if desired. Staff-led group programs may be booked up to a year in advance and must be booked at least 1 month in advance of your desired program date.

Group Size Requirements & Limits



Groups have a minimum requirement of 10 participants and a maximum of 30 participants. Groups are limited to 120 participants per day and will be broken up into smaller groups of up to 30 participants per group.

It is recommended you review our **staff-led programs** and our **self-led activities**, including recommended grade levels and descriptions, prior to booking your field trip to ensure age appropriateness.

Chaperone Requirements

Chaperone requirements exist to maintain a safe environment and ensure a quality experience for your group and others in the park as well as to protect our natural resources. Chaperones will be responsible for any behavioral or disciplinary issues that occur during the field trip. Chaperones may be teachers, school staff, group leaders or adult family members accompanying the group on their visit. Chaperones must be prepared to actively participate and assist park staff.



Chaperone to Participant Ratio

A minimum of 1 adult per 10 participants is required. Chaperones must be at least 18 years old and are not attending as a participant.

Park staff reserve the right to discontinue a program and/or remove individuals from the program if their behavior compromises the safety of others, harms park wildlife, or disrupts the experience for the group. Adults not acting as chaperones to the group may be asked to leave the group if they are being disruptive to the group's ability to learn.

Cancellations & Weather

Please inform park staff as soon as possible if your group will be unable to attend your booked group program for any reason. If weather is deemed unsafe, park staff may cancel your program. We will run programs in light rain or move indoors when possible. We will do our best to reschedule any cancelled programs.

Program Modification for Disability or Medical Condition

Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space welcomes people of all abilities into our parks and preserves. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), our staff are committed to providing reasonable modifications to our programs for participants with disabilities or medical conditions. Group leaders who request a program modification for their program will be contacted by park staff to create an inclusion plan on a case-by-case basis. Requests should be made at least two weeks prior to the scheduled program in order to properly facilitate a potential modification.



Group Program Modification Requests

A link to our modification request form will be provided with your booking confirmation email. If you have questions about program modifications for disabilities or medical conditions prior to booking your program, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Program Rotation

Groups will rotate between programs if multiple programs are scheduled or as required due to group size. Group program blocks are scheduled to be 1 hour in length. If your group needs our programs shortened to meet your travel needs, please inform us at the time of booking.

You will receive a copy of your specific group program rotation in the pre-visit informational email sent approximately 3 weeks prior to your program's scheduled date. If there are specific requests for your group program rotation, such as built-in time for self-led activities or lunch, please communicate this with us at the time of booking so we may do our best to include it in your program rotation.

Example of program rotation for 4 groups with 3 booked programs:

Time	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
9:30 - 10:30	Agriculture & Climate Change	Community Food Systems	Food Justice Movement	Self-Led Adventure Kit
10:40 - 11:40	Community Food Systems	Food Justice Movement	Self-Led Adventure Kit	Agriculture & Climate Change
11:50 - 12:50	Food Justice Movement	Self-Led Adventure Kit	Agriculture & Climate Change	Community Food Systems
1:00 - 2:00	Self-Led Adventure Kit	Agriculture & Climate Change	Community Food Systems	Food Justice Movement

Staff-Led Programs

All of our programs can be offered virtually or at your site (outreach) if coming to Beech Bluff County Park is a barrier to your group. Programs have been developed for the grade noted, so if you wish to book a program for a group other than the recommended grades, please let us know and we will work with you to adapt the program to your group's grade level(s).



NC DPI Essential Standard Alignment

Group programs have been designed to align with NC DPI Essential Standards. **Click here to see which standards a particular program aligns with.**

Agriculture & Climate Change: Growing for a Greener Future (Grades 6 - 8)

Join us for an engaging lesson on agriculture and climate change, where your group will explore how climate change impacts farming practices and food production. They will learn about sustainable and innovative agricultural techniques that are used at Beech Bluff County Park. Through hands-on activities and interactive discussions, your group will gain a deeper understanding of the connection between our environment and the food we eat everyday.

Community Food Systems: The Power of Localizing our Food (Grades 6 - 8)

Join us for an exciting program on localizing our food systems! This is a hands-on workshop that will teach your students about the importance of growing and eating local food. Your students will learn about where their food comes from and how local food systems are created. They can also tour a real-

life example of a local food system on-site after the workshop. Grow local, eat local, and have fun in this informative workshop!

Food Justice Movement: How Agriculture & Food Shaped Our History (Grades 7 - 8)

Everyone needs to eat! Join us virtually to explore the role of food justice movements and learn about the leaders who have helped shape our current food system. We will discuss the importance of food accessibility and ways in which food justice efforts have been established in North Carolina. This workshop promises both reflection and education to emphasize why food justice is crucial.

Special Requests



Don't see a group program that meets your groups needs? Submit your request for an alterative topic utilizing our [Beech Bluff County Park: Group Program Request](#) form. There is no guarantee we will be able to support your request.

Self-Led Adventure Kits

Have a free block in your program rotation you need to fill? Check out our different self-led Adventure Kits. All Adventure Kits include activity instructions and materials for up to 30 participants.

Reserve Your Adventure Kit



To ensure a particular Adventure Kit is available for your use during your group's visit, please email us at BeechBluff@wake.gov at least one week in advance to reserve it.

A Water's Journey Adventure Kit

This activity will introduce your students to the water cycle through a fun interactive activity in which they are a droplet of water in the water cycle. This activity has been adapted from the Water Wonders activity from Project Learning Tree.

Creative Writing Adventure Kit

Take time with your students to practice creative writing out in nature! Your students will spend time on a short, .25-mile paved trail reading and engaging with creative texts to learn about elements of stories or poems. Then they will each choose from a list of prompts to inspire them during dedicated brainstorming and writing time.

Exercise Trail Adventure Kit

Pump up your walk around the Beech Bluff by adding these beginner friendly activities to get you moving. Exercise bands and suggested routes are included, but you have the flexibility to take these exercises anywhere.

History Tour Adventure Kit

Learn more about the history of Beech Bluff County Park through a self-guided tour. You will be provided a map with a suggested route, stopping points, and information to share with your group at each stop. Visuals will also be provided to share with the group.

Happy Trails Adventure Kit

Take your group on a nature walk around the Educational Trail! Start at the Park Center and walk along the looped trail, stopping for any or all of the suggested activities. Engage your senses to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the natural world.

Harvest Horizons Adventure Kit

This activity will introduce your students to basic agricultural concepts utilizing an exciting choose-your-own-adventure activity in which the group can decide to be a bee, farmer, or seed.

StoryWalk®

Walk along our Educational Trail (located next to Park Center) and read the current month's StoryWalk®. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. *(This self-led activity is only available 1st - 27th of each month.)*