



Blue Jay Point

Field Trips

Blue Jay's trained education staff provides on-site group programming for public, private and homeschool groups, day care, camp and track out groups, plus scouts and 4-H groups, senior groups and more that is based on NC Department of Public Instruction curriculum. All program content is specific to the Piedmont of North Carolina. Designed with the learning outcomes for your particular group in mind, these programs are free and may be reserved up to one calendar year in advance.

Procedure for Booking

After you have read through our FAQs, you can book a field trip by calling **(919) 870-4330** or emailing **bluejaypoint@wake.gov**. You will need to provide:

- a. Name and organization
 - b. Day and evening phone numbers
 - c. Email address
 - d. Mailing address
 - e. Requested field trip or Lodge dates (Please have a few options available)
 - f. Grade level, how many classes total and size of classes (We can take up to three classes per day)
 - g. Desired Discovery Boxes, equipment, staff-led programs
 - h. Any special needs requests
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Blue Jay Point County Park

3200 Pleasant Union Church Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614 919-870-4330 bluejaypoint@wake.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

How much do field trips cost?

Our group programs and Discovery Boxes are free! For information on Overnight Lodge fees, please visit wake.gov/bjpol.

How far out do you book field trips?

We schedule programs up to a year in advance. Spring is very popular and fills up quickly.

What does a field trip schedule look like?

Group programs are one hour long and typically scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. When students are not in a staff-led program, they can use self-guided Discovery Boxes, eat lunch or play on the playground. (See page 5 for an example schedule.) For Lodge groups, your group programs are scheduled at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

How many classes can we bring?

We can accommodate up to three classes a day. If you have more than three classes, you must schedule a second day. We do not allow split or combined classes.

What is the minimum and maximum number of students for programs?

Our programs are most successful with 10–25 participants.

Can you make accommodations for mobility concerns?

Yes. Some programs contain unpaved hikes, so please let us know as soon as possible if you have any mobility concerns. Our programs can be accommodated to meet your needs.

What should we wear?

Please wear weather-appropriate clothing that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes.

Are your programs rain or shine?

Yes. We have engaging, hands-on activities that can be done indoors based on the weather.

Can we bring chaperones?

Please make plans to have one chaperone (teachers included) per five children (required for Pond Study, Amphibian Antics and Incredible Insects). Chaperones are expected to participate. Insufficient chaperones may require modification of activities.

We have a multi-age group. How should we split them up?

In order to meet the diverse learning styles of children, multi-age groups are divided into the following grade ranges: K-2, 3-5, middle school and up.

Do you have programs for middle school, high school or adults?

Yes! Please contact us to discuss potential, easy modifications that will make the program age-appropriate for your group.

What if we need to cancel?

We have a 30-day cancellation policy. Please note, programs are rain or shine.

Program Name and Description	Appropriate Grade Level
Nature's Puzzle – What lives up in trees? What lives under logs? Use your senses to observe an array of subjects as we learn habitat concepts. We'll help students feel comfortable in an outdoor setting while they learn how all the pieces of nature's puzzle fit together.	K, 1
Incredible Insects – Through a variety of hands-on activities and a garden walk, learn what "makes an insect an insect", how they grow and where we can find them. <i>Note: From mid-May to mid-October, this program includes sweep netting for insects in the grassy meadow.</i>	K, 2
Beaver Fever – Learn about beaver habitat, adaptations and life cycle through lots of visuals and an interactive game.	K, 1, 2
Rip, Roaring Reptiles – Discover the reptiles common to the Piedmont region of North Carolina through an indoor presentation and outdoor exploration.	1
Pond Study – Learn how to identify aquatic animals and how they make their living in a watery world. The focus of the pond study will vary according to each grade level's curricular needs (ex. similarities and differences, habitat, life cycles, adaptations, ecosystems). <i>Participants must be ages 5 and up.</i>	1, 2, 4, 5 <i>Adaptable for grades 6-12</i>
Amphibian Antics – Explore the characteristics of amphibian groups, their adaptations and life cycles as we search our pond for amphibian adults and larvae.	2
Pollination Mayhem – Did you know that one of every three bites of food you take is thanks to a pollinator? Visit our garden to see this important plant and animal interaction. We'll then actively learn through our Pollination Mayhem game.	3
Tree-mendous Trees – Through role-playing, activities and a journey into the woods, discover the inner workings of a tree, tree life cycles and the physical characteristics of common tree species. Learn how animals and humans use different parts of the tree and who here at Blue Jay calls a tree home.	3

Program Name and Description	Appropriate Grade Level
The Rotten Truth – Explore the components of soil from minerals and decaying organic matter to the tiny organisms that make humus happen with a hands-on investigation.	3
Beginner Birdwatching – Everyone can be a birdwatcher! Explore how to identify birds by field markings, using field guides and binoculars.	4 <i>Adaptable for grades 6-12</i>
Remarkable Raptors – Appreciate the unique niche of day and nighttime raptors with this indoor, hands-on and interactive learning lab about birds of prey adaptations and behavior.	4 <i>Adaptable for grades 6-12</i>
Wildlife Detectives – Develop observation skills and recognition of signs indicating animal presence using a combination of indoor hands-on experiences followed by a hike to apply what you've learned.	4
Night Hike Primer – Get your group ready to go on a night hike of your own with this daytime program! Learn about the whole other world that exists after dark, common nocturnal animals, the interactions among these nocturnal critters and how to search for them so you're prepared for nighttime exploration.	4, 5 <i>Adaptable for grades 6-12</i>
Piedmont Ecology Hike – Explore the ecology of the piedmont on this hike-based program. We'll discuss river basins, ecological succession, plant and animal interrelationships and more with various visuals and activities.	4 <i>Adaptable for grades 6-12</i>
It's Neuse to Me! – Learn what a watershed is, about run-off and erosion, why watersheds are important to us and how human interaction affects water quality through point source and non-point source pollution (and prevention).	4, 5 <i>Adaptable for grades 6-12</i>
Habitat Hike – Understand interrelationships between plants and animals as we search for the components of habitat in this hike-based program. Along the way, you will participate in an activity exploring the functions of organisms within their ecosystem.	5

Sample Day Trip Agenda

9:00 – 9:15	Leave school
9:45	Arrive at Blue Jay Point – Check in and get Discovery Boxes
10:00 – 11:00	Group program with Blue Jay Point staff
11:00 – 12:00	Discovery Boxes with classroom teacher
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch at picnic tables and free time on playgrounds or open play field
1:00	Return Discovery Boxes and depart for school

We can accommodate up to three classes a day. If you have more than three classes, you must schedule a second day. We do not allow split or lumped classes.

Blue Jay Point Sample Schedule

Time	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
10:00 – 11:00	Staff-led program <i>(Meet at Blue Jay Center)</i>	Lunch and free time <i>(Picnic area near playground)</i>	Discovery Boxes and bathroom break <i>(Teacher supervision in picnic area)</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Discovery Boxes and bathroom break <i>(Teacher supervision in picnic area)</i>	Staff-led program <i>(Meet at Blue Jay Center)</i>	Lunch and free time <i>(Picnic area near playground)</i>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch and free time <i>(Picnic area near playground)</i>	Discovery Boxes and bathroom break <i>(Teacher supervision in picnic area)</i>	Staff-led program <i>(Meet at Blue Jay Center)</i>