

Nixon County Park Spring Field Trips

Last update 11/15/2022

General Trip Guidelines

- **March-May 2023 registration opens 8:30am on Thursday, December 1st, 2022.**

Please have a representative call on registration day to reserve a date for your group. Staff will contact you back at a later time to confirm details.

- Visits are free to York County schools. Visits are \$2/student for out-of-county schools.
- 15 students minimum within a three grade range is required for naturalist-led programs, unless your group is a special needs group.
- Chaperones and school staff are required for field trips. We suggest at least 1 chaperone or participating school staff per 10 students.
- A typical field trip schedule is 3.5 hours and consists of three programs and a break for lunch. For large groups (multiple classes) an additional 15 minutes is scheduled for unloading and organizing groups.



Program Offerings for Pre-K & Kindergarten at Nixon Park:

- Nature Storytime—45 minutes interactive lesson and story. Teachers encouraged to lead their own walk to the pond, and/or nature center scavenger hunt after story lesson. (PDF available)
- Spring themes (choose one): frogs (about animals waking up from winter and frog life cycles), insects, fawns (about forests and forest animals), or owls (about birds).

Program Offerings for Kindergarten through 12th at Nixon Park:

All programs are 1 hour. Small groups rotate through selected activities.

- **Seasonal Nature Walk**—Discuss animal habitats and seasonal themes (migration, hibernation, nesting, seeds, flowers, animal signs) on a guided walk.
- **Watershed-themed Nature Walk**—Learn

what a watershed is and why we should care. Identify different bodies of water while hiking over a watershed boundary.

- **Geology-themed Nature Walk**—Look back in time and discuss the forces that shape our landforms, rocks, and minerals on this nature walk.
- **Stream Investigation Indoors or Outdoors**—Learn about insect life cycles and search for insect larva underwater while determining the health of the stream.
- **Edible Landscape Walk**—Would you survive outdoors? Be quizzed on what's edible, medicinal, and toxic as we wander the nature trails.
- **Reptiles & Amphibians Indoor Lesson**—Compare the differences and similarities between the reptile and amphibian classes of animals, then review the species found locally and how to find them.



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Kindergarten through 12th continued:

- **Backyard Birds Indoor & Outdoor Lesson**—Learn methods to becoming a bird-watcher and nature observer! Practice using binoculars, play a bird game, and then look for real birds!
- **Insects & Their Relatives Indoor & Outdoor Lesson**—Review the differences between insects and their relatives, learn their importance, and go look for some.
- **Pennsylvania Animals Indoor Lesson**—Compares and contrasts the five vertebrate classes (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish).
- **Introduction to Watersheds Indoor Lesson**—Review watershed definitions and think through solutions for protecting ours with two interactive activities.



Virtual Wildlife Lessons:

Virtual Lessons take approximately 1 hour and are available on Mondays.

- Animals in Spring
- Schoolyard Wildlife
- Reptiles
- Insects
- Mammals & Adaptations
- Predators Versus Prey
- Birds of Prey

Teacher-led Lessons at Nixon Park:

The following lessons have thorough and detailed lesson plans with a tub of materials ready-to-go. When Nixon Park doesn't have enough staff to facilitate your group, consider facilitating one of these activities during your field trip.

- **Nature Center Scavenger Hunt**
- **Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt**
- **Backyard Birds Lesson**
- **Stream Investigation**
- **Wetland Nature Walk**
- **Nature Journalling**
- **Nature Play**

How To Register:

March-May 2023 registration opens 8:30am on Thursday, December 1st, 2022. Please have a representative call on registration day to reserve a date for your group. Staff will contact you back at a later time to confirm details. Call Nixon Park at (717) 428-1961.

Any representative can schedule a trip for your group with the following information:

- Several dates you are available for your trip
- School Name and location
- Student grade(s)
- Number of students and classes
- Teacher name(s), contact phone(s), & email(s)
- Time of arrival at Nixon Park & time of departure from Nixon Park
- Programs you would like to schedule
- information regarding students with special needs/accommodations.

To reach education staff with questions about a field trip, please email NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov.