

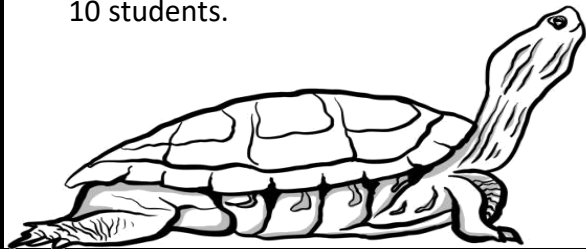


Nixon County Park School Field Trips 23-24

Last update 7/26/2023

General Trip Guidelines

- **Registration dates for York County Schools:** Begins August 1st for Sept—Feb visits and December 1st for March—May visits.
- **Registration dates for Out-of-County Schools:** Begins August 9th for Sept—Feb visits and December 5th for March—May visits.
- Visits are free to York County schools. Visits are \$2/student for naturalist-led programs 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.



- Lunch is picnic style indoors or outdoors depending on weather. Please bring lunches organized by group or in students backpacks, and tarps, blankets, or beach towels. Nixon Park does not provide any food or drinks. Trash must be taken back to school. Please bring trash bags with you.

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

Preschool and Kindergarten naturalist facilitated visits are limited to the fall and winter (September—February), Tuesdays through Thursdays.

- **Nature Storytime** is a 45 minute interactive lesson and story. Teachers are encouraged to lead their own walk to the pond & nature play area, and/or nature center scavenger hunt after story lesson. (PDF available) Themes: Insects, Turtles, or Owls.
- **Nature Walk** is a 45 minute walk on the trail to explore seasonal changes using four of our five senses.

Program Offerings for 1st through 12th at Nixon Park:

Fridays in fall and winter, and Tuesday through Friday spring field trips (March-May) are reserved for 1st grade and up field trips.

A typical field trip schedule is 3.5 hours and consists of three 1-hour long programs and a break for lunch. Groups split into three smaller groups to rotate through their activities. For large groups (multiple classes) an additional 15 minutes is scheduled for unloading and organizing groups.

All large groups (multiple classes) must schedule a nature center scavenger hunt as one of their rotations. This is a time for your students to see the nature center exhibits. In addition to the scavenger hunt, please pick two lessons from the list below. We strongly encourage you to pick at least one outdoor lesson.

- **Seasonal Nature Walk**—Discuss animal habitats and seasonal themes (migration,



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- 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.
- **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.
- **Nature Center Scavenger Hunt**—Park staff will email you copies of several scavenger hunts to choose from. Bring your own copies to use during your trip. (1st-3rd grade, 4th grade and up, Biodiversity, & Summer Fun)

How To Register:

All scheduling of field trip dates is done by phone only at (717) 428-1961 between 8:30am -4:30pm.

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 or call (717) 428-1961 x3. Staff can answer questions about field trips before scheduling opens. Dates cannot be reserved until scheduling has opened (dates on page 1).

