

About the Refuge

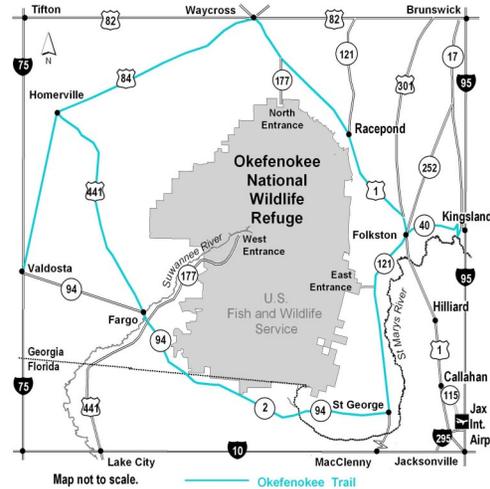
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) conserves the unique qualities of the Okefenokee Swamp for future generations to enjoy. The swamp is considered the headwaters of the Suwannee and St Marys Rivers. Refuge habitats provide for threatened and endangered species, such as red-cockaded woodpecker, wood storks, indigo snakes, and a wide variety of other wildlife species. The refuge is world renowned for its amphibian populations that are bio-indicators of global health. More than 600 plant species have been identified on refuge lands. The Okefenokee NWR has 353,981 acres of National Wilderness Area within the refuge boundaries.

When is the best time to visit the refuge? Each season of the Okefenokee is quite different. From the wildlife you may see, to the flowers blooming in the prairies and the upland forests, it is great to visit any time of year!



Getting There

The Main Entrance of Okefenokee NWR is located 11 miles Southwest of Folkston, Georgia. From Folkston, turn onto Main Street heading west. Go



through two stoplights and across the railroad tracks. Take a left at the 3rd light onto Okefenokee Parkway, also called GA 121/23 South. Drive for

approximately 7 miles, then turn right at the large “Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge” sign. Follow the road about 4 miles to the end to reach the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center on your left and Okefenokee Adventures next to the boat basin.

For Reservations or Questions

Contact Sarah Wyatt at:

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

2700 Suwannee Canal Road

Folkston, GA 31537

Office (912) 496-7836

Fax (912) 496-7991

sarah_wyatt@fws.gov

www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee

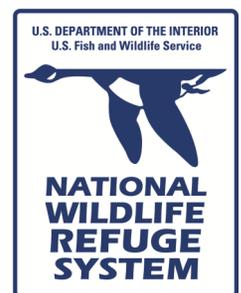
www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Environmental Education Programs



“The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands.” - Aldo Leopold



About Our Programs

Refuge programs are designed to educate and enhance the visitors experience at Okefenokee NWR. Refuge programming is FREE, offered year-round, and based on staff availability. Depending on group size, students may be divided into smaller groups so that they can get the most from their experiences. Field trips will be scheduled to maximize educational opportunities, however time constraints may alter the availability of requested programs.

Programs include lessons involving educational curriculum that can be conducted in outdoor and indoor classrooms, and may include hands-on-activities or games. Staff are also available for off-site visits and can bring a great experience to the classroom!

Unless otherwise noted, schools are expected to provide at least one adult chaperone for every 15 students attending. Teachers and chaperones are encouraged to actively participate in the presentation of programs to further the students learning experiences.

To Book a Reservation

To submit a request for a program and obtain a fee waiver (provided to educational groups) each group must fill out a **Reservation Request Form**. Contact the Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to obtain the form or visit our website to find it online: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Okefenokee/visit/for_educators.html

What to Bring on a Field Trip

Programs maximize outdoor activities so students should dress appropriately for all weather conditions. Programs will continue rain or shine. The following items are recommended:

Closed-toe shoes
Rain jacket
Water bottle
Insect repellent
Sunscreen
Camera
Great attitude!



Refuge Programs

Pond Study

Grades 2-6, Spring & Fall, Outdoors, 1 hour
Explore freshwater ecosystems on the refuge while using nets, ID guides, and microscopes.

Migration Madness

Grades 2-6, Spring & Fall, Outdoors, 30 min.
Students will role-play different bird species and discover the challenges faced during migration.

Georgia Native Wildlife*

All ages, All year, Indoors or Outdoors, 30 min.
This program highlights native wildlife (skins, skulls, furs) to learn their special adaptations.

Owls of the Okefenokee*

All ages, All year, Indoors or Outdoors, 30 min.
Learn the 3 owls of Okefenokee not only by sight, but by sound. Can be combined with owl pellet dissection.

Owl Pellet Dissection*

Grades 2-12, Spring & Fall, Indoors, 45 min.
A hands-on activity to learn the owl food chain.
*Cost may occur for the purchase of pellets.

Alligator Adaptations*

All ages, All year, Indoors or Outdoors, 30 min.
Learn the history of the American alligator as well as the adaptations of Georgia's largest reptile.

Enviroscape*

Grades 3-12, Spring & Fall, Indoors, 45 min.
An overview of the basic functions of wetlands using an interactive wetland table.

Archery

Ages 5 & up, Spring & Fall, Outdoors, 1 hour
Learn archery basics like the parts of the bow and arrow, safety, and shooting technique.

Refuge Programs

Beginner Birding

All ages, Spring & Fall, Outdoors, 1 hour
Use guides to identify common birds, learn to use binoculars, and test skills on a short hike.

Endangered Species Suitcase*

All ages, Spring & Fall, Indoors, 45 min.
Learn the history of the Endangered Species Act and actively view confiscated wildlife items from illegal wildlife trades.

Puppet Shows*

K-3, Spring & Fall, Indoors, 1 hour
A short puppet show followed by an educational program. Stories vary.

*Programs denoted with a * can be taken off site, however field components may not apply.*

More programs are being developed. If a teacher needs a program not listed, staff can work to provide something to meet their needs.

Other Activities

Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center

Stop in to enjoy educational exhibits and view an award-winning film. Hours vary seasonally.

Okefenokee Adventures - Boat Tours

Contact (912) 496-7156 to book a tour or rent canoes/kayaks from the refuge concession.

Swamp Island Drive

This 7.5 mile drive offers opportunities for wildlife observation and access to hiking trails.

Chesser Island Homestead/Boardwalk

Visit the Chesser Island Homestead to see how the early settlers lived. Take a walk on the Boardwalk to get a great view of the Okefenokee Swamp.