



REFUGE VISITOR CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

About Our Programs and Resources

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge provides environmental education programs *FREE* for all groups. Programs are designed to accommodate **up to 75 students or 3 classes but we prefer smaller groups**. Programs must be scheduled at least 2 weeks prior to your visit.

To obtain a list of the Tennessee State Science, English Reading Language Common Core Standard correlations, post-visit activities, and "What to Wear" activity sheet, please contact Joan Howe.

All field trips to the refuge include hands on learning activities and an outdoor experience.

For more information:

contact Joan_Howe@fws.gov or
731-642-2091 x303

Critter Crates

These twelve interactive trunks are fully correlated to standards and contain hands on activities, books, poster, videos, and more that cover multiple habitat and wildlife topics. They can be stand alone or used for pre or post visit studies. Trunks are checked out for free for a 2-6 week period. They are available first come first serve. It is the teacher's responsibility to pick up and drop off trunks at the refuge office. For a full list of items in trunk, see: www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee/critter_crates.

Critter Crates Available:

Mammal Hides

Mammal Skulls

Herptiles (Amphibian/Reptiles)

Songbird Blues (migratory songbirds)

Birds & Waterfowl

Raptors (Hawks, Owls, & Eagles)

Insects and Spiders

Animal Sign (tracks and scat)

Endangered/Threatened Species

Rivers Ecosystem

Wet 'N Wild (Wetland Ecosystem)

Tree Trunk (Forest Ecosystem)

Jr. Duck Stamp Program

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program is a dynamic art- and science-based curriculum that teaches wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program encourages students to explore their natural world, invites them to investigate biology and wildlife management principles, and challenges them to express and share what they have learned with others.

After studying waterfowl anatomy and habitat, students express their newfound knowledge by drawing or painting a picture of an eligible North American Waterfowl. All artwork is submitted to the refuge for judging by March 15th. An awards ceremony is conducted in Brentwood for state winners in early May.

Teachers wishing to participate in this program can come for special Jr. Duck Stamp field trips to get a great start in the program. The artwork will be done back in classroom. These field trips are best done in December or January.

Field Trip General Information:

Field trips can be as long as requested, however a typical day will begin at 8:30 or 9:00 and run until 1:00 or 1:30 depending on travel distance and school dynamics.

Lunches are brought with you and are typically eaten on the back patio of the refuge visitor center. For bad weather or extreme temperatures, the classroom is an alternate indoor option.

Typically the entire day will be built on one program theme. Other custom themes or combining multiple visits in one year can be discussed. Standards for each theme can be sent to you on request.

Field Trip Themes:

Predator/Prey Relationships

Students will gain an understanding of predator/prey relationships through games, interactive lessons and activities such as CSI (Critter Scene Investigators).

Adaptations

Students will identify physical and behavioral adaptations that enhance the chances of survival through activities and lessons using local wildlife and plant examples.

Migratory Birds or Birds & Bird Watching

Students discover the many challenges faced by migrating birds. They will learn the importance of habitat, adaptation and limiting factors for birds to survive during migration. Students will learn to identify birds by sight, sound or silhouette through lessons and observation in the wild. Binoculars may be used to identify birds in the field.

Monarchs, Bees & Pollinators

Students will learn about life cycles, adaptations like mimicry, what is pollination and the importance of our pollinators for our survival. Bees and Monarchs are typically used as specific examples. A local Beekeeper's Association typically brings an enclosed hive of bees. Seasonal Monarch tagging or using nets to catch and identify butterflies is possible in early Fall.

Threatened & Endangered Species

Students will learn about the spirit of the Endangered/Threatened Species Act and the definition of the terms endangered, threatened, extinct, and extirpated through an activity to create a new species. They will also learn local Endanger or Threatened species.

Archery

Students will learn the basics of archery and range safety before practicing shooting at an outdoor range. We use the Archery in the Schools Program, our certification is through USA Archery. This activity is only for 3rd grade and up.

Habitats

Students will identify components, environmental conditions, and interdependence among organisms found in different habitats by participating in physical activities and lessons. Students will also contrast and compare wildlife that exists in different habitat types.

Forest Ecology

Students will look at forest dynamics and tree life cycle while taking a nature walk and engage in various activities and teaching games. Students will also practice tree identification using a simple dichotomous key.

Aquatic Ecology

Students learn about water quality monitoring and bio-indicators of healthy aquatic systems using Kentucky Lake shoreline as a place of exploration.

