

MISSION STATEMENT

Raccoon Creek State Park's "PATHWAYS" Programs were created:

- Ø Connecting students to the natural environment by becoming a more comfortable part of it.
- Ø Teaching early pioneer and Native American primitive skills.
- Ø Increasing students' consciousness of ecological concerns, and the importance of developing an environmental ethic.
- Ø Accurately portraying the early pioneer and Native American history of Western Pennsylvania.

These interactive, multi-curricular programs serve to connect students to the natural world and instill an attitude of stewardship and environmental protection. The main goal and motivation for this project is to draw students closer to the natural world, thus making them more aware of their impact on it. The preservation and teaching of primitive skills and historical living are a means to that end. Through direct experience, touch, sight, smell, taste and hearing the students are transported back in time to feel what life was like in cultures that once lived off the land.



Park Programs

We can accommodate a wide variety of topics in the environmental science, natural resource, local history, and recreational fields for schools and other organized groups, such as scouts. Program lengths can vary; we will tailor the program's length to fit your needs. Many of the programs offered have been developed, so they align with topics that students in various grade levels are studying in the classroom. Effort has also been made to have various programs cover several of the standards and anchors for Environment and Ecology from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Reservations are required for all organized group programs, both in the park and off-site. To schedule, please call the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center of Raccoon Creek State Park at (724) 899-3611.



For more information

Raccoon Creek State Park
3000 State Route 18
Hookstown, PA 15050

Interpretive Center (724) 899-3611

RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK

Living History & Primitive Skills School Programs



"PATHWAYS"

Primitive skills, Awareness of nature,
Teaching of History—
Wisdom & Action Yielding
Stewardship

PATHWAYS PROGRAM SERIES

LIVING HISTORY -

The living history program is a unique and innovative approach to connect students to the past through hands on projects and direct experience of life as it was two hundred and fifty years ago. It is ideally designed to compliment the classroom study of early Pennsylvania history. References are made to William Penn, the Walking Purchase, the French and Indian war, Pontiac's rebellion, the Proclamation of 1763, events leading up to the Revolutionary War and how these events impacted the western Pennsylvania frontier. The cultural conflicts between Native Americans and European settlers will also be discussed. Students will experience Native American and frontier lifestyles, children's games and dress, use of plants, processing corn and grain, stone cooking and coal burning.



“HATCHET”-

This program is designed to compliment Gary Paulsen's novel. The hands on program is designed with a variety of activities, projects and discussions that are directed toward survival skills, history, environmental education and the awareness of our connection and dependence upon the natural world. There will be a brief discussion of Brian Robeson's adventure in the Canadian wilderness. This program may be adjusted to compliment other novels such as *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George



SURVIVAL SKILLS PROGRAM

The survival program focuses on the four basic skills needed in a survival situation. Skills necessary in obtaining shelter, fire, water and food will be covered. These skills will build student confidence if ever faced with a survival situation. Lost person behavior, the importance of a positive attitude and search and rescue case files of lost people will also be discussed

SEEING MORE IN NATURE-

Knowledge begins with awareness. This program introduces students to skills that will help them be more observant and aware of their surroundings. Through tracking, utilization of all the senses, nature observation skills and awareness games, students will learn to “See More in Nature”.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The “PATHWAYS” programming series incorporate many of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's academic standards for History, Environment and Ecology, and Arts and Humanities.

SCHEDULING A PROGRAM

Programs are offered in May, June, September and October. Curriculum is appropriate for grades 4th – 12th and classes typically run 4 hours in length. Adjustments can be made to accommodate school schedules and distances traveled. Programs can be scheduled by calling the Environmental Education Department at 724 899-3611. Programs cost \$5.00 per student and require a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 40 students. Upon scheduling a date, a confirmation packet with directions and preparation tips will be sent out.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site of the living history program is located within Raccoon Creek State Park at the Doak Pioneer Homestead. The one hundred-acre field and adjoining woodland was settled by Robert Doak in 1772. His direct descendants lived and farmed on this site until the 1960's.

