

Other Programs:

Discovery Hike – During this guided hike advantage will be taken of the “teachable moment”. Topics will vary depending on the season, but usually include animal habitat and behaviors, wildflowers, trees, and hands-on-activities. (Grades 4-8)

Signs of Fall – This guided hike will discuss seasonal change and why leaves change color as well as the importance of falling leaves to forest and aquatic communities. Fall only. (Grades 4-8)



Teacher Services:

The Park offers annual Teacher In-Service Workshops on a variety of topics and curriculums. Workshops include Activities for Environmental Learning (AEL), Leopold Education Project (LEP), Primitive Skills Workshop, Edible Wild Plant, Project Wild, Watershed Education, Ecology, and various natural history topics. Curriculum support, guidance, resources, and reference support are available.

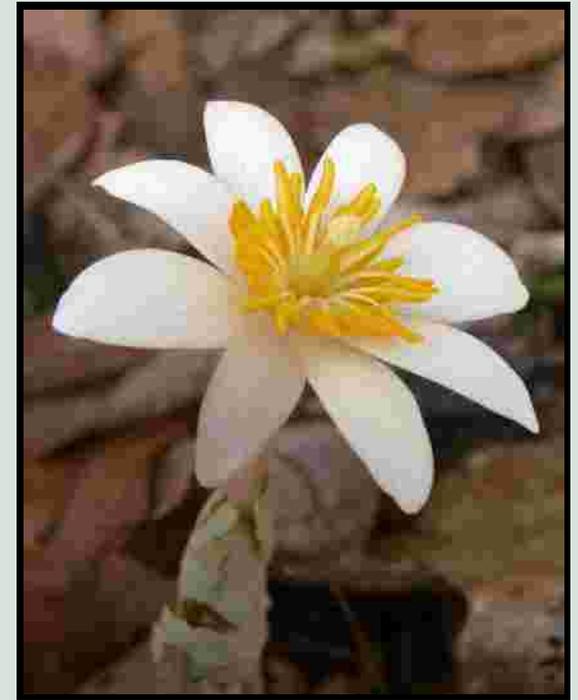
Helpful Hints:

- ü Respect for plant life, animal life, and natural features of the park should be reinforced prior to the program. Nothing may be picked, collected, or removed from the park.
- ü Students should be properly dressed for the weather and name tags should be worn to the program.
- ü While at the park, students remain your responsibility. Make your students' visit a safe and educational experience by remaining with your students throughout the visit. Stress proper group behavior during the program.
- ü Inform the facilitator about special medical conditions of students that may be affected by an outdoor field trip.
- ü Reduce the amount of lunchtime trash by using recyclables and re-useables.

For more information

**Raccoon Creek State Park
Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center
3000 State Route 18
Hookstown, PA 15050
Interpretive Center (724) 899-3611
Main Office (724) 899-2200**

Raccoon Creek State Park School Programs



**Raccoon Creek State Park
offers a variety of environmental
education programs for pre-school
through grade 12.**

Most programs follow the sequence and continuum outlined in the “Activities for Environmental Learning”, a supplemental curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks. Programs develop environmental awareness, environmental valuing, and problem-solving skills at the appropriate grade level. Programs generally range in length from one to one and a half hours. All programs are **free** and available year-round, and many incorporate academic standards.



Environmental Education Programs Grades K-12:

Using the Senses- Students use the five senses to discover the environment around them. Tasks include: identifying colors, shapes, textures, smells, and sounds. (Grades K-2)

Investigating Shapes and Patterns- Students discover basic concepts concerning numbers, shapes, patterns, and textures through first-hand discovery of the natural environment. (Grades K-3)

Seasonal Changes- Students examine the environment for signs that show how changing seasons affect plants and animals and how they prepare for the different seasons. (Grades 1-3)

The Closer You Look- Students increase their awareness of trees by observing and learning different common trees. (Grades 1-3)

Animals Traces- Students discover animal tracks, foods, homes, and scats. Discussion centers on why animals choose specific areas for their homes. (Grades 1-3)

Wild about Wildflowers- Students use their senses to discover, identify, and draw wildflowers and their parts. (Grades 3-6)

Birds and Their Adaptations- Students examine birds and bird mounts for adaptation and discuss adaptations and habitats of birds observed during field observation. (Grade 4-6)

Exploring Plant Communities- Students examine flowering and non-flowering plants to determine the role plants play in the environment. (Grades 4-6)

Natural Community Profile- Students determine the plant and animal members of a forest community, discuss the roles in a forest community, and compare and contrast the forest community to a human community. (Grades 4-6)

Exploring Freshwater Communities- Students discover the inhabitants of a stream, aquatic animals adaptations, construct food chains and food webs, and determine the quality of the water. (Grades 4-6)

Exploring the Soil- Students in small groups determine soil color, permeability, temperature, pH, and the slope of topography. Data collected is discussed in regard to soil fertility, plants and animals present, erosion potential, and use by humans. (Grades 5-8)



Field Study Programs (3-4 Hours):

Watershed Education Field Investigations- Students investigate physical, chemical, and biological parameters of a stream and relate the data collected to the watershed. These investigations serve as an introduction to the PA Bureau of State Park’s Watershed Education Program. (Grades 6-12)

Forest Ecology-Field study covering the concepts of succession, forest structure, food chains transition areas, soil horizons, and more. Students develop skills in collecting, recording, and interpreting data about the forest. (Grades 7-12)

Wetland Study- Guided walk and field study covering the identification of wetland plants and animals. Students will discuss the importance of wetlands for animal habitat and pollution control. (Grade 7-12)