Warner Park
Nature Center

Educator Guide

2015-2016 programs for schools
and educational groups

Step One: Choose Your Program

Grades K - 8

Nature Center field trips are designed to provide students with meaningful, enjoyable outdoor experiences which enhance their study of science in the classroom and appreciation of nature. The field trip curriculum was developed in alignment with Tennessee Department of Education Curriculum Standards. Special requests will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible.

Sense of Wonder (Preschool)

Preschoolers will explore the pond, organic garden and museum using the five senses. ***45 minutes***

Signs of the Seasons (Grades K-1)

During this guided exploration of the Nature Center museum, garden, pond, and trails, students will identify and describe the characteristics of the four seasons, and look at how each season affects plants, animals, and people. ***1 hour***

Living Things in Nature (Grades 1-2)

Students will observe differences between living and non-living things while exploring the forest, field, pond, stream, and garden. Characteristics of plants and animals, life cycles, and basic needs of organisms will be discussed. ***1.5 hours***

Investigating Insects (Grades 2-3)

Students will review the common characteristics of insects, identify interesting local insect species, and examine how the life cycles of these creatures are linked with the local environment. ***1.5 hours***

Bird Banding Research (Grades K-8)

Students will visit the Warner Park Nature Center Banding Station to learn classification techniques based on characteristics of birds and compare basic features of birds that help them survive in different habitats. Students will also observe the research team capture and tag birds. This program is offered on pre-determined dates in spring and fall. ***1 hour***

Stream Study (Grades 1-8)

Under the supervision of teachers, parents, and naturalists, students will collect, identify, and examine aquatic macro-invertebrates to determine relative water quality of the Little Harpeth River. Students will also observe and discuss adaptations of these animals that allow them to survive in the river. ***1.5 hours***

Suitable Surroundings (Grades 3-8)

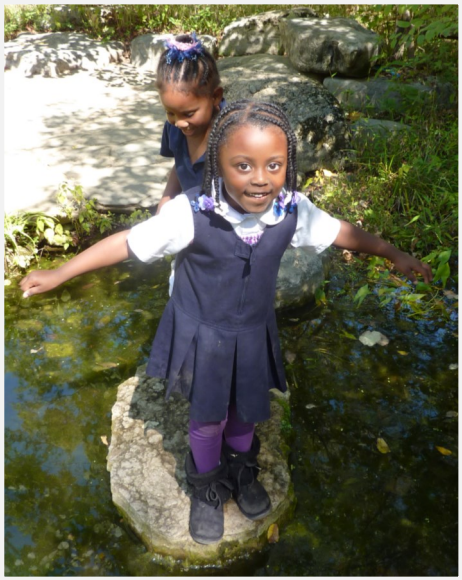
Students will analyze physical and behavioral adaptations that enable organisms to survive in distinct habitats in the Park - forest, field, stream, and pond. They will also identify basic ecological concepts in these habitats such as competition, energy transfer, and life cycles. ***1.5 hours***

The Green Machines—PLANTS! (Grades 3-8)

While exploring forest, field, and aquatic habitats, students will investigate distinct stages in plant structure and life cycles, review plant reproductive strategies, examine pollination and pollinators, and discuss the process of photosynthesis. ***1.5 hours***

What in the World is an Ecosystem? (Grades 5-8)

This inquiry-based ecosystem study allows students to work in teams gathering field data about the living and non-living components of three different ecosystems; then teams compare, contrast, and report their findings. ***2 hours***



Choose Your Program continued...

Labs for High School

Lab field trips are offered by the Nature Center to meet the needs of students enrolled in biology, ecology, and environmental science. These programs incorporate key curriculum requirements with outdoor study and investigation during a 1-3 hour lab. Instructors may choose from the list of currently available courses or call the Nature Center to discuss an alternative program.

- Bird Banding Research
- Lichens as Air Quality Indicators
- Watershed Mapping
- Macroinvertebrate Stream Survey
- Ecosystem Comparison Study
- Geology and Soils of Warner Parks
- Natural Resource Management
- Invasive Exotic Plant Removal

The Vaughn's Gap Field Station is also available to instructors interested in teaching field courses on their own or in combination with a naturalist-led lab. Call Warner Park Headquarters at 615-370-8051 for more information.

Teacher Workshops

Nature Center staff are certified to lead educator workshops that directly correlate with state science standards. These workshops are designed for all learners, encouraging outdoor exploration, nature study, and reflection. Call the Nature Center at 615-352-6299 to schedule a teacher workshop!

- Project WET
- Project WILD
- Project WILD Aquatic
- Project Flying WILD
- Project Growing Up WILD-pre-K
- Project Archaeology
- Project Learning Tree
- Geology of Middle Tennessee
- Exploring your Outdoor Classroom
- Birds of Middle Tennessee

Step Two: Call the Nature Center

Reservations for Nature Center field trips are easy to make by calling **615-352-6299**. Field trips are free of charge. Reservations are accepted in **January for the spring** and in **August for the fall**. Winter and summer field trips are offered on a limited basis; call for availability. Educators may schedule one field trip per season (one in spring and one in fall) for their classes.

To maintain the quality of our programs, the naturalist to student ratio is kept at 1 to 15 and only four groups may visit the grounds at one time. Our maximum group size per time slot is 60. Larger groups must be divided among time slots. Programs are offered rain or shine.

Home School Groups interested in educational programs are welcome to schedule one field trip per season. Groups must have a minimum of 10 students spanning a two grade range (i.e.,10 children from 3rd and 4th grades) with a maximum of 60 students. One adult chaperone must accompany every 10 students. Additional chaperones and siblings may not accompany students during the program. For more information about these programs, call 615-352-6299.

Information to have ready when you call:

- Contact name, two phone numbers, & email
- Organization name & address
- Number of students and grade
- Date and time, & alternate dates and times
- Program Name
- Information about students with special needs

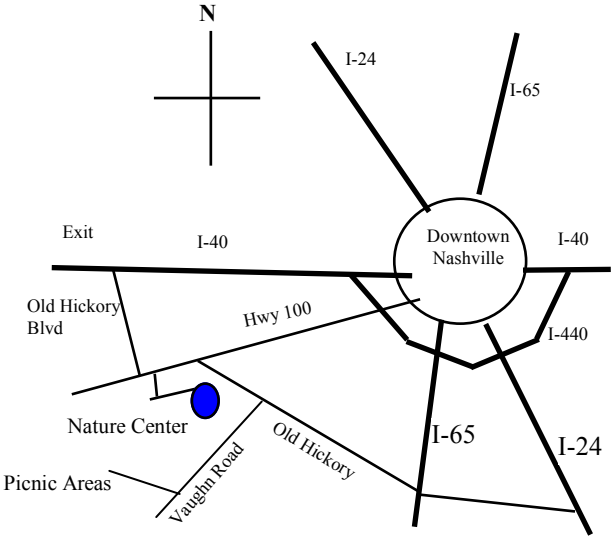
Call 615-352-6299 to schedule a field trip

Step Three: Enjoy Your Visit!

Important field trip reminders

- Call early to schedule your trip
- Dress for the weather: programs are offered rain or shine
- Divide your group in advance: assign one adult per 15 students maximum group size is 60
- Arrive on time; call if you are running late
- Call 615-862-8408 between 8 a.m.-noon to reserve a picnic site as picnicking is not permitted at the Nature Center

Getting to Warner Park Nature Center



From Nashville, take Interstate 40 west to exit 199 (Old Hickory Blvd.). Turn left and follow Old Hickory Blvd. for 4 miles to Hwy. 100. Turn left and go 0.2 miles to the Edwin Warner Park entrance and turn right into the Park. Follow the Park drive to the left for 0.3 miles to the Nature Center.

Coming from the south or southeast, follow Old Hickory Blvd. north to Hwy. 100. Turn left and go 0.3 miles to the Edwin Warner Park entrance and turn left into the Park. Follow the Park drive to the left for 0.3 miles to the Nature Center.

The Nature Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Percy and Edwin Warner Parks are open seven days a week from sunrise to 11 p.m.

Warner Park
Nature Center

7311 Highway 100
Nashville, TN 37221
Phone: 615-352-6299~Fax: 615-880-2282
wpnc@nashville.gov
http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Nature-Centers-and-Natural-Areas/Warner-Park-Nature-Center.aspx

Metro Parks' Nature Centers Mission

- To provide quality environmental education and responsible recreation
- To help protect, preserve, restore and manage the Park ecosystem and all natural resources
- To raise awareness, foster respect and share enthusiasm for the natural environment

About the Nature Center

Warner Park Nature Center is a place where people and nature come together. Serving as the gateway for Nashville's Percy and Edwin Warner Parks, the Nature Center offers a wide range of free programs, activities, and services to Park visitors. Since its creation in 1973, the Nature Center has become the area's foremost provider of environmental education and outdoor recreation programs.

As a facility of the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Parks and Recreation, the Nature Center receives most of its funding from the City. However, without the help of the non-profit support group FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS the Nature Center would not be able to offer such a wide variety of programs and services.

For TTY (relay service), please call 1-800-849-0299.
For questions, concerns or requests regarding the American Disabilities Act call 615-862-8400.

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