



Educational Programs for Groups

An addendum to the Educator Guide

The Warner Park Nature Center campus is comprised of a large natural history museum and classroom space, a teaching pond and wetland, an organic garden and greenhouse, a natural play area (“Nature Play”), and a web of trails weaving through Edwin Warner Park. The Nature Center and Warner Parks are funded by Metropolitan Government of Nashville Parks and Recreation Department, and supplemental funding is provided by Friends of Warner Park. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and is free to the public. All outside facilities in Warner Parks are open from dawn until 11 p.m. every day.

Public programs

The Nature Center offers a variety of on-your-own and naturalist-led activities to organized groups as well as individual families. Most programs publicized in the seasonal schedule are not available to entire groups, although parents may register children individually. Those programs that welcome groups are:

- Winter, Spring and Fall Bird Banding Demonstrations
- Star Party (seasonal)
- Insects of the Night (summer)

These programs are designed to engage people of ALL AGES.

The Nature Center also offers programs specifically designed for 3-5 year olds, 6-12 year olds, adults (>13), and families. Registration is required for all public programs. The seasonal program schedule can be found at

http://nashville.gov/parks/nature/wpnc/program_schedule.asp.

Naturalist-led field trips

Organized groups may schedule one naturalist-led field trip in the spring and one naturalist-led field trip in the fall.

All field trips are about an hour and a half long and include a guided visit to the pond, museum, and garden, and a hike on a trail around the Nature Center. Field trip topics and the Tennessee Science Curriculum Standards addressed are listed in Warner Park Nature Center’s Educator Guide,

http://nashville.gov/parks/docs/nature/warner/educators_guide.pdf.

Scheduling a field trip

One representative from the group should coordinate the field trip with Nature Center staff.

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. At least one and not more than two adult chaperone(s) must accompany every 10 students. The naturalist to student ratio is kept at 1 to 15; therefore, large groups will be divided to maintain a personalized experience. Students should be divided into groups and ready for the program at the designated field trip time. If the group is not ready, the field trip will still end at the arranged time, resulting in a shorter program or cancellation.

Siblings may not accompany students during the program. These guidelines are in place to ensure a high-quality, hands-on experience with trained naturalist staff and volunteers.

Field trips are offered Wednesdays and Thursdays in spring and fall. Programs may be scheduled to begin no later than 1:30 p.m. by calling 615-352-6299.

Field trip date, time, topic, ages, and numbers will be confirmed the week before by phone with the designated representative of the group. In the event that the field trip is cancelled, every effort will be made to re-schedule.

What to wear

All field trips offered at the Nature Center/by Nature Center staff are presented rain or shine. All participants (students and adult chaperones) should dress in sturdy shoes and outdoor clothes.

Before & after your field trip

Frequently field trips are scheduled back-to-back. Large groups such as home school groups are asked to consider this when planning field trips, as other schools or groups may be conducting their field trip at the pond, garden, or in the museum.

Picnicking is permitted in the Edwin Warner Park Picnic Areas located off Vaughn Road on the Little Harpeth River on a first-come first-served basis November – March. April – October, the picnic shelters may be reserved by calling Metro Parks at 862-8408 (8 a.m.-noon). Picnicking is not allowed on the Nature Center grounds.

For more information about educational programs for groups at Warner Parks, please contact

Warner Park Nature Center

wpnc@nashville.gov

615-352-6299

