

# Nixon County Park Fall & Winter Field Trips

Last update 7/27/2022

## General Trip Guidelines

- Visits are free to York County schools. Visits are \$2/student for out-of-county schools.
- 15 students minimum within a three grade range is required for naturalist-led programs, unless your group is a special needs group.
- Chaperones and school staff are required for most field trips. We suggest at least 1 chaperone or participating school staff per 10 students.
- A typical field trip schedule is 3.5 hours and consists of three programs and a break for lunch. For large groups (multiple classes) an additional 15 minutes is scheduled for unloading and organizing groups.
- Park staff is very limited in the fall. Please consider reviewing how school staff can help lead your field trip on the next page as needed.



## Program Offerings for Pre-K & Kindergarten at Nixon Park:

- Nature Storytime—45 minutes interactive lesson and story. Teachers encouraged to lead their own walk to the pond, and/or nature center scavenger hunt after story lesson. (PDF available)
- Fall themes (choose one): insects, turtles, fawns, owls.
- Winter & Spring themes (choose one): insects, owls, frogs.

## Program Offerings for Kindergarten through 12th at Nixon Park:

All programs are 1 hour. Small groups rotate through selected activities.

- **Seasonal Nature Walk**—Discuss animal habitats and seasonal themes (migration, hibernation, nesting, seeds, flowers, animal signs) on a guided walk.
- **Watershed-themed Nature Walk**—Learn

what a watershed is and why we should care. Identify different bodies of water while hiking over a watershed boundary.

- **Geology-themed Nature Walk**—Look back in time and discuss the forces that shape our landforms, rocks, and minerals on this nature walk.
- **Stream Investigation Indoors or Outdoors**—Learn about insect life cycles and search for insect larva underwater while determining the health of the stream.
- **Edible Landscape Walk**—Would you survive outdoors? Be quizzed on what's edible, medicinal, and toxic as we wander the nature trails.
- **Reptiles & Amphibians Indoor Lesson**—Compare the differences and similarities between the reptile and amphibian classes of animals, then review the species found locally and how to find them.



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## Kindergarten through 12th continued:

- **Backyard Birds Indoor & Outdoor Lesson**—Learn methods to becoming a bird-watcher and nature observer! Practice using binoculars, play a bird game, and then look for real birds!
- **Insects & Their Relatives Indoor & Outdoor Lesson**—Review the differences between insects and their relatives, learn their importance, and go look for some.
- **Pennsylvania Animals Indoor Lesson**—Compares and contrasts the five vertebrate classes (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish).
- **Introduction to Watersheds Indoor Lesson**—Review watershed definitions and think through solutions for protecting ours with two interactive activities.



## Virtual Wildlife Lessons:

Virtual Lessons take approximately 1 hour and are available primarily on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

- Animals in Winter
- Schoolyard Wildlife
- Reptiles
- Insects
- Mammals & Adaptations
- Predators Versus Prey
- Birds of Prey

## Teacher-led Lessons at Nixon Park:

The following lessons have thorough and detailed lesson plans with a tub of materials ready-to-go. When Nixon Park doesn't have enough staff to facilitate your group, consider facilitating one of these activities during your field trip.

- **Nature Center Scavenger Hunt**
- **Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt**
- **Backyard Birds Lesson**
- **Stream Investigation**
- **Wetland Nature Walk**

## How To Register:

To schedule fall and winter trips (Sept-Feb) scheduling begins the first week of August by calling Nixon Park at (717) 428-1961 between 8:30am-4:30pm.

To schedule spring field trips (March-May) scheduling begins the first week of December.

Any representative can schedule a trip for your group with the following information:

- Several dates you are available for your trip
- School Name and location
- Student grade(s)
- Number of students and classes
- Teacher name(s), contact phone(s), & email(s)
- Time of arrival at Nixon Park & time of departure from Nixon Park
- Programs you would like to schedule
- information regarding students with special needs/accommodations.

To reach education staff with questions about a field trip, please email [NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov](mailto:NixonCountyPark@YorkCountyPA.gov).