

# SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAMS

## Tallulah Gorge State Park



**Bring Your Classroom Studies to Life at Tallulah Gorge**  
*Our programs are correlated with the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS)*

## WELCOME TO TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK

This beautiful state park was created in 1992 through a unique partnership between the GA. Power Co. and the GA. Department of Natural Resources. Just over two miles long and one-half mile at its widest point, Tallulah Gorge is one of the oldest geological features in North America. The Tallulah River drops six hundred feet in elevation with five waterfalls located within the gorge.

The 16,000-square-foot Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center features forty exhibits that highlight the natural resources, cultural and history that is unique to the area, an award-winning feature film, a gift shop and information desk.



*There is a Georgia State Park or Historic Site within 50 miles of every school in the state.  
Learn more about us at [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org)*

## HOW TO SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP TO TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK

**Call:** (706) 754-7981

7 days a week. 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

### **Be ready to provide the following information when you call:**

- Teacher's Name and Contact Information
- Name and address of school
- Number of students and the grade level of students

Teachers and chaperones are expected to participate and assist program staff as needed.

**Fees:** \$3.00 per a student  
(Additional fees may apply for specified materials)  
Career days have no charge

**Travel:** within a 15 mile radius \$2.00 a student

**Libraries:** within a 15 mile radius \$50.00 a program

**All day events with play parts** we will travel within in 15 miles to provide your school with the imagination play parts for the day when they are available \$250.00

**Reserving Picnic Shelters:** Please inform us if you would like to reserve a shelter for your group lunch

### **Directions to Tallulah Gorge State Park:**

**Take 441 north to Tallulah Falls, GA**

**Cross bridge and take first right at the stop light.**

## Programs:

The way this program guide works is each program will last anywhere from 3 hours to 3 hours and 45 minutes with 3 to 4 rotations. The programs each have a topic which is in bold type and below that the different rotations for that program are listed. The group can do all 4 activities or just pick a couple of the activities to do. The activities can be changed also for example instead of project wild activities you can have field play.

For groups that have more than 25 kids some of the activities will need to be teacher led. Each rotation will last about 45 minutes. Tallulah Gorge cannot accommodate more than 100 kids a day if your group is larger than that please look at bring them over a couple days.

## Gift Shop Visit:

Our gift shop is open to the kids to buy Souvenirs. Please allow time for the kids to visit our store. During the gift shop visit please limit the number of students in the shop to 10 at a time and make sure that there is an adult in the store while the kids are shopping.

## Lunch:

Tallulah Gorge State Park has a grassy field next to the Interpretive Center that makes a nice spot to have lunch. Play items can be provided for the children to play with during their lunch time. If a pavilion is needed there is one on the park on the other side of highway 441. To get to the pavilion you can either drive the children over on a bus or hike  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile on the North Rim Trail to the pavilion. Please let the ranger know in advance if you would like to reserve the pavilion because it is operated by Georgia Power and the ranger needs to call Georgia Power to reserve your date. Schools are welcome to use the pavilion for free as long as no one else reserved it.

## Pre K: (Charge is only \$1 per a student.)

\*Growing up wild activities will be decided when you book the program. (Outside or Indoor classroom)

## Animal Tracks

\***Making an animal track:** Students may make their own animals tracks. There is an additional materials fee of \$1 per a student. (Outside) *Ranger led*

\***Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 talking about animals and looking for their tracks. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

\***Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

\***Wild life is everywhere:** This is a project wild activity student's look for signs of wildlife and report back on findings. (Outside or Inside) *Ranger Led*

## Archery

\*Meet at archery range (Outside) *Ranger Led*

\*A NASP archery instructor will go over the safety of handling a bow and how to safely shoot it. The students will shoot at targets.

## Birds Of Prey

**\*Birds of prey presentation:** By observing preserved examples of some of the hawks, falcons & owls that reside in GA., we will discover how raptors are able to capture & assimilate their prey. Several hands-on activities demonstrating stereoscopic vision, field of view & tests of skill, & comparing differences in wing shapes explain why these extraordinary birds are so skilled in their niche in the forest. (Outside class room or Indoor classroom) *Ranger Led*

**\*Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and see if we can spot birds of prey and the Turkey vulture. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

**\*Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

**\*Frozen Critters Game:** A project wild activity demonstrating how animals hide from birds of prey (Outside or Inside) *Ranger or Teacher Led*

## Ecosystems

**\*Ecosystems presentation:** Students will learn what makes up an ecosystem and how to identify an ecosystem. Students will also learn about our “seven different worlds in one” & learn how each of these ecosystems affects the other. The students will explore and identify their own ecosystems and explain to the class their findings. (Outdoor class room) *Ranger Led*

**\*Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and identifying some of the different ecosystems. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

**\*Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

**\*How Many Bears can live in this forest:** A project wild activity students will role play by becoming bears and try to survive a year while looking for survival needs. (Outside) *Ranger or Teacher Led*

## Forest Ecology

**\*Forest Ecology presentation:** Located on the edge of the mountains & the piedmont, this area is unique in its climate & plant life. Students will learn the different levels of the forest & how they correspond to their own homes. Students will learn tree & plant identification, tree growth, life cycle of trees, soil ecology, & decomposition (Outdoor class room) *Ranger Led*

**\*Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and identifying some of the different trees and plant life. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

**\*Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

**\*Smokey Bear said what?:** A project wild activity demonstrating how forest fires can affect the forest positively and negatively (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

## Geology

**\*Geology presentation:** This area has gone through many changes even before it became a gorge. Students will learn about how the gorge was formed, about the rocks and minerals in the area, learn about the geologic structure of the gorge, and learn about the soil, rock and water cycles. (Outdoor class room) *Ranger Led*

**\*Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and observe the physical attributes of the gorge. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

**\*Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

**\*Field play:** In an open field we will let the students have a free play time and we will provide items for the children to play with for example beach balls, soccer balls, hula hoops, bean bag toss and different game items. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

## Habitats

**\*Habitat presentation:** Students will learn what makes up a habitat and how to identify a habitat. Students will also learn about life cycles and the food web. The students will explore and identify their own habitat and explain to the class their findings. (Outdoor class room) *Ranger Led*

**\*Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and identifying some of the different habitats. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

**\*Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

**\*Habitat Lap Sit:** A project wild activity students will learn what is needed in a habitat and what can happen when a component is taken from that habitat. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

## History of Tallulah Falls

**\*History presentation:** Students will learn about the railroad that went through the area, about the Victorian era, about the rock formations, the hotels and Tallulah Falls School. This is a power point presentation (Inside) *Ranger led*

**\*Hiking:** hike to overlooks 1A, 1 & Inspiration point spotting the rock formations and learning their names. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

**\*Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

**\*Field play:** In an open field we will let the students have a free play time with different play items that might have been used by children in the late 1800's (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

## Lost But Fond (Free)

The basics for what to do when lost will be presented and students will watch a video.

## Mammals

- \***Tallulah Wildlife presentation:** From black bears to opossums, students will have the opportunity to explore some of the native animal skins and skulls to determine their niche in this ecosystem (Outdoor class room) *Ranger Led*
- \***Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and identifying where some of these animals might live and even spot some wildlife. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*
- \***Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*
- \***Project wild games:** In an open field we can play different games like OH Deer! How many Bears? Quick Frozen critters etc. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

## Reptiles

- \***Snake presentation:** Students will learn how to identify venomous snakes, snake safety, and how to co-exist with these beneficial animals. They will also learn about the different types of reptiles and what makes the snake unique. (Outdoor or indoor class room) *Ranger Led*
- \***Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and identifying where some of these reptiles might live and even spot some wildlife. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*
- \***Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*
- \***Field play:** In an open field we will let the students have a free play time and we will provide items for the children to play with for example beach balls, soccer balls, hula hoops, bean bag toss and different game items. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

## Team Building

- \***Have fun while working together as a team to accomplish a goal:** pick 2 activities from the list below:
  - Warp Speed:** This fun activity challenges the group to see how fast it can juggle one or more balls around the group. This activity focuses on teamwork and concentration.
  - Pipeline:** Group members must transport a number of “radioactive” items via pipeline sections to a safe container. Focuses on cooperation and concentration.
  - Gorge Crossing:** Group must use magic steppingstones to cross the gorge before the Tallulah Monster explodes the steppingstones. This activity focuses on communication, teamwork & sharing to get everyone across safely.
  - Hula Hoop Pass:** Challenge the group to pass one or more hula-hoops through the group circle while holding hands. Focuses on teamwork and strategic planning.

**Hog Call:** Group members must find their partners by calling out their code names while blindfolded. Focuses on communication and trust.

**Blind Polygon:** Using communication & problem solving, the objective is for the groups to find a rope & form a shape while blindfolded. Focuses on problem solving, communication, and teamwork.

**Humane Knot:** Using communication & problem solving the group will need to untangle themselves from the knot they are in. Focuses on communication trust and problem solving.

**Nuclear Power Plant Disarmament:** A version of “Key Punch”. Groups will be asked to complete & improve on a given task. Only by removing numbers in a sequence requiring teamwork & communication will the disarmament be a success. Focuses on time management, quality & strategic planning.

\***Hiking:** Hike to overlooks 1, 2 & 3 and enjoy the scenery. (Outside) *Teacher or Ranger Led*

\***Interpretive Center:** Watch a movie and participate in the Tallulah Detective which consists of searching the interpretive center for answers to questions (Inside) *Teacher led*

\***Have fun while working together as a team to accomplish a goal:** pick 2 activities from the list above.

## **Wilderness Survival** (this program can have no more than 40 students)

\***Wilderness Survival presentation:** Students will learn the basics for surviving upon getting lost. (Outdoor class room) *Ranger Led*

\***Shelter building:** Students will learn how to make their own shelter and build one themselves. (Outside) *Ranger Led*

\***Fire Building:** Students will learn how to make their own fire and build one themselves. (Outside) *Ranger Led*

\***Knot tying:** Students will learn how to tie some basic knots that are useful in the outdoors. (Outside) *Ranger Led*

## **Guided Hikes:**

**Various themes can be incorporated into any of these hikes; times are round-trip.**

### **North Rim Trail**

(Overlooks 1-3; 2 waterfalls): 30-45 min.; ¾ mile

### **North Rim Trail**

(Overlooks 1-5, includes dam): 45 –60 min.; 1 mile

### **North & South Rim Trails**

(Overlooks 1-10)

Suspension Bridge & Staircase included: 2-2.5 hrs; 2.5 miles

Not including Suspension Bridge & Staircase: 1.5-2 hrs; 2 miles

### **Shortline Trail**

Located on the day-use or lakeside of the park – 2 hrs; 2.5 miles

### **Gorge Floor**

Very strenuous hike; 2 river crossings included. Must wear appropriate footwear; no pets; swimming ability recommended waivers will need to be signed.