

Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center

Educational Programming Brochure

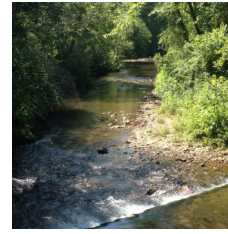


Hands-on Environmental Education



61 Tsalaki Trail Helen, GA 30545
(706) 878-3087

General Information



Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center (SWREC) offers programs for students of all ages in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) Wildlife Resources Division and GA DNR State Parks and Historic Sites Division. All programs are site-specific and are grounded on biologically-sound principles. GA DNR professionals from Parks, Game Management, and community volunteers collaborate to share their personal experiences and expertise on a wide variety of topics. All programs correlate to Georgia's Performance Standards.

Trip Tips

Teachers and chaperones are expected to participate and assist with student discipline and safety. You may bring your own food/drinks for a picnic lunch on site. Restroom facilities are available at, or near, all programming sites. Weather appropriate clothing (layered) is recommended, as are insect repellent, water, and sunscreen.

Smithgall Woods State Park



Outreach Programming – All Ages

(Available year-round)



Animal Adaptations:

Examine skulls, pelts, and mounts to find out how form & function help animals find their niche in life.

Arachnids:

Learn about those amazing, 8-legged, silk-spinning marvels as you view larger-than-life images of spiders through a fascinating power-point presentation.

Birds of Prey:

These precision aerial hunters have been the subject of legend and inspiration. Find out why eagles, hawks, and owls deserve special respect and protection.



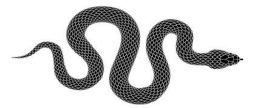
Creepy Crawlies:

Spiders, snakes, and bugs...Oh my! Learn what features these animals have in common and what characteristics are special only to them.

Dress-a-Beaver (Fish):

Learn how special adaptations help nature's engineers to survive and thrive in their aquatic environment. A beaver costume makes this learning experience fun for all ages.

Snakes Alive!



Models and live specimens allow students to gain a new respect for these misunderstood creatures by learning about anatomy, morphology, and lifestyle of GA's snakes.

Teacher-led Onsite Programs

(Pre-k through 2nd grade)

Any teacher or youth leader may conduct teacher-led programs at Smithgall Woods. Please contact us to schedule your group's use of facilities or equipment.

Living or Nonliving:

Learn about the traits of living and nonliving things during a brief discussion before taking a teacher-led nature hike to classify objects along the trail.

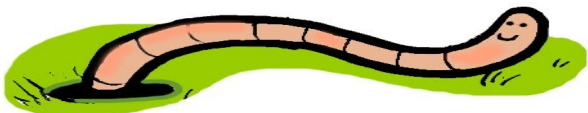


Environmental I-Spy:

Enjoy a teacher-led nature hike while finding objects in nature whose names begin with letters on a game card.

Birds & Worms:

Play a game by pretending to be birds, in search of food, to demonstrate how both predators and prey use camouflage as a survival adaptation.



Other opportunities include hiking/walking, a Visitor's Center scavenger hunt, or a visit to our indoor Discovery Room to learn more about local history and ecology.

Onsite Programming

(3rd grade and up)

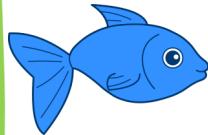
Pond Exploration:

Watch how students' natural curiosity is rekindled as they collect tadpoles and learn about aquatic plants along the edge of a small pond.



Stream Ecology:

Use a kick-seine net to collect and identify benthic macro-invertebrates (stream critters). Learn how stream health is related to the presence of certain insect larvae and what it means to the quality of our drinking water.



Water activities may require participants wet or dirty.



Basic Orienteering:

Learn to use a compass in a simple, circular course or add-in math for some educational fun!

Native American Life:

Learn how the First Peoples' skills and ingenuity helped them to utilize northeast Ga's natural resources (Available for outreach).

How Many Bears?:

Play a fun and active game to learn about black bear biology and habitat.

....but wait, there's more....



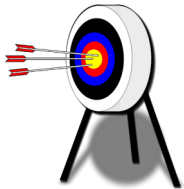
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Oh, Deer!:

Play an active game to illustrate the importance of key habitat components as they relate to survival or our white-tailed deer population.

Archery:

Try your hand at the bow and arrow while learning about how technology has advanced, through the ages, both as a means to obtain food and as a popular outdoor sport.



Making Reservations

Call Kathy Church at (706) 878-4736, or e-mail at kathy.church@dnr.ga.gov for reservations. Onsite field trips are recommended for Aug.—Nov. and Mar.—May. Outreach programs may be scheduled any time staff is available. Fall reservations begin on Aug. 1st, spring on Dec. 1st. Questions welcome.

Programming Fees:

A \$5/student fee is charged for onsite programming for school groups, homeschool groups, & youth groups.

Onsite fees may vary for very large groups with multiple programs, or for programs that require extra supplies. Group size typically limited to 60.

Outreach programming is \$65/program within 25 miles of Smithgall; \$75/ program within 25-50 miles; 50+ miles a \$40 mileage fee will be added to the \$75/program cost.