



WNC Nature Center

ACADEMIC GUIDE FALL 2026



Go Wild! View around 60 species of native animals at our site including cougar, black bear, red panda, red and gray wolf, eastern box turtle, and barn owl. Enjoy the outdoors and get involved in STEAM, or we can come to you.



General Information

- 🔍 All opportunities are for groups of 10 or more students; Pre-k - College
- 🔍 Choose from:
 - Onsite Guided Programs
 - Onsite Self-guided Exploration
 - Outreach Programs
- 🔍 Guided Programs are available Monday - Friday, September - December from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- 🔍 Outreach Programs and Self-guided visits are available all year
- 🔍 All opportunities are subject to change
- 🔍 **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**



Onsite Program Options

At the WNC Nature Center, choose from the following:

Self-Guided Exploration

Explore our facility with your group at your own pace

Creature Features

Interactive classroom experiences with two live animals
~ 30 minutes each (reptiles & amphibians only)

Guided Tours

Outdoor experiences visiting animal habitats
~ 60 minutes each

Program Topics:

- Animal Comparisons (K)
- Habitats (1st)
- Life Cycles (2nd)
- Locomotion (3rd)
- Adaptations (4th)
- Zoo Ecosystems (5th)
- Ecosystem Interactions (6-12th)
- Career Exploration (6-12th)
- Choose Your Own Adventure (homeschool, mixed ages, undergraduate and graduate)

NC Curriculum correlations are [here](#)

- 🔍 Groups with Creature Features or Guided Tours do Self-Guided exploration before/after a guided program
- 🔍 Pre-K groups do Self-Guided Exploration only

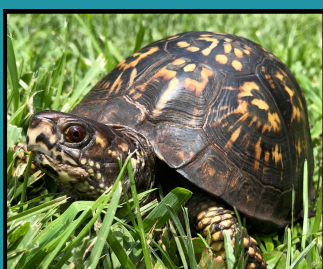
Outreach Program Options

Program Topics:

- Run, Slither, Swim (PreK-1st)
- From Eggs to Legs (Prek-2nd)
- Animal Habitats (K-5th)
- Animal Adaptations (4th)
- Animals After Dark (4-8th)
- Fossil Investigation (4th-8th)
- Tracks and Scat (6th-8th)
- Outdoor Investigation: Soils (1st-3th)
- Outdoor Investigation: Wildly Connected (1st-5th)
- Owl Pellet Dissection (6th-8th)

NC Curriculum correlations are [here](#)

Outreach auditorium programs are also available.
Contact outreach for more information.



Spring 2027 Academic Guide available late fall 2026

Onsite Visit Costs

10+ students and confirmed reservation required for these rates

Home School Group Admissions

- City of Asheville Homeschool: \$5 per student
- Non-city resident Homeschool: \$6 per student
- *Homeschool parents do not qualify as teachers/school staff*

Public & Private School Admissions

- City of Asheville School: \$5 per student
- Non-city resident School: \$6 per student
- Teachers, Assistants and Professional Drivers are free
- \$1 per Creature Feature or Guided Tour per student
- This fee will be added to the Admissions cost

Membership benefits & other discounts do not apply to educational group visits. Chaperone payment details will be in confirmation documents once reservations are set.

Payment by credit card or check only

Outreach Program Costs

- **Public Schools:** \$50-\$75/Program, discounts available
- **Private Schools:** \$75-\$100/ Program

Program Information

- 🔍 All programs are hands-on and catered to group interests
- 🔍 Requests for species type in programs cannot be accepted
- 🔍 Wild animals cannot be touched
- 🔍 Biofacts will be present for students to investigate and touch
- 🔍 Goats and sheep onsite have a choice to be petted or not
- 🔍 Programs align with specific grade level standards- groups must book the offering for the grade level attending

Contact

- 🔍 For additional information, please email:
 - naturecenterregistration@ashevillenc.gov regarding onsite programming
 - education@wildwnc.org regarding outreach programming at your school

