



Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge: Field Trip Guide



Educate - Fascinate - Engage



Dear Teachers,

We're so excited you want to incorporate a program with Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge into your school year! We have a variety of environmental education programs for students of all ages — including high-quality field trips, engaging classroom presentations, and informative programming.

Our facilities include a Nature Center with classroom and interactive exhibits, outdoor Wildlife Housing Area with nearly 60 resident animals, and covered Picnic Pavilion. We are the perfect spot for exploring the outdoors with 3 miles of hiking trails through 171-acres of upland forests and wetlands with a 7-acre cedar lake.

Field trips to Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge complement the New Jersey state learning standards and numerous STEM and NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas and are easily adapted to cover coursework at private schools, and homeschool and youth groups. If your class is unable to travel to Cedar Run, we also offer our *Refuge on Wheels* programs so that children can interact with nature at your location.

Be sure to let us know if you have any questions — we look forward to working with you and your students in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,
Erin Kiefer-Rounds
Director of Education



About Cedar Run

We are dedicated to the preservation of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats through environmental education, conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation.

Established as a private, non-profit organization in 1957, we operate the region's busiest Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital, caring for over 6,000 patients annually. Cedar Run also engages in conservation efforts through environmental education and ecologically based management of our 171-acres of protected Pinelands habitats.



"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and wonder of the world we live in."

— Rachel Carson, *The Sense of Wonder*



Field Trips to Cedar Run

Get them outside!! What better way to make an impact than to experience your science lessons in real life?!

While at Cedar Run, students are divided into groups based on a typical class size. Our field trips can accommodate a maximum of 120 students per day depending on the availability of our education staff. Each group will be lead by one of our experienced Educators engaging them throughout their visit and leading them through lessons.

Preschool Groups

Our youngest students will love our 1.5 hour **Tails and Trails Mini!** Experience a seasonal program with an up-close animal encounter and visit our Wildlife Housing Area. An optional 30-minute lunch in our covered Picnic Pavilion can be added at no extra charge at the end of your program.

K - 2nd Grade Groups

Guided field trips for younger students offer plenty of time to engage in the outdoors during our 2-hour **Tails and Trails** program. Students will explore the forest on a guided hike, experience a seasonal program with an up-close animal encounter, and visit our Wildlife Housing Area. An optional 30-minute lunch in our covered Picnic Pavilion can be added at no extra charge at the end of your program.

****NOTE:** These shorter field trips are offered to all ages during the summer months.

3rd - 12th Grade Groups

During the school year, our **Nature of the Pines** field trips are 3.5 hours in length and perfect for delving into a special topic of your choice. This trip includes a guided hike, a tour of the Wildlife Housing Area, and teamwork to make observations while conducting a specialized interactive lesson to complement your science curriculum.

Specialized Programming

Cedar Run can accommodate requirements of those with varying abilities with specialized programming that often includes: a guided hike, a tour of the Wildlife Housing Area, up-close animal encounters and a tailored lesson.





Tails and Trails “MINI”

Preschool

- 1.5 hours, with optional lunch to follow
- \$8/student; \$120 minimum

Tails and Trails

K - 2nd grade

- 2 hours, with optional lunch to follow
- \$10/student; \$150 minimum

Themes:

Year-Round — Owl Stories

Students learn about the basic characteristics that make owls unique. How are they adapted to hunting in the night? Students will meet one of our owl ambassadors.

Year-Round — Build-A-Bird

K - 2nd only

Adaptations abound! Students will discover the amazing diversity of birds and how they use what nature has given them to succeed. Using ample elements, including feathers, skulls and more, you'll learn how each bird is unique.

Year-Round — Patterns, Patterns, Patterns

Patterns are all around us, and they are especially visible in nature! Patterns are found in plants and in animals. All living things create them! Students will go on a hike to look for patterns and appreciate how amazing nature is while working on math concepts and art ideas.



Fall Focus — Where Do the Animals Go?

This program will help students discover how different animals adapt to survive the winter. What special characteristics do they have to help them survive? Why do some animals live in places where others cannot? Students will meet an animal that usually hibernates during the winter in New Jersey.

Spring/Summer Focus — Scales & Slime Time

This program begins with a discussion about the differences between reptiles and amphibians. What do they have to help them survive and thrive in their habitats? Students will also get to meet a live snake and turtle.

Spring/Summer Focus — Babies Abound!

Spring starts baby season here at Cedar Run. Who comes from an egg? Whose parents care for them and whose don't? Learn the ins-and-outs of being a baby animal in the wild, as well as discuss lifecycles unique to different animal groups.

Summer Focus — Water, Water

Learn about the importance of water to wildlife, ways to conserve it and how fun water can be. This age-appropriate lesson might find your students getting a bit wet, but having tons of fun!!



Don't See Your Topic?

Cedar Run's Education Department can tailor a program specifically for your needs or adapt a current program to fit better! We offer many different types of Wildlife Ambassadors and artifacts that help teach just about any topic you might be interested in!

Call our Education Department at (856) 983-3329 ext. 103 or e-mail us at education@cedarrun.org for more information.



Nature of the Pines

3rd - 12th grade

- 3.5 hours including lunch
- \$12/student; \$180 minimum

Themes:

The Nature of Lifecycles

Great for 3rd - 5th grade

This field trip will discuss the life cycles of plants, amphibians, mammals, birds, and insects in our area and how they may differ. How do so many animals start small and end up big? Identifiable life stages will be enhanced through the use of models and artifacts.

Exploring Ecosystems

Great for 3rd - 5th grade

Swamps, forests, and fields, oh my! Join your guide as students explore different ecosystems found here at Cedar Run. Learn how humans can interact and be inspired from the small to the tall. New Jersey is home to many different environments and they all are full of fascinating creatures!

Survival

Great for 3rd - 12th grade

One of our most popular programs! This fun and informative program allows students the opportunity to build rustic shelters and learn a few basic survival skills. This program is also perfect for those wanting to engage their students in team building or STEM concepts.

Inside the World of Water

Great for 3rd - 12th grade

Students will use nets to collect macroinvertebrate samples including insect larvae and nymphs, snails and aquatic insects in Cedar Run Lake. These animals can indicate how healthy, or unhealthy, our ecosystem is based on the species found there. Students will collect data and make observations about the health of Cedar Run's waterway.

Patterns in the Wild

Great for 3rd - 12th grade

Students will discover the connection between math and nature. Nature supplies us with wondrous examples of math: the hexagon of a honeycomb, the spiral of a seashell, or the symmetry of a butterfly's wing.

Can't We Share?

Great for 3rd - 12th grade

Students will discover how people can influence or shape their environment through pollution, development, and more, and how those changes affect other living things. Students will learn how small changes in our daily lives can make a big difference.



Where the Wild Things Are

Great for 6th - 12th grade

Students transform into scientists as they investigate the diversity of plants and animals in Cedar Run's upland forest and wetlands habitats. Students will conduct a basic biological survey and learn how they can identify new and exciting species in the field through a hands-on lesson.

Wonderful Water Quality

Great for 8th - 12th grade

Analyze Cedar Run's water quality at various locations around the property using professional scientific equipment to measure different water quality indicators at each study site. The day will conclude with a discussion about how this affects biodiversity at Cedar Run. ****NOTE: this program includes an additional \$25 charge per group.**



Contact Us:

Website - www.cedarrun.org

Email - education@cedarrun.org

Phone - 856-983-3329 ext. 103



Field Trip

Registration Procedures

Cedar Run can accommodate a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 120 students per day depending on our staff availability. Our field trips focus on hands-on learning, therefore please have your large group divided into classes for the day. Teachers wishing to schedule groups with more than 120 students must visit on multiple days.

Field trips are offered year-round, but for peak spring dates (April - June) we encourage teachers to register at least 8-10 weeks in advance. Programs **MUST** be booked at least 2 weeks prior to desired date. Please select a few dates for your availability and we will try our best to accommodate your group.

Times

Field trips typically run between 10am - 1:30pm, but are flexible. Contact the Education Department for special requests at education@cedarrun.org

Deposit

A deposit of the **program minimum** is required at the time of booking. The deposit will go toward the balance of your programming costs. If rescheduling the event, the deposit will be carried over to the new booking. Rescheduling less than 7 days prior to the event will result in a \$25 administrative fee.

Programming for Non-School Groups

We also provide field trips for youth groups, nature clubs, church groups, seniors, scout meetings, college or adult groups. Please contact our Education Department directly for more information at education@cedarrun.org

About Our Wildlife Ambassadors

The animals presented during our programs are native to this region. Unfortunately, we can not guarantee a specific animal will be presented at your program. The animals in our care are education animals and permanent residents at Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge. They cannot be released into the wild due to various injuries or conditions, which deem them unreleasable.

New Jersey is a “no touch” state. This means that due to strict limitations on our federal and state education permits no one is permitted to touch our Wildlife Ambassadors for any reason. However, we often use elements, such as feathers, wings, pelts, and talons to aid in our discussions, which students **ARE** permitted to touch.

Frequently Asked Questions

What to Wear/Bring

Field trips occur outdoors — rain or shine. Children and adults should dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Each student should wear sneakers (no sandals), bring a bagged lunch and water bottle. Bug spray and sunscreen are optional, but recommended.

Gift Shop

We do not typically include time for shopping in our Gift Shop, however if you would like time, please let us know at the time of booking and we can make arrangements to accommodate your group.

***NOTE: Gift Shop visits take time away from other program activities.**

Chaperones

Groups should bring a minimum of 1 adult per 10 students, but no more than 1 adult per 5 students. School staff are NO charge, parent chaperones are charged the same as the student rate.

Weather Conditions

Cedar Run’s Educators are available to your group rain or shine and rescheduling in our busiest months is not always possible. Please make sure the students are dressed for the weather. The duration of your program is conducted outside. If Cedar Run deems the weather conditions unsafe, you will be called within 24 hours prior to the start of the program and an alternate date may be discussed at this time. We cannot schedule rain dates in advance, but exceptions may apply.