



Leisure Services Department

## Greenways and Natural Lands

# Seminole County Natural Lands Environmental Education Program Information

### Types of Environmental Education Programs:

- A. Field Trip
- B. In-School Program
- C. Hike or Nature Center Program

### Field Trip Information:

Geneva Wilderness Area and the Ed Yarborough Nature Center can serve as wonderful outdoor classrooms and provide a great opportunity for first-hand experiential learning for K-12 students. Students will visit with our live animal residents, engage with exhibits and displays and explore natural habitats in the wilderness area. Field trips are open to public, private and home school groups as well as scout troops.

The Ed Yarborough Nature Center is located at 3485 North County Rd. 426 in Geneva at Seminole County's 180-acre Geneva Wilderness Area.

### **Sample Schedule (2 rotations) (15-60 students):**

- 10:00 a.m. – Buses/families arrive at the nature center
- 10:00 –10:15 – Free exploration of nature center. Introductions.
- 10:15 – 11:00 – Interactive environmental education program in Nature Center
- 11:00 –11:15 – Bathroom/water break and discovery time in Nature Center
- 11:15 – 12:00 – Hike through habitats around lake at Geneva Wilderness Area
- 12:00 – 12:45 – Lunch @ North pavilion
- 12:45 – 1:00 – Final Q&A session, load buses, goodbyes.

### **Sample Schedule (3 rotations) (60-90 students):**

- 10:00 a.m. – Buses/families arrive at the nature center
- 10:00 –10:15 – Free exploration of nature center. Introductions.
- 10:15 – 10:55 – Interactive environmental education program in Nature Center
- 10:55-11:00 – Bathroom/water break and transition to next rotation
- 11:00-11:40 – Hike through habitats around lake at Geneva Wilderness Area
- 11:40-11:45 – Bathroom/water break and transition to next rotation
- 11:45-12:25 – Nature Activity/Game
- 12:25-12:30 – Gather lunches and sit at lunch sites
- 12:30-12:55 – Lunch
- 12:55-1:00 – Goodbyes, load buses

**Conservation of Our Natural Treasures  
and a Connection to Nature...**

**It Starts  
in Parks™**



## Leisure Services Department **Greenways and Natural Lands**

**Curriculum:** The educational program portion takes place in the Nature Center. Please see the list of nature-themed lessons that are available. We can also create customized lesson that can be tailored to teach a specific natural science concept to align with students' current lessons. Staff requires 2 weeks of notice if requesting a customized lesson.

Programs offered:

- **Amazing Adaptations (grades 3-7)** - What are adaptations and how do they help animals survive? Discover what makes Central Florida animals uniquely suited to local habitats.
- **Beyond Botany (grades 6-9)** - All living things depend on plants. Learn how humans have used plants throughout history, and how we still use them today.
- **Dealing with Defensive Creatures (grades k-8)** - Are venomous snakes bad? Learn about animal defenses and how to stay safe while appreciating wildlife.
- **Native or Not? (grades k-5)** - Can you tell which creatures are native? Discover ways you can help keep invasive species out of Florida ecosystems.

**Fee:** \$5 per student. Teachers and chaperones are FREE. Can be cash or checks, separate or combined. Please collect all moneys ahead of time. Payment is due on arrival. If paying using a credit or debit card, a staff member will assist you in creating an account through our web registration system to pay online. Card payments must be made before your group arrives for the program. Checks should be made out to "Natural Lands- Seminole County BOCC".

\*Note: the minimum number of paying guests is 15. If you have fewer than 15 students, the group will be charged the flat minimum fee of \$75.

**What to Wear/Bring:** All participants should wear long pants or shorts (no skirts) and closed-toed comfortable shoes. Depending on the conditions, participants may also want to bring a hat, sunscreen, a sweater and/or bug spray. Everyone should bring a water bottle. Group leader should bring any paperwork or moneys upon arrival.

**Attendance:** the minimum attendance is 15 guests. We can accommodate up to 90 students per day.

**Dates:** We usually run field trip programs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We can accommodate 3 classes of up to 30 students per day. If there are many classes who would like to participate, we can give the program on multiple days, so everyone has a chance to come out.

\* Home school groups: If a legal guardian will not be present for each child, guardians must complete the county's Hold Harmless form for their child/ren to participate. Guardians who will be present for the program may sign paperwork upon arrival.

**Conservation of Our Natural Treasures  
and a Connection to Nature...**

**It Starts  
in Parks**



## Leisure Services Department **Greenways and Natural Lands**

### **In-School Program Information:**

Our environmental education classroom program is a 45-50 minute program about general topics related to natural sciences in Florida. Content is geared towards standards-based topics for each specific grade level. Students can enjoy an engaging and hands-on natural sciences experience.

- **Number of Students** – Minimum of 15, Maximum of 120. Groups larger than 120 will be split into multiple class periods within the same day. Smaller groups will have a more hands-on experience.
- **Number of Programs** – We can stay for one class period or the whole school day. We would prefer to consolidate classes whenever possible.

**Curriculum:** All of our programs will include live animals, discussions on native wildlife, animal identification (in some cases, using skulls and scat), Florida's ecosystems, biodiversity, land management, and more! There are 3 exciting programs to choose from. The program includes time to view and touch creatures we bring from the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center. Our staff will take out the animals only if they feel it is safe to do so, for the children and the animals.

- **Animal Superpowers (3-6)** - What are adaptations, and how do our native creatures use them to survive?
- **Dealing with Defensive Creatures (k-8)** - Are venomous snakes bad? Learn about animal defenses and how to stay safe while appreciating wildlife.
- **Native or Not? (k-5)** - Can you tell which creatures are native? Discover ways you can help keep invasive species out of Florida ecosystems.

**Locations:** Natural Lands staff will come to you! We will present at schools in classrooms, media centers or cafeterias. We will also go to day cares (K-12), summer camps, scout meetings or homes in a home school network. Our staff requires the use of an air-conditioned room for the health of our animals and staff. We also request access to a computer and projector to run the digital presentation.

**Fee:** FREE!

### **Shorter/Alternate Programs**

1) **Guided Private Hike:** One of our knowledgeable staff members will guide you through the trails in the Geneva Wilderness Area (or other SCNL Wilderness Area). Along the way, kids can ask questions and the instructor will stop to point out notable sights. Hike takes approximately 2 hours. Please reference "What to Wear" in the Field Trip section of this document.

**Conservation of Our Natural Treasures  
and a Connection to Nature...**

**It Starts  
in Parks<sup>SM</sup>**



## Leisure Services Department **Greenways and Natural Lands**

2) Natural Lands Educational Program: Join us in the Ed Yarborough Nature Center for a 1-hour program learning about the incredible natural lands in Seminole County and the amazing creatures that live there. You will also get to meet several of our Nature Center residents and ask questions about them. A combination program is also possible with a 1-hour program and a 1-hour hike for \$5 per person.

Fee: 15 guests minimum, 30 maximum. \$3 per person. If children are under 3, they're free!

### **Event Booth**

Does your school or organization have a STEM Night, Earth Day Celebration or other event coming up? Add Seminole County Natural Lands to your list of vendors. We will bring our booth full of fun and exciting items including skulls, pelts, educational materials and of course, live animals!

### **How to Book Programs:**

Contact the Program Coordinator with details about your group and what type of program you are interested in. Programs should be booked at least two weeks in advance. Bookings are on a first come, first served basis. If a request is made for a program within the two-week time period, it is subject to staff availability.

Natalie Swanson  
nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov  
407-665-2211

We recognize the complexity of school scheduling and lesson planning around field trips and in-school programs. Every effort will be made to accommodate your students on the date(s) of your choosing. Our staffing and days of operation are limited, so we appreciate your patience as we work to welcome everyone.

We look forward to creating an educational, fun and engaging program for your students! See you soon!

**Conservation of Our Natural Treasures  
and a Connection to Nature...**

**It Starts  
in Parks™**