

Environmental Education

Pre-K Animal Viewing (30 minutes) Observe and touch live animals at the Nature Center. Learn how they live and what they eat.

Pre-K Seasons in the Park (45 minutes) Discover the beauty of Rock Creek Park in any season. Hike the nearby forest and look for seasonal changes.

Pre-K Nature Tales (45 minutes) This program introduces preschool and kindergarten learners to the wonders of nature. It includes a story and a hike. Other activities introduce young students to a variety of topics. Choose from Animal Babies, Camouflage, Oh Deer, or Turtle Mania.

1-2 Sensory Stroll (60 minutes) Observe nature in a whole new way! Discover how animals use their senses to survive.

1-3 Meet a Tree (60 minutes) Meet a new friend...a tree! Learn how trees are similar to people. Find out why trees are so important to us.

2-3 Habitat Hunt (60 minutes) Explore a section of Rock Creek Park's 1,754 acres of habitat. Find out why it is so important to the plants and animals of Washington, D.C.

2-3 Be a Junior Naturalist! (60 minutes) Learn about the skills and tools naturalists use to observe and understand nature.

2-4 Adaptations (60 minutes) Win, lose, or adapt! Discover how animals must adapt to thrive in their environment.

4-6 Protecting Our Park (two hours) Learn the importance of conserving and protecting our natural resources. Explore the forest community from the ground up. An invasive-species removal service component may be available.

9-12 Bridging the Watershed (four hours) Choose one of six performance-based science modules focused on the Potomac River Watershed. Students studying biology, chemistry, environmental science, and geology will gather authentic data to understand and problem-solve resource issues. For more information visit the Bridging the Watershed website at www.fergusonfoundation.org or call (301) 292- 5665.



To Schedule a Program

Programs are free but must be scheduled a minimum of two weeks in advance. Call the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium at (202)895- 6070, Wednesday through Sunday 9 :00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please note: Class size is limited dependent upon the program. The planetarium seats a maximum of 71.

Please visit www.nps.gov/rocr/learn/education for more detailed information about our programs and suggestions for pre- and post- trip activities.

The Nature Center and Planetarium is located at 5200 Glover Road, NW, Washington, D.C. 20015 near the intersection with Military Road.

Education programs are curriculum-based and are aligned with local, state, Common Core, and Next Generation Science Standards.

Planetarium Education

PreK– 2 The Sky Above Us (30- 45 minutes) This planetarium program shows the celestial objects in tonight's sky.

1-3 Native Americans' Night Sky (60 minutes) Explore the night sky with an emphasis on Native American legends from various peoples.

4-6 Our Universe (60 minutes) The conceptual science of astronomy is made tangible through a combination of active demonstrations and a planetarium program focusing on our universe.

4-8 Under African Skies (60 minutes) Learn some of the night sky stories from African cultures. Also explore how and why African Americans escaping slavery used the night sky to help lead them to freedom.

Planetarium Films

3-5 Oasis in Space (30 minutes) An exploration of the planets in our solar system.

5-12 Dawn of the Space Age (30 minutes) Highlights of space exploration, from Sputnik to the International Space Station and beyond!

5-12 Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity (60 minutes) Discover the mysterious world of black holes and other space phenomena.

Stormy weather!

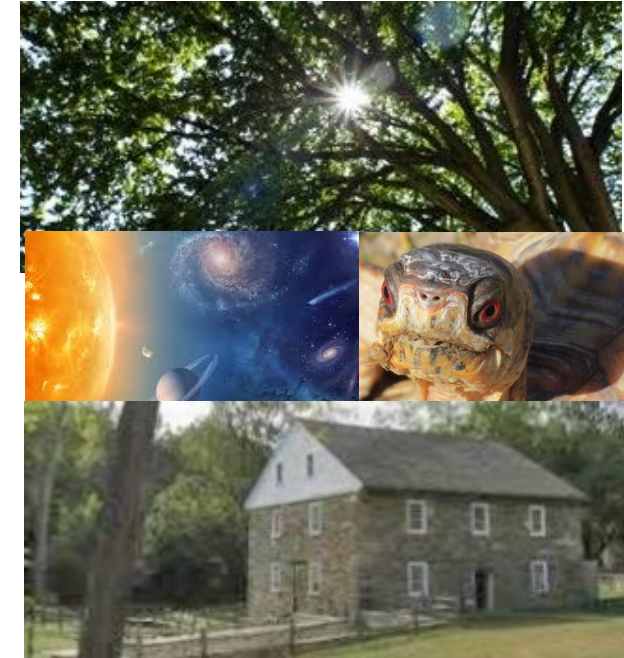
During inclement weather, particularly snow storms and hurricanes, federal offices in the area may be closed. To check if we are open go to www.opm.gov, click on the 'operating status' along the top bar. Also check local television and radio broadcasts for announcements.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Rock Creek Park
Washington, D.C.



Rock Creek Park Education Programs



Explore a woodland trail using your five senses. Learn about planets and stars in our galaxy. Discover what creatures live in the park and how the forest grows. Uncover history, culture, and technology at Peirce Mill. Appreciate how nature and art come together. These experiences and more are available for your students at Rock Creek Park.



History, Culture, and Technology

K-2 Cornucopia—From Farm to Fingers (60 minutes) Corn is transformed during this interactive program about milling. Students will grind corn by hand and learn how the mill works.

1-4 Once Upon a Time at Peirce Mill Estate (60 minutes) Students will compare and contrast life in mid-1800s rural Washington with that of present day D.C. Older students will read maps and track the urbanization and change in the Washington, D.C. area.

3-4 Powered by Water and Gravity: The Workings of a Mill (60 minutes) Students will see how the machinery in Peirce Mill operates on water power and gravity as they take an in-depth look into the workings of this giant machine.

3-4 Milestones to Millstones (90 minutes) Through a variety of activities students will explore the technological progression from simple machines to complex automation. Students will also explore the implication of changes in technology from past to present.

5-6 Industrial Revolution Hits Home (60 minutes) In 1820 Peirce Mill's state of the art technology was an important part of America's industrial revolution. Students will learn about technological changes that took place between 1780 and 1860 and their influence on life today.



Art

2-5 Art of Nature (90 minutes) Nature is a work of art, you just need to know where and how to look. Students will take a 3/4-mile hike to look at the elements of art — including line, shape, color, value, texture, and space — in the natural resources of Rock Creek Park. Students will then be able to take what they have learned and make a sketch in the park.

Additional Resources

Exhibits

The Nature Center's exhibit hall, organized by habitat, displays plants and animals that live in Rock Creek Park. There is an exhibit on astronomy and a bilingual, hands-on exhibit for children called Discover/Descubra Rock Creek Park.

Self-Guided Nature Trails

Two self-guided trails near the Nature Center are perfect for introducing students to the outdoors. The Edge of the Woods Trail is an easy, wheelchair accessible, paved 1/4-mile path. Signs along the way help students learn about the forest, pond, and meadow. The Woodland Trail is a slightly strenuous 1/2-mile loop with numbered guide posts that correspond to a trail brochure. The trail winds through upland and ravine woodland habitats.

Discovery Room

This special room is filled with puppets, books, and activities to stimulate preschoolers' interest in the natural world. There is a limit of 8 children in the Discovery Room at one time.

How Do I Get There?

Nature Center

The Nature Center is at 5200 Military Road, NW, Washington, D.C. 20015.

By school bus or van:

Take Military Road, NW to Glover Road, NW. Turn onto Glover and stay to the left at the fork in the road. After the fork take your first left into the Nature Center parking lot.

By Metro:

Take the train to the Fort Totten or Friendship Heights station and board an E2, E3, or E4 bus to the intersection of Military and Glover Roads, NW. A paved path leads to the Nature Center and Planetarium.

Trip Tips:

- Dress for the weather. Make sure all participants wear clothing suitable for the outdoors. Programs are held in the sun, heat, rain, and cold.
- Bring your lunch. Limited uncovered picnic areas are nearby. There are no food facilities in the park.
- Always remember to have a bottle of water and don't forget the sunscreen when needed.
- Incorporate pre- and post-trip lessons into your visit. Contact our staff for ideas.

Updated February 2016

How Do I Get There?

Peirce Mill

Peirce Mill and Barn are at 2401 Tilden St., NW, Washington D.C. 20008, at the corner of Tilden Street and Beach Drive.

By school bus or van:

Beach Drive is closed to bus traffic. Buses must access the mill by Tilden Street or Park Road. A bus turnaround is located next to Peirce Barn to drop off and pick up students.

From Connecticut Avenue turn east onto Tilden Street. Peirce Mill is at the bottom of the hill.

From 16th Street turn west onto Park Road which becomes Tilden Street when crossing Beach Drive. Go through the traffic light, cross the bridge. Peirce Mill is on your right.

By Metro:

Take the Red Line to the Cleveland Park or Van Ness metro station.

From Cleveland Park: Walk north on Connecticut Avenue and hike to the right (east) down the Melvin Hazen Trail to Peirce Mill.

From Van Ness: Walk south to Connecticut Avenue and turn left (east) on Tilden Street. Walk down the hill to Peirce Mill.

Wildlife Kits

A new Urban Wildlife kit, designed for pre-K through grade 2, is available for loan. The kit contains a teacher's guide, lessons, and tools to teach students about adaptations, habitats, and who and what lives in Rock Creek Park. Please reserve your kit a minimum of two weeks in advance. Call (202) 895-6070, Wednesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to reserve your kit.