



## SCOTLAND RUN PARK NATURE CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

*“Learn about your natural world”*

### NATURE LESSONS

The Nature Lesson Program at Scotland Run Park provides an outdoor experience that can't be duplicated in the classroom. By exploring their Natural World, students get a better understanding and appreciation of our environment, that fosters care and concern in their daily lives.

#### ***HOW TO ARRANGE YOUR VISIT***

Nature Lessons are 1 to 2 hours long and available to grades PreK to adult, by appointment only. For safety reasons, there must be one adult for every 8 children. Check the Nature Lesson descriptions for appropriate grade levels.

Contact: L. Jill Taylor, Sr. Park Naturalist  
At (856) 881-0845

Or [ltaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:ltaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us)  
To arrange the time and date

Once the arrangements have been made, return the “Program Request Form”. You will get a confirmation after we receive your request.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF NATURE LESSONS**

***SENSORY WALK PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade*** Students will experience nature using the 5 senses through a series of outdoor activities.

***“NO PICK” SCAVENGER HUNT PreK-6<sup>th</sup>*** This activity helps focus the students attention on how to observe Nature. It is a good introductory experience for young children if older children or adults participate.

***GENERAL NATURE WALK PreK-Adult*** This walk offers a general overview of the Helen S. Brown Nature Trail. It is open ended and the subject matter is whatever is encountered on the trail. It can be conducted any time of the year and is a great opportunity for students to ask questions and explore a variety of topics.

***LAKE STUDY PreK-Adult*** Students will catch small animals living in Wilson Lake using dip nets. Animals will be studied and identified, then returned to the lake.

***ANIMAL SIGNS K-Adult*** Students learn what animals live in the park and maybe in their own backyard by identifying tracks and other animal signs.

***INSECT SAFARI PreK-6<sup>th</sup> (May-Oct.)*** Students will learn about a variety of insects by catching, studying, and identifying them. All insects will be released at the end of the lesson.

***PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2<sup>nd</sup> grade- Adult*** Students will become familiar with some common native plants found in South Jersey and how to identify them.

***BIRD WALKS 2<sup>nd</sup>-Adult*** Students will learn about the basics of bird watching while going on a bird walk.

***BACK TO NATURE TRAIL 2<sup>nd</sup>-Adult*** Students will go on the “Back to Nature Trail” to learn about land use and how nature heals itself.

#### ***ABOUT YOUR VISIT***

- 1) Make sure participants are properly dressed for the outdoors. Long pants, socks and sturdy shoes are suggested. Insect repellent is highly recommended.
- 2) The full cooperation and participation of all students and adults is expected. Nature Center staff is not responsible for discipline problems.
- 3) If the weather is inclement, on the day of the visit, please call to determine to go on as planned, reschedule or cancel.
- 4) Please let us know in advance if any participant has special needs, so necessary arrangements can be made.

- 5) Collecting of plants and animals is not permitted except as part of the lesson. Even then, all animals will be released. No plant or animal may leave the park.
- 6) All programs meet at the Nature Center, located across the street from the main entrance of the park, on E. Academy St.

### **“NATURE IS EVERYWHERE!” Outreach Programs**

“Nature is Everywhere!” outreach programs are designed for classroom size groups. (approx. 25). The programs last about 1hr. The subject matter is geared toward elementary age groups, but can be enjoyed by everyone. For outdoor activities, it is required there be at least one adult for every 8 children.

#### **INDOOR PROGRAMS**

- 1) **ENVIROSCAPE** –Through the “Enviroscape” model, students will observe how water pollution occurs in their neighborhood. (Presented by the South Jersey Land and Water Trust or Watershed Ambassador)
- 2) **ECO-MUSIC**–A live musical program that combines sing a longs, nature tunes and environmental messages.
- 3) **BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT** –Learn the basics of creating a wildlife habitat in your own yard.
- 4) **“SKINNY” ON ANIMALS** –A popular indoor program for younger students, which includes animal skins, live music and an interactive puppet show.

#### **OUTDOOR PROGRAMS**

Many of the previously mentioned “Nature Lessons” can be easily adapted to your schoolyard or a nearby natural area. Suggestions are: Sensory Walk, “No Pick” Scavenger Hunt, General Nature Walk, Animal Signs, Insect Safari, Plant Identification, and Bird Walks.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

- 1) Programs can be adjusted for any age groups and adults. Custom made programs can be developed to accommodate the Educator’s needs. Scouts and other groups can also reserve Nature Lesson programs to fulfill requirements.
- 2) Educators are welcome to use the park facilities for their own educational purposes. Contact the Nature Center to make sure there are no conflicts with other scheduled activities. The Naturalist can help you plan your visit, assist with teaching and suggest areas in the park suitable for your instruction. Just a reminder, collecting plants and animals from Scotland Run Park is prohibited.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS**

The Scotland Run Park Nature Center, in cooperation with NJDEP and other organizations, offers Educator Workshops that provide the materials and ideas to incorporate environmental topics into your curriculum. Most of the workshops are free. Environmental Education is multidisciplinary, and is for any subject and age group.

Workshops can also be presented at your facility as an in service or at the Nature Center. Professional development credits are available. The workshops are: Project Wild (PW), Project Learning Tree (PLT), Aquatic Project Wild (AW), Wild School Site (WSS), Water Education for Teachers (WET), Wonders of Wetlands (WOW), and Preschool PW and PLT.

#### **FOR INFORMATION ON ALL PROGRAMS AT THE NATURE CENTER**

**Contact:** (856 ) 881-0845, [ltaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:ltaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us), fax (856)881-6402,

**Or write:** Scotland Run Park Nature Center c/o Gloucester County Parks and Recreation,  
Shady Lane Complex, 254 County House Rd., Clarksboro, N.J. 08020

(ASK TO BE PUT ON THE “NATURE NETWORK” EMAIL LIST)

**SCOTLAND RUN PARK NATURE CENTER IS LOCATED  
980 E. ACADEMY ST., (CO. RT.610), CLAYTON, N.J. 08312**

[www.gloucestercountynj.gov](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov)

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