



Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

Education Program Guide

What to Expect:

The nature center showcases the cultural history and natural resources of southeast Missouri; featuring hands-on exhibits for all ages, freshwater aquariums, wildlife viewing areas, classrooms, and an auditorium.

Explore the White Oak Trace; two miles of trails winding through oak-hickory and river cove forest ecosystems, sinkholes, and a small, man-made swamp. This includes the .25 mile asphalt-paved handicap accessible Ridgetop Trail. The grounds around the nature center feature several demonstration garden beds planted with an array of native species, specialized beds include a rain garden, sand prairie, and shade garden.

At the accessible Kid's Fishing Pond, children younger than 16 can try their hand at fishing for a variety of species. Poles and worms are available for use at no charge.

Scheduling a program:

To arrange a naturalist-guided program please call (573) 290-5218 or email CapeNC@mdc.mo.gov at least two weeks in advance. Field trips in the spring may require scheduling at least two months in advance.

We request at least 24-hours notice of cancellation.

Please let us know in advance of any special needs to accommodate physical or learning abilities.

Arriving at the nature center:

Staff will greet you outside or at the entrance of the building.

We request a ratio of one adult per ten children. Additional adults for groups with younger children or special needs are recommended. Adults are expected to remain with the group and are responsible for group management.

Many of the programs do not occur in the exhibit gallery or on the trails. Additional time to explore these areas can be added to your visit. Please let us know if you plan to spend time in addition to the scheduled program.

A confirmation letter will be mailed approximately two weeks prior to your visit.

If you are unable to schedule a guided program, your group is welcome to visit anytime during our regular business hours. We ask that all groups notify us before visiting the nature center the approximate number of students and time of arrival.

Location: 2289 County Park Dr Cape Girardeau MO 63701

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm

Contact: 573/290-5218 | CapeNC@mdc.mo.gov



Programs range from 1 to 2.5 hours and, unless otherwise specified, consist of an indoor and outdoor portion (weather permitting) which may take place on paved or gravel sidewalks and trails or grassy areas. Most programs meet at least one Missouri Learning Standard for Science.

Auditorium programs all grade levels (indoor only):

Reptiles & Amphibians

Mammals of Missouri

Feathered Fliers

Incredible Insects

Pre K:

Fantastic Frogs (March 15-Oct 15)

Let's Go Fishing (no outside component)

Cycle of Seasons

Flutter and Fly

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Super Seeds

Growing Up Wild

A Place Called Home

Fur, Feathers, and Scales

3rd - 5th Grade

Insect Intrigue

Tree Explorer

Wetland Investigator (March 15-Oct 15)

What's For Dinner

6th - 8th Grade

Pond Ecology (March 15-Oct 15)

Archery & Wildlife Management

Canoe Adventure Destination

Some programs can also travel
to your site.

Please call for additional
details.

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