

MOUNT RAINIER NATURE CENTER

4701 31st Pl. Mount Rainier MD 20712 • 301-927-2163 • pgparks.com/mount-rainier-nature-center

CURRICULUM BASED NATURE PROGRAMS

Mount Rainier Nature Center offers curriculum-based NGSS aligned programs for school groups (grades PreK-8) as well as community outreach programs. Most programs last 45-60 mins and can be held at your school, local park, or at our Nature Center. The nature center has indoor exhibits, live animals, an atrium with a pond, butterfly, herb, and raingardens, an outdoor play ground, recreation field as well as a multipurpose room with a maximum capacity of 120 students.

Grades 1st & 2nd

Nature Discoveries

Join a naturalist on a guided walk to observe what the seasons bring to nature. We will use our senses to investigate and discover textures, colors, and smells in the world around us.

Standards: NGSS: 2-LS2-2



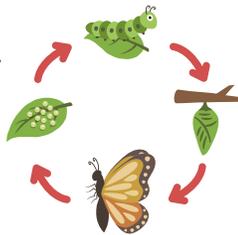
Our Watershed



Use a watershed model to show our human impact on the water quality around us and how water changes the shape of land. Brainstorm solutions for cleaner water, support wildlife, and to prevent erosion. **Standards: NGSS: 2-ESS2-1, 2-ESS2-2**

Life Cycles

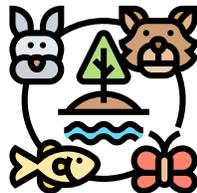
Using models learn the life cycles of plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Discuss how newborn animals and their parents are similar but still different. Learn about camouflage and how animals stay protected. **Standards: NGSS: 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-1**



Animal Homes

Learn about how nature transforms a place into an animal home (habitat) by supporting the 4 basic needs of all creatures. Join us for a nature walk to see animal homes, in nature.

Standards: NGSS: 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1



Popular programs for all ages

Animal Encounters (all ages)

Using a variety of live animals, students will enjoy a hands-on learning experience and interact with these ambassadors of the animal kingdom. Learn about the major characteristics of each animal group.

Standards: NGSS 1-LS3-1 2-LS4-1



Fantastic Fungal Friends (all ages)



Did you know that trees can "talk" to each other via a network of fungi in their roots? Observe the fascinating world of fungi & explore the connections and roles that they have with ecosystems! Program can be performed on a wooded school yard or nearby park.

Featured program

Microscopy (4th grade and up)

Experience the world around you like you have never seen it before! Students will learn basic microscopy techniques by heading outside and collecting their own subjects of study from an outdoor walk.



Register by scanning the QR code

FEES:

Programs at the center:

\$4(R), \$6(NR) *10 person min*

Programs off-site:

\$6(R), \$8(NR) *25 person min*



Prince George's County Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending the activities announced in this material/flyer

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CURRICULUM BASED NATURE PROGRAMS

Grades 3rd - 6th

Rocks and Fossils



Learn about the formation process of metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous rocks. Identify the evidence of prehistoric organisms with the help of fossils and learn about the process that makes it possible for us to have fossils in the present, here in our region. Students will perform tests to identify different minerals and make their own fossils to take home. **Standards: NGSS: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS3-2, NGSS: 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS2-2**

Animal Homes



Go in depth learning about how nature transforms a place into an animal home (habitat) by supporting the 4 basic needs of all creatures. Join us for a nature walk to see animal homes in nature or experience them through natural materials in your classroom.

Standards: NGSS: 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-4

Water Olympics

Learn about water properties like capilarity, density, polarity, and surface tension as you participate in olympic style games! Understand how water these properties of water can affect the environment around us and how the land weathers over time. **Standards: NGSS: MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-4, MS-ESS2-6**



Our Watershed

Use our enviroscape model to show our human impact on the water quality around us and how water changes the shape of land. Understand how environmental changes affects ecosystems. Brainstorm solutions for cleaner water, support wildlife, and to prevent erosion.

Standards: NGSS: 3-LS4-4, 4-ESS3-2



Life Cycles



Learn the life cycles of insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Dance the life cycle of the creatures you are likely to see in your backyard and discuss how newborn animals and their parents are similar but still different. **Standards: NGSS: 3-LS1-1, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2 NGSS: 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1**

Native Americans of Maryland

Learn about the history of the Native Americans of Southern Maryland. Understand how they lived, grew and harvested food, and cultivated community and culture. Enjoy a sensory experience with some of the objects that the Native Americans of Maryland used in the past and continue to use today in their daily lives!



Grades 6th - 8th

Microcosm 101

Take a look at things from a different perspective with more in-depth version of our Microscopy lesson, Microcosm 101! Learn about particles and tissues while utilizing basic microscopy techniques. Student will then go outside to collect their own subjects of study to view under their microscopes.

Standards: NGSS: MS-LS1-3, MS-LS1-1



Carnivorous Plants

Some plants use the sun for energy, while others eat living animals! Learn about carnivorous plants and their ecological niche to figure out why they evolved to have special adaptations to digest prey.

Standards : NGSS: MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-4

Fantastic Fungal Friends

Did you know that trees can "talk" to each other via a network of fungi that connects their roots? Observe the fascinating world of fungi and explore the connections and roles that they have with the entire ecosystem! Exploring fungi will lead students to appreciate how fungi function in ecosystems as decomposers and other important roles.

Standards: NGSS: MS-LS2-5, MS-LS2-3

