

Shenandoah River State Park

Spring Field Trip Opportunities 2025

Choose 1-3* programs to be presented on your next field trip!
Programs are listed on the next two pages.

*the number of programs available to be presented depends on
the amount of help available

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How far in advance do I need to schedule a field trip?** - As early as you can! We ask that you schedule at least 2 weeks in advanced.
- **How many students can you accommodate per field trip?** - We can accommodate 50 students outdoors and 30 indoors per field trip. More students can be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
- **How much do you charge for field trips?** - \$3.00 per student, per program
- **I homeschool. Can I schedule a field trip for my family or co-op?** - Absolutely! We just ask that your group has at least 10 participants and are close in age.
- **Are field trips indoors or outdoors?** - All of our field trips will meet at one of our picnic shelters outdoors or at our River Bend Discovery Center. Our picnic shelters are close to fully functional restrooms.
- **What do my students need to bring?** - We recommend bringing a bottle of water, and we require students to wear closed toed shoes. We've got the rest of the supplies covered!
- **When does the field trip season begin/end?** - Spring field trips begin January 6 and end May 16, 2025.

To schedule a field trip, please contact Chief
Ranger of Visitor Experience Megan Goin at
megan.goin@dcr.virginia.gov

Program Options: Spring 2025

- **Vernal Pool Expedition (Elementary - High)** - Vernal pools are temporary bodies of water that house extraordinary creatures, such as baby salamanders and fingernail clams. During this program, you'll get the chance to search for these creatures while learning about their life cycles and habitat requirements. (*February - March only*) SOLs 3.4, 3.5, 4.4, 4.8, 6.9, LS.5 - LS.9, LS.11, BIO.6 - BIO.8, ES.8
- **Toads, Turtles and Snakes (Elementary - Middle)** - Witness native wildlife up close! Your students will learn the difference between amphibians and reptiles, as well as their life cycles and dietary needs. SOLs K.3, K.7, K.10, 1.5, 1.7, 2.4, 2.7, 3.4, 4.2, 4.3, 4.8 LS.3, LS.7
- **Spring Wildflower Walk (Elementary - High)** - Discover the wildflower variety of the region during this 1-mile guided hike on Cottonwood trail! The ranger will also discuss flower anatomy and life cycles. (*March-May only*) K.5, K.6, K.7, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 2.4, 3.6, 4.2, 4.8, BIO.2
- **A Mighty Watershed (Middle - High)** - All of our streams and rivers run together in a common area called a watershed. During this program, students will see how a watershed works and then take a 1-mile hike on easy terrain to discover how a natural filtration system, called a riparian buffer, keeps our waterways clean. SOLs 3.7, 4.8, 5.8, 6.6, 6.8, 6.9, LS.8, LS.90, ES.8
- **Feathered Feeders (Elementary - High)** - Birds' beaks come in various shapes and sizes because they have adapted to eat different things! During this program, students will get the chance to discover what it's like to be a bird on a hunt to find its food using the beak it is given. SOLs K.3, K.7, 1.5, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2, 4.8, LS.6, LS.7, LS.11
- **Fashion a Fish (Elementary - Middle)** - The Shenandoah River is known for its bass, sunfish, catfish, and musky that call the river its home. Did you know that all of these fish have different styles of tails, mouths, and body shapes that allow them to thrive in different environments? During this program, students will practice their fish ID skills, and then see if they can design the most adaptable fish. SOLs K.7, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 4.2, 4.3, 4.8, LS.7.



- **Career Critters (Upper Elementary - Middle)** - Got a problem? Try a natural solution by putting wildlife to work! Wild animals and plants can be used to “manage” some environmental problems. In this program, students will match organisms to help control environmental problems. SOLs K.4, K.7, K.10, K.11, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.8, LS.7, LS.8, LS.9, ES.8
- **Busy Bees, Busy Blooms (Lower Elementary - Upper Elementary)** - What makes bees so busy? In this program, students will learn about the parts of flowers, the act of pollination, and even become bees themselves! SOLs K.7, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8, 3.4, 3.5
- **Carrying Capacity (Middle - High School)** - Carrying capacity affects all things, including humans. During this program, students will demonstrate the concept of carrying capacity by simulating herds of animals seeking food in a physical activity. SOLs 6.9, LS.6, LS.8
- **Nature Bingo (Lower Elementary)** - Can you say BINGO? Lace up your hiking boots and explore our beautiful Bluebell Trail with this interactive scavenger hunt! Students will learn native and invasive plants, plant cycles, and various water features while looking for signs of spring within nature. SOLs K.4, K.5, K.7, K.9, K.11, 1.4, 1.8, 2.8, 3.7.
- **Smokey Bear Says What? (Middle - High)** - Fire is an important part of a healthy forest. What happens when human actions alter this pattern? In this program, students will learn about fire ecology while also learning how to build a safe campfire. SOLs 3.8, LS.6, LS.8, LS.9, BIO 8
- **A Forest Grows (Middle - High)** - You know what they say - today’s seeds are tomorrow’s forests! Through this activity, students will discover some of the forest’s reproductive strategies during a 1-mile hike on moderate terrain. SOLs 6.1, 6.9, LS.1, LS.5, LS.7, LS.8, LS.9, BIO.1, BIO.8

