

Day Program Environmental Education Class Descriptions

Day Program Environmental Education class descriptions are listed alphabetically. We typically recommend that day groups usually take 1 class per trip for 50+ students. Depending on how flexible your group is with time, groups may be able to plan for 2-3. All day classes are 2-hours in length and are taught by Burton 4-H staff. Burton 4-H Center requires a ratio of 1 adult per 12 students to ensure smaller teaching group sizes.

Day Classes: 2-hours per class (15-120 students)

The following classes are available to groups taking 1 day program class and available for up to 120 students.

1. BEACH ECOLOGY

Introduction to coastal Georgia's beaches.

Topics include: Zones of the beach, barrier islands, biotic and abiotic factors, erosion and deposition, dune stabilization, identifying native plant and animal species, and beachcombing.

Methods: Students apply what they learn by going to the beach and participating in hands-on activities.

Water Rules: Students will be allowed to go ankle deep in water if weather, water conditions and instructors permit.

What to Wear: Clothes and shoes (sandals, water shoes, closed-toe shoes) that can get wet and sandy are strongly suggested. Otherwise, plan to dress for the season with comfortable, quick-dry clothing, layers, sunscreen and/or bug spray.

2. SURF SLEUTH (SEINE NETS)

Introduction to scientific data collection, fishing, and team building.

Seasonal: Only offered March-October. Students do not go seining if there is a weather or water advisory. A back-up class may be necessary even during warmer months.

Topics include: Data collection, what a seine net is and how to use it, coastal fish of Georgia, and parts of a fish.

Methods: Students will go to the beach and use a seine net to catch and record species living in coastal Georgia's waters. Burton staff will record student data and results for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Water rules: Swimming is NOT permitted. Students will only be allowed to go knee deep in the water.

What to wear: Required to wear shoes in the water. Clothes and shoes (sandals with a back strap, water shoes, closed-toe shoes) that can get wet and sandy are strongly suggested. No Crocs allowed. Clothing must be worn over bathing suits.

Day Classes: 2-hours per class (15-50 students only)

The following classes are available to groups taking 2-3 classes and limited to groups of 50 students or less.

3. BIRDS (ORINTHOLOGY)

Introduction to the study of birds.

Topics include: What is a bird, characteristics of birds, beak and bill adaptations, niches, migration, ecological roles, using binoculars and field guides, and identifying native bird species.

Methods: Students will learn about bird anatomy and adaptations, species identification, and how to use field guides and binoculars. Part of the class will take place at the beach and salt marsh for "birding."

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps or closed-toe shoes. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

4. COASTAL CRITTERS

Introduction to a combination of reptiles, fishes, and invertebrates.

Topics include: Taxonomy, marine phyla, discovery tanks, reptile and amphibian identification

Methods: Students will learn about coastal reptiles, invertebrates, and have an opportunity to interact with our environmental education animals and specimens.

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps or closed toed shoes. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

Additional Info: This is a combination class and *not available* if taking Reptiles (Herpetology) and/or Marine Invertebrates.

5. MARINE INVERTEBRATES

Introduction to marine invertebrates.

Age minimum: 4th Grade

Topics include: Taxonomy, invertebrates vs. vertebrates, marine phyla, and invertebrate identification.

Methods: Students will observe and touch invertebrates in the discovery tanks, practice capturing invertebrates with dip nets, and observe their findings under microscopes.

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps or closed-toe shoes. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

Additional Info: Limited for groups with less than 50 students.

6. REPTILES (HERPETOLOGY)

Introduction to native and nonnative reptiles of the Southeast.

Topics include: Reptile characteristics, reptiles vs amphibians, venomous vs poisonous, native vs nonnative species, keystone species, ecological roles, adaptations, misconceptions and conservation.

Methods: Students will learn about reptiles by observing and touching our education animals.

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps or closed-toe shoes. Otherwise, comfortable inside and outside clothing.

Additional Info: Limited for groups with less than 50 students.

7. SEA TURTLES (1 hour)

Introduction to the life cycle of sea turtles. Topics include: Sea turtle life cycle, types of sea turtles, conservation, threats, bio-facts, and sea turtle facts.

Methods: Students will get to view our sea turtle, play sea turtle related games and learn how they can help protect sea turtles.

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps or closed-toe shoes. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

8. SALT MARSH ECOLOGY

Introduction to Georgia's salt marshes.

Topics include: Zones of the salt marsh, plankton identification, tides, functions of wetlands, living shorelines, trophic levels, and identifying native plant and animal species.

Methods: Students apply what they learn by going to the salt marsh and participating in hands-on activities.

What to Wear: Rain/muck boots are required. Boots can be borrowed from our boot wall on-site. Clothes and shoes that can get muddy and wet are strongly suggested.

9. SHARK DISSECTION

Introduction to dissection and fish anatomy.

Age Minimum: 4th Grade

Topics include: Marine vertebrates, fish biology, shark anatomy, the importance of sharks and reasons to dissect.

Methods: Students will learn safe dissection procedures and how unique sharks are through a guided dissection. This is a great advanced dissection class.

Additional Costs: \$6.50 per student (2 students per shark)

What to wear: Required closed toed shoes. Crocs are not considered closed-toed shoes. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

10. SQUID DISSECTION (1 hour)

Introduction to dissections and the life cycle of squids.

Topics include: External and internal anatomy, squid adaptations, squid life cycle, importance of squid and human uses.

Methods: Students will learn dissection procedures and how unique squids are through a guided dissection. This is a great first dissection class.

What to wear: Required closed-toe shoes. Crocs are not considered closed-toed shoes. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

Additional Costs: \$1.00 per student (1 squid per student)