

Volusia County Conservation Lands Outdoor Education Class Schedule 2011-12

Class size limit = 30 students. Grade levels are approximate and flexible.
There is no charge. Not limited to Volusia County residents.

Home School: Email or call to register one month prior to class.

Public and Private Schools: Email or call to discuss educational opportunities and plan a class field trip date. Field trip activities and sites can be selected and modified to suit your travel and curriculum needs.

Please be aware that these are structured classes that are held outside on Volusia County Conservation Lands. Students and adults need to be flexible with weather conditions and other unforeseen challenges of working in the natural world. Bring two important things—your sense of adventure and your sense of humor and we'll have a great experience!

Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management
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Check our website for other outdoor opportunities: www.volusia.org/growth/outreach.htm

| Activity | Date -- Time | Site | Wear | Bring | Overview |
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| Observation Scavenger Hunt/ Create a Hiker Grades K-5 | Thurs., Sept. 1 9:30-11:30 | Lake Beresford Park 2100 Fatio Rd. DeLand | Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes | Water to drink Note: Playground on site for recess afterward. | Introduction to observing the diversity of the natural world through the use of all your senses. Students take a hike and search for different specimens of texture, color and abstract shapes then create a hiker with their discoveries. |

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| <p>Wetland Wet Shoe Hike</p> <p>Grades K- 8</p> | <p>Thurs., Sept. 15</p> <p>9:30-11:30</p> | <p>Hickory Bluff Preserve or Longleaf Pine Preserve</p> <p>(site TBA--depending on water levels)</p> | <p>Old shorts or pants, old shoes or rubber boots</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>The best way to learn about a wetland is to walk through a wetland! Introduction to the wetland world of cypress domes and marshes. Students will hike through mud and ankle deep water to explore the soil, plants and critters of a wetland with our Environmental Specialist, Danielle Ivey.</p> |
| <p>Ant Lunch & Ants For Lunch</p> <p>Grades K-8</p> | <p>Thurs., Oct. 6</p> <p>9:30-11:30</p> | <p>Lyonia Preserve Behind Deltona Library 2150 Eustace Ave. Deltona</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to the ants and ant lions of scrub and their interesting behavior. Students will design and carry-out an ant feeding experiment. Students will observe ant lion larva and their predatory trapping technique.</p> |
| <p>Teeny Tiny Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>Pre-School -K</p> | <p>Thurs., Oct. 20</p> <p>9:30-11:30</p> | <p>Deep Creek Preserve 964 South SR 415 New Smyrna Beach (Samsula area)</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, Sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to microhabitats and the tiny components that they consist of. Students will use small tools to collect tiny specimens on a scavenger hunt then observe them under magnification. They will classify their specimens as animal, vegetable or mineral, organic or inorganic</p> |
| <p>Meet the Florida Scrub Jays at Lyonia Preserve</p> <p>Grades K-12</p> | <p>Thurs., Nov. 10</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Lyonia Preserve Behind Deltona Library 2150 Eustace Ave. Deltona</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, Sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to Lyonia’s precious resident, the federally threatened Florida scrub jay. Students will learn about the biology and life of scrub jays. The procedure for counting and banding them will be demonstrated by our Environmental Specialist, Richard Harris.</p> |

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| <p>Nature Into Art— Christmas Style</p> <p>Grades K–8</p> | <p>Thurs., Dec. 8</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Bicentennial Youth Park 3300 New York Ave. DeLand (one mile east of VC Fairgrounds).</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that can get paint or other fun things on them.</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to using things collected from the natural world to create art. With some instruction, students will be free to use materials and their collections to create several products--a great opportunity to make Christmas gifts for special folks.</p> |
| <p>Signs of Wildlife— Tracks & Scat</p> <p>Grades 3-8</p> | <p>Thurs., Jan. 5</p> <p>9:30-11:30</p> | <p>Longleaf Pine Preserve Service gate entrance, North side of Hwy 44, 300 feet west of Pioneer Trail.</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> <p>Note: No bathroom facilities on site.</p> | <p>Introduction to identifying animal tracks. Introduction to animal scat and its use as a tool for identifying animals in the area. Students will hike and look for tracks of various animals then recreate them through plaster casting.</p> |
| <p>5th Annual Air Potato Round-up</p> <p>Grades K–12 and parents and friends..</p> | <p>Thurs., Jan. 19</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Gemini Springs Park 37 Dirkson Rd., DeBary</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink.</p> <p>Note: Playground on site for recess afterward.</p> | <p>Introduction to invasive exotic plants and the problems they cause. Introduction to the air potato vine. Students will divide into groups and collect air potatoes from infested areas. Collected potatoes will be used for creative activities with an art show as a finale.</p> |
| <p>Geo-Eco Challenge</p> <p>Grades 3-12</p> | <p>Thurs., Feb. 2</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Wiregrass Prairie Preserve 1751 Lopez Rd., Osteen</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes.</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> <p>Note: No bathroom facilities on site.</p> | <p>Challengers will learn to use a GPS to geocache, solve physical and mental challenges through team building skills and learn about ecosystems of the site, plus have a great time!</p> |

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| <p>Art & Science of Soils</p> <p>Grades K-8</p> | <p>Thurs., Feb. 16</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Hickory Bluff Preserve 598 Guise Rd. Osteen</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes that can get muddy.</p> | <p>Water to drink.</p> | <p>Introduction to soil sampling and soil characteristics such as texture, color, and percolation. Students will divide into groups and dig a soil profile then analyze the soil horizons using scientific equipment. Student groups will assemble a comparative test for soil percolation.</p> <p>Students will work with native clay from the site to create a simple product.</p> |
| <p>Prickly Pear Cactus of the Florida Desert</p> <p>Grades K-8</p> | <p>Thurs., Mar. 1</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Lyonia Preserve Behind Deltona Library 2150 Eustace Ave. Deltona</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to the prickly pear cactus—one of the unique plants of Florida scrub. Students will compare cactus to leafy plants and explore the parts of cactus through dissection and magnification. They will discover plant adaptations that make this cactus a “cool” Florida desert plant.</p> |
| <p>Flower Power</p> <p>Gr. 3-8</p> | <p>Thurs., Mar. 15</p> <p>9:30-11:30</p> | <p>Bicentennial Youth Park 3300 New York Ave. DeLand (one mile east of VC Fairgrounds)</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to the wondrous and diverse blooms of plants. Students will observe and dissect flowers to examine and understand their parts and how they develop fruit with seeds. They may bring examples of their own if they have them.</p> |
| <p>Insect Recyclers— Bugs of Decomposition</p> <p>Grades K-6</p> | <p>Thurs., Apr. 5</p> <p>9:30-11:30</p> | <p>Hickory Bluff Preserve 598 Guise Rd., Osteen</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, walking or hiking shoes.</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Did you know that insects eat dead stuff? Did you ever wonder what would happen if they didn't?</p> <p>Observe the insects of plant and animal decomposition in action and discover what adaptations they have that make them specialists in their job.</p> |

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| <p>Poetry of the Woods Grades K-8</p> | <p>Thurs., Apr. 19 9:30 –11:30</p> | <p>Wiregrass Prairie Preserve 1751 Lopez Rd., Osteen</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, walking or hiking shoes.</p> | <p>Water to drink Note: No bathroom facilities on site.</p> | <p>Near a tree Around a wetland Take time to Unweave your observations and Rearrange them into Expressive poetic words</p> |
| <p>Water Quality Testing Grads 3-8</p> | <p>Thurs., May 3 9:30 – 11:30</p> | <p>Lake Ashby Park 4150 Boy Scout Camp Rd. New Smyrna Beach (Samsula area)</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that match the weather, sneakers or hiking shoes.</p> | <p>Water to drink Note: Playground on site for recess afterwards.</p> | <p>Introduction to testing the physical and chemical properties of water. Students will use scientific equipment to test Lake Ashby water temperature, transparency, pH, and conductivity along with weather conditions.</p> |
| <p>Mollusks and Their Shells All Ages</p> | <p>To be announced</p> | <p>Smyrna Dunes Park 2995 N. Peninsula Dr. New Smyrna Beach</p> | <p>Comfortable clothes that can go ankle deep in water, sandals or water shoes.</p> | <p>Water to drink</p> | <p>Introduction to mollusks, where they live and how they live and the beautiful shells that they create. A mollusk expert will lead a wading hike along the shoreline to search for and identify these diverse critters.</p> |