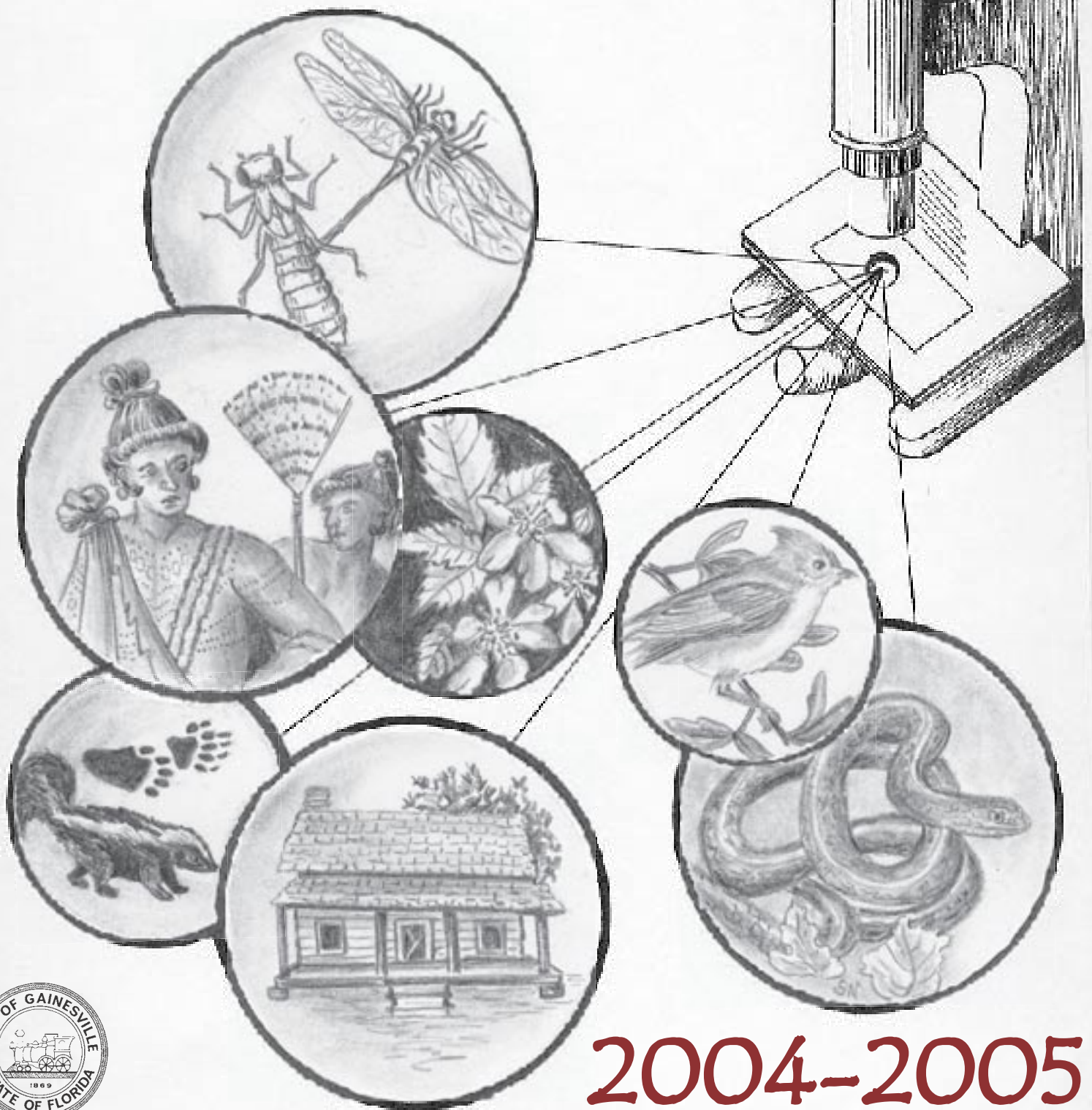


# Natural History and Human Ecology Programs in Gainesville's Nature Parks



## 2004-2005

Nature Operations Division, Recreation and Parks Department, City of Gainesville

# Curriculum Enrichment Programs

Nature Operations Division can offer your class or group many options for programs in our parks or in your facility. Our curriculum Enrichment Programs target grade levels to help you meet the Sunshine State Standards, but they are also flexible and can be adapted to different age ranges. Let us know what we can do for you!

Programs marked with an \* can be brought to any school.

Programs are designed for 30 students with a minimum charge for 15.

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## A Farm Adventure

(Pre-School) \$3.00 per participant

Visit Grandma's Farm as it was at the last half of the 19th century. Students walk through the garden, visit the cabin and kitchen, and tour the barnyard while discussing 1870's life. Emphasis is placed on the differences and similarities between objects from yesterday and today, as well as, the importance of items found on the farm. Vocabulary stresses the names of objects and animals, as well as descriptive terms associated with color, smell and texture.

Length: 1 hour

SSS: Language Arts, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, The Arts



## \*Sensing Nature

(Kindergarten) \$4.00 per participant

Discover the wonders of nature through the senses of touch, sight, smell and hearing. While rotating through five stations, students will use their 5 senses to learn how different animals survive in nature. Activities will include using the sense of smell to locate food, identifying objects in nature using only your hands, and using special goggles to simulate how some birds view the world. Emphasis is on descriptive vocabulary for concepts such as pattern, texture, smell and color.

Length: 75 minutes

SSS: Language Arts, Physical Education, Science

## \*Critter Connections

(1<sup>st</sup> Grade) \$4.00 per participant

Bats, birds, and bugs - Oh My! Through a series of sorting and grouping activities students will develop classification skills. In addition students will observe live and preserved specimens. Emphasis is on identifying the characteristics which distinguish mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish from each other and from insects and other invertebrates.

Length: 75 minutes

SSS: Language Arts, Science, The Arts

## \*Animal Homes

(2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) \$4.00 per participant

Investigate the basic needs of animals. Then review the characteristics and physical adaptations of animals by observing living and preserved specimens. Students work in groups to construct homes for particular animals which will illustrate their interactions with plants and introduce the idea of a food chain. Activities stress the need and reason for food, water, shelter and space.

Length: 75 minutes

SSS: Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, The Arts



For More information call (352) 334-3328 or email [releader@natureoperations.org](mailto:releader@natureoperations.org) or visit [www.natureoperations.org](http://www.natureoperations.org) Register with the Program Request Form on the Last Page of this guide.

# In Gainesville's Nature Parks

## Aquatic Encounter

(3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) \$4.00 per participant

Examine an aquatic environment and the adaptations made by plants and animals associated with this environment. Students rotate between two stations, one focusing on the environment's characteristics using field instruments such as thermometers, pH meters and a secchi disk. The second group takes an up-close look at aquatic organisms using equipment such as dip nets, magnifying glasses and illustrated guides. Emphasis is on vocabulary associated with habitat, adaptations of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms, and field measurements.

\* Program held in another nature park

Length: 2 hours

SSS: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

## Native American Life in Early Florida

(4<sup>th</sup> Grade) \$5.00 per participant

Explore the history and culture of an early Native American culture living in our area – the Timucua-speaking Potano people. Learn how they effectively used the resources available to them in a way that gave them all they needed. Students will rotate among three stations of approximately 1 hour each, learning about crafts, such as fibers and pottery, foods and cooking methods and edible and medicinal plants.

Length: 3 hours

SSS: Foreign Language, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, The Arts



## Exploring Florida's Environments

(3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) \$4.00 per participant

Hike into three different ecosystems to introduce the communities found at Morningside. Learn to recognize some typical plants of each community and do simple field tests to identify the factors that distinguish these areas. Students will have an opportunity discuss the adaptations that make an animal suitable for living in a specific community. Students will be provided with simple plant id guides to help them determine whether they are in Sandhill, Pine Flatwoods, or Cypress Dome community.

Length: 75 minutes

SSS: Language Arts, Science

## Farm Life in the Nineteenth Century

(5<sup>th</sup> Grade) \$5.00 per participant

Experience a day in the life of a Florida farm family of the late 19th century. Students, dressed in period attire, relive elements of a rural lifestyle as they experience how to cultivate a garden, bake in a wood-fueled stove, work with traditional hand tools

and care for farm animals. Classes will divide into groups to do the daily chores of the farm. Vocabulary stresses the names of farm tools, animal care and identification, nutrient cycling and composting. Sepia toned group photo included.

Length: 3 hours

SSS: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, The Arts

\*Program can be brought to your school or facility! (There will be a mileage fee for out-of-county schools.) Register with the Program Request Form on the Last Page of this guide.



# Outreach Traveling Programs

In addition to the programs marked with an \* on page 2, we offer several traveling programs. Traveling programs are flexible and can be adapted for a variety of ages from pre-school to adult. The length of each traveling program is 1 hour. An additional fee will be charged for out of county mileage. Minimum fee for 15 participants. Register with the Program Request Form on the Last Page of this guide.

## NEW! Critter Curiosity Lab \$2.50/participant

Parts are parts, until you find out who they belong to and what they are used for. A touch table and discovery approach will turn our critter inventory into critter inquiry!

## NEW! The Stream Scene \$2.50/participant

Stream characteristics and inhabitants come alive on a photo guided stream tour. After the tour, we'll play in a stream and experience the tragedies of pollution in rivers and streams.



## NEW! Fire Ecology \$2.50/participant

Fire is fantastic... or at least it can be when it is used to maintain and restore Florida's natural communities. Find out about fire ecology and plant and animal adaptations and responses to fire in the program where we discover what's really hot in Florida.

## Snakes, Lizards and Toads, Oh My! \$2.50/participant

Get up Close and Personal with a variety of living and preserved reptiles and amphibians native to Florida. Learn what makes these two groups unique and yet similar in some strange ways.

## SENSEsational Science \$2.50/participant

Discover the characteristics of sound waves and how they are transmitted, the difference between the human visible spectrum and that of other animals, and how "seeing isn't always believing" can help animals in their environment.

## Things That Go Bump in the Night \$2.50/participant

Hear a howling at the window? A patter on the porch? Sounds in the night aren't really scary at all. We'll introduce you to the creatures that make these sounds and some fun facts about them. The dark won't seem so intimidating anymore.



## Slither, Slide, Soar- Mechanics of Animal Motion \$2.50/participant

Curious about what makes rabbits run or lizards leap? Through simple demonstrations we'll explore Laws of Motion and how animals are adapted to use these natural Laws to their advantage.

# Planning Your Program

## RESERVATIONS

Please complete the School Program Request Form on the last page of this guide and return to Morningside either by truck mail, regular mail, or fax.

## CONFIRMATIONS

We require a completed Program Request Form before we can confirm your program. Reservations are on a first-come first-served basis, but we will do our best to accommodate your requests. We will send you a written confirmation after we receive your Program Request Form. A confirmation packet will be sent approximately 4 weeks prior to your scheduled date which will include pre and post-trip information as well as a curriculum guide detailing your program.

## CHAPERONES

**The fees will be waived for one adult chaperone/teacher for every 5 students.** All additional teachers/chaperones are charged at the student rate. Chaperones are responsible for managing discipline, conduct, and safety of their group.

## DETAILS

FOM Bus scholarships may be requested, in writing, by SBAC Schools. Please request details when reserving a program at 334-3328. **We can accommodate two 75 minute classes per morning: if you have more than the 30 students maximum allowed, we will schedule them in smaller groups.**

**If you need to cancel, please let us know so we can make your slot available to other groups. You will be charged for programs if you fail to show for your program without prior notification.**

Souvenir bags will be available for the Farm Life and Native American Life Programs containing items related to the program for \$4.00 each if your students would like to purchase them. This is a great way to offer a souvenir and make sure that everyone gets the same thing. Please let us know if you are interested in this option and we will have them ready for your class.

## PROGRAMS

Our science classes use our nature parks, preserved and live animals, and laboratory equipment in a hands-on approach. Our human ecology classes also use direct participation and actual artifacts or authentic reproductions of tools, techniques, foods, and other items pertinent to the programs. Our programs are suggested for specific grade levels but are often adapted for other groups such as: other grade levels, home schools, private schools, scout groups or other organizations.



These programs were designed using the Science Curriculum Objectives of the School Board of Alachua County and the Sunshine State Standards. Programs are multi-disciplinary and provide lessons in respect for living things as well as augmenting specific subject-oriented objectives. All programs are self-supporting and fees cover materials and instructor salaries.

# Other Events at Morningside

## *Earth Academy Day Camps*

Kids can have fun during winter, spring, and summer break at our educational day camps. High quality hands-on learning in science and cultural history based camps.

## *Living History Days*

Every Saturday Sep.-June our 1870's Living History Farm is Open with staff in period dress interpreting day to day life on a Florida farm. Sample homemade biscuits cooked on the woodstove and fresh butter. Help feed the farm animals at 9:00 am and 3:00 pm daily.

## *Fall and Spring Native Plant Sales*

Largest Native Plant Sales in North Florida! Thousands of easy-care ferns, grasses, palms, shrubs, trees, and wildflowers to choose from! Each Fall and Spring.

## *Jean Dornzy Memorial Fall Wildflower Walks*

A free Naturalist Guided Wildflower Walk will be held the every Saturday morning in October from 8-10am, featuring our spectacular fall wildflower bloom. The walk will include enough basic botany for you to identify plants in the future.

## *Annual Cane Boil*

Join our 1870's Living History Farm costumed staff as they cut, press, and boil sugar cane juice into syrup while interpreting day to day life on a Florida farm. Sample our syrup with homemade biscuits or cornbread cooked on the woodstove. Fresh syrup will be available for sale while supplies last. Last Saturday in November.

## **THE GREAT AIR POTATO ROUNDUP**

Join hundreds of volunteers to take back Gainesville's natural areas from invasive exotic species! Modeled after a litter cleanup, we will instead be picking up air potatoes and other exotics by the bushel. After potato picking, join us at Morningside for the post celebration. Great fun for clubs, groups, troops, and families.

## **FARM & FOREST FESTIVAL**

See last page for more details on our Special School Days for Farm and Forest Festival.

## **Florida Master Naturalist Program**

Teachers can join us for these adult environmental education courses that can earn you 40 continuing education credits. The Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats modules are each 40 hours of formal and field learning aimed at helping you share this knowledge with others.

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Other Programs are offered throughout the Year, many Free and designed for families, kids, and adults. Visit [www.natureoperations.org](http://www.natureoperations.org) for more information!

# Program Request Form

Return this form to: School Program Coordinator, Morningside Nature Center  
3540 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32641

Or fax to (352) 334-2248

Make checks payable to: "City of Gainesville" and send in advance or bring to your program.

**This form MUST be sent in to confirm telephone registration requests.**

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach you at school: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of students: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of classes this represents: \_\_\_\_\_

ALL PARTICIPATING TEACHERS MUST BE LISTED WITH THEIR CLASS SIZE:

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates: Please list your first choice with two possible alternatives.** Please also list the time that you intend to arrive. If requesting more than one date, please list all dates. We will contact you to discuss dates if those that you requested are not available.

<i>Date Requested</i>	<i>Arrival Time</i>	<i>Alternative Date 1</i>	<i>Alternative Date 2</i>	<i>Teacher(s)</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

By signing this program request, you release pictures taken of your class for use in Morningside publicity.

For Office Use Only:	Received: _____	Confirmed: _____	Materials: _____
	Paid: _____	Students: _____	Adults: _____
	Date Paid: _____	Receipt #: _____	Check #: _____
	Note: _____		

## FARM & FOREST FESTIVAL SCHOOL DAYS ARE COMING !

Our 27th annual Farm & Forest Festival, North Florida's EDUCATIONAL historical reenactment, kicks off with SCHOOL DAYS on Thursday, April 28th & Friday, April 29th, 2005. At the Festival, students learn about life in North Central Florida during the mid-to-late 1800s at our Living History Farm. Students will view live historic-breed farm animals, hear period-authentic music, observe traditional crafts such as basketry, blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, soap making, and wood stove cooking, practiced by period-clothed demonstrators. The Living History Farm will be fragrant with the smells of old-time Southern cooking and joyous with the sounds of children playing in traditional ways. Three horse-drawn wagons are available to take your class along an interpreted trail through the Morningside woods. Four-Page Teacher's Guide is mailed to you upon receipt of your registration. Admission is 1/2 off regular admission prices of \$5 for adults, \$3 for children for all preregistered classes. At teacher's request, attendance is limited to 1,200 TOTAL each school day. Please request a school day flyer and registration form from Morningside by calling (352) 334-3328.



Morningside Nature Center  
3540 East University Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32641

Nature Operations Division  
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