

Trout Lake Nature Center Field Experience Descriptions

The Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) offers 2 - 3 hour hands-on field experiences for your students that are correlated to grade-level standards. The TLNC experience can be used as an introduction or follow-up to important concepts you will teach during the school year.

Cost: \$7 per student, no charge for teachers or chaperones riding the bus. Arrive by 10:00 AM, depart by 1:30 PM. TLNC also has a \$5/vehicle entry fee for anyone driving their own car, there is no additional charge for the bus.

Student/Teacher Ratio: It is important to TLNC that each child has a quality learning experience when visiting TLNC. Therefore, we limit the number of students coming on each field trip. Each day is limited to no more than 50 students or three classes. If you are bringing more than 50 students, they will need to be scheduled across multiple days.

All visiting groups are broken into 3-4 smaller learning groups and we require at least one adult to chaperone each learning group throughout the day. TLNC observes the 1 to 10 ratio of teachers or chaperones to students enforced by the Lake County School District for field trips. Our educational programs cannot accommodate additional siblings, please have chaperones plan accordingly.

To Schedule a Field Trip: contact Shannon Lusk at 352-357-7536 or tlnc.info@gmail.com.

Busing Funding: Limited grant funds may be available to offset your busing costs. They will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you wish to receive funds, you must submit a TLNC School Busing Grant Application once your trip is scheduled.

Grade-Level Focus Areas

PreK — Real and Living: Students will understand what animals need to survive in the forest and the signs they leave behind for us to discover. They will also learn the difference between real and unreal, living and non-living things using puppets, wildlife mounts, and education animals. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**.

Kindergarten — Organization and Development of Living Things: Students will observe plants and animals and describe how they are alike and how they are different. Students will learn about predator-prey relationships, and how different animals respond to stress. Students will recognize that some books and other media portray animals and plants with characteristics and behaviors they do not have in real life. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**.

First Grade — Plants: Students will develop a basic understanding of the life cycle of plants and trees, and what role the sun and water play in the life of a plant. A tree is a living thing making its own food (using the sun's energy) and providing food, shelter and other materials to animals and people. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**.

Second Grade — Interdependence: Students will understand that all living things have basic needs that must be met for survival. Living things are found all over, under, and above Earth, but each is only able to live in habitats that meet its basic needs. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**.

Third Grade — Classifying Invertebrates and Vertebrates: Students learn to classify animals into major groups, including vertebrates and invertebrates. Students will also look at physical characteristics and behaviors such as body coverings, warm and cold bloodedness, and physical size. This focus area typically starts with an activity done as a large group then splits into **3 learning groups**.

Fourth Grade — Interdependence/Heredity: Students will learn how plants and animals are interdependent and how they and humans can impact the environment. Using Florida panthers, students learn about heredity and reproduction. This focus area typically has **3 learning groups**.

Fifth Grade — Weather: Students will learn about the different weather instruments used to measure or predict the weather. They will learn how to make various weather observations and collect weather data. Students will learn about four types of clouds (cumulus, cirrus, stratus and cumulonimbus) as they relate to weather. This focus area typically has **3 learning groups**.

Special Program Focus Areas

Birds: Students learn about the different types of food different bird species use, how birds are able to fly (Bernoulli's Principle), bird nests and why eggs are shaped as they are. This focus area typically has **3 learning groups**.

Bugged Out: Through discovering spider senses, students learn how these senses are used to detect food or a friend through a spider web game. They take a bug safari on the trails and learn what types of ecosystem each spider inhabits. Spiders come in all shapes and sizes, students learn about the many spider adaptations that help them survive. Each student also learns how spiders produce silk and spin a web of their own. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**. (Note: Spiders are more easily found from September - November.)

Hoppin' Around: Frogs are indicators of environmental health and students learn about factors that are contributing to their decline. They learn how sound is used by frogs to find each other and take a hike to find frogs. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**.

The Bear Facts: Bears are common in Central Florida and students should learn about this magnificent native carnivore and predator. Through an educational game, students learn what a bear eats and needs to survive in Florida. Students travel the TLNC trails finding items that a bear would use to survive. Students conduct a discussion on what all living things need to survive and a bear's specific needs. Through examining bear artifacts such as skulls, claws, scat, and more, students learn about bear adaptations or characteristics that make them such good survivors in Florida habitats. This focus area typically has **4 learning groups**.

What Lies Beneath — Our Floridan Aquifer: Students investigate the Floridan aquifer using a groundwater model. This model helps students understand how groundwater moves, springs flow and pollution travels underground. They learn about the soils of Lake County and perform percolation tests. In addition, they test the waters of Trout Lake to determine what can live there. This focus area typically has **3 learning groups**.

Wondrous Watersheds: Using an augmented-reality watershed model, students learn about watershed functions, point and non-point pollution and best management practices or BMPs to protect our surface water. Students assemble a watershed floor puzzle and assume the role of home and business owners in our watersheds. In addition, they test the waters of Trout Lake using test strips and macro invertebrates to determine what can live there. This focus area typically has **3 learning groups**.

Water World: Students examine and record the macroinvertebrates found in Trout Lake. By traveling back in history, students complete an activity that teaches about the value of water and the difficulties encountered by early settlers in obtaining water. Students will also learn how multiple users of water resources can affect water quality and quantity. This focus area typically has **3 learning groups**.