



2023 On-Your-Own Educator Guide

Inspire curiosity, share discoveries and engage in science with an on-your-own field trip to Warner Park Nature Center.

Warner Park Nature Center 7311 Highway 100 Nashville, Tennessee 37221
615-862-8555 wpnc.nashville.gov wpnc@nashville.gov

Step One: Request Your Field Trip

All groups wishing to visit the pond, garden and museum -- including homeschool, scout, parenting and other organized groups -- should contact the Nature Center at wpnc@nashville.gov to request an on-your-own gathering or field trip.

Remember:

- Organized group visits to the Nature Center campus can occur once per season (fall, winter, spring). If you wish to have regular visits to Warner Park with your group, contact Cammie.Claybrook@nashville.gov.
- The Nature Center porches, the Program Shelter by the pond and the Amphitheater are **non-reservable spaces** and unavailable for exclusive use by the public or any organized group.
- Group picnicking is not allowed on the Nature Center porch or campus. Please call 615-862-8408 to reserve a shelter if you wish to picnic with your group.



To request an on-your-own field trip, email wpnc@nashville.gov

Your field trip request email must contain:

- School name & address
- Contact teacher's name, email and phone number
- Grade level of students
- Number of classes and approximate # of students per class
- Date and time, & alternate dates and times

Step Two: Download Suggested Educational Activities

These activities focus on encouraging observation, questioning, discussion and making explanations based on evidence. Suggested activities are adaptable for most age-ranges and you can tailor them for any variety of natural phenomena or science focus.

beetlesproject.org/resources/for-field-instructors

BEETLES is a student-centered approach to practicing science and learning concepts. After opening the website, select "exploration routines" and start with I notice, I wonder, It reminds me of and Discovery Swap.

johnmuirlaws.com/journaling-curriculum

Opening the World Through Nature Journaling has some excellent activities that help students make accurate observations that lead ultimately to great questions and a much deeper understanding of concepts.



Step Three: Review and Respect the Rules

During your field trip, please:

- Divide your students into groups of 15 or fewer and have a plan to rotate through the museum, pond and garden
- Share the space with other families and visitors that are also exploring the pond, garden and museum.
- Remember that the Nature Center porches, Program Shelter by the pond and Amphitheater are non-reservable spaces and unavailable for exclusive use by the public or organized groups.



Specific Nature Center Campus Rules:

In the museum, DO use your walking feet and inside voices, DO be gentle with exhibits and DO keep food and drinks outside. DON'T climb exhibits.

At the pond, DO lay on your stomach when at the pond edge, but DON'T go past the fence at the pond. Pay attention to the Protected Area signs and to seasonal signs about how to engage with live animals.

In the Garden, DO touch and feel plants in the garden, but DON'T pick the produce or flowers.

At the creek, DO look carefully under rocks for aquatic creatures, but DON'T leave rocks stacked above the water .

At the bird feeders, DO observe the birds closely but DON'T enter the feeding areas.

General Metro Parks Rules:

Do...

Treat all plants and animals with respect and observe from a distance.

Leash and clean up after your dog.

Stay on sidewalks and designated trails.

Supervise children at all times.

Make picnic shelter reservations if you want to have lunch in the park.

Pack out any trash or recycling.

Take only photographs, leave only footprints.

Don't...

Remove or collect plants, animals, fungi, fossils or other natural or cultural artifacts.

Walk off trail, through garden beds, or create cut-throughs.

Allow dogs off leash at any time (except in the Dog Park).

Allow children to play and explore unsupervised at any time.

Park on the grass or undesignated parking areas.