

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Natural and Historical School Programs

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary is a 734-acre nature preserve located in southern Fayette county. Ten miles of trails provide access to forests, meadows and several 19th century historical sites.

The Sanctuary offers **FREE** outdoor programs for school groups. In addition to those offered below, we would be glad to create new programs to meet your teaching requirements.



All programs are constructed integrating:
The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

In addition we support the important points outlined in
The Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan

- Significant childhood experiences in the outdoors, in addition to knowledge, moves a student from awareness to stewardship.
- Environmental learning includes the integration of science with other study areas such as social sciences, art and math.

To schedule a program, please contact
Michael Downs at (859) 272-6105 or cdowns@lexingtonky.gov

Biodiversity and Adaptations

Utilizing the incredible biodiversity of the Sanctuary, students explore meadows and forests to learn how native Kentucky organisms adapt to each system. These Programs can be done with a general examination of plants and animals or an emphasis on insects, wildflowers or trees.

Core Standards emphasized in this program include:

- Exploring the needs of plants and animals living in Kentucky's native ecosystems
- Examination of adaptations (dispersal, pollination, life cycles, structures, behaviors, etc.)
- An examination of the great biodiversity of Kentucky
- Understanding the relationships between organisms

Fossils of the Bluegrass

This program includes an indoor examination of Bluegrass fossils and information on fossil sites across the state. During a guided hike, participants learn about historical use of rocks and search for fossils along our trails.

Core Standards emphasized in this program include:

- Fossil evidence of organisms and their relation to prehistoric environments
- Examination of fossils that document the diversity, extinction, and change of organisms through time
- How similarities and differences between modern and fossil organisms demonstrate evolutionary relationships

Bluegrass History

Students explore a preserved historical homestead and graveyard to learn how people lived and affected the landscape in the early 19th century. Information and museum materials from recent on-site archeological investigations will give participants an understanding of Native American and European interactions over the last 3000 years.

Core Standards emphasized in this program include:

- Historical perspectives toward the landscape
- History of Kentucky
- Examination of actual materials to understand historical events