

Explore More

PreK – 5th Grade Field Investigations in Seattle parks



Bringing science, environmental education, and experiential learning to your parks. Seattle Parks and Recreation Environmental Education staff provide opportunities for PreK – 5th grade and organized groups such as scouts and summer camps, to experience age-appropriate, hands-on learning experiences in natural communities near your school.

\$150 for up to 30 students, \$5/student after the first 30

Scholarships Available

Free bus transportation available for Title 1 schools

Programs are offered Monday – Friday am and pm

K-5 programs - two hours

PreK programs - 1.5 hours

For more information and to schedule school programs:
Call (206) 684-0877 or email PKSNatureFieldTrips@seattle.gov

Preschool and Kindergarten Programs

Forest (All Seasons)

Camp Long, Discovery Park and many Seattle parks have rich forest habitats to explore. Venture through the trees looking for clues to animal habits, hiding places, and seasonal happenings. Forest programs empower participants to feel comfortable in the outdoors.



Ponds (Spring and Summer)

Experience the freshwater habitats at Camp Long or Discovery Park. Waddling ducks, wriggling tadpoles, and dancing dragonflies are some of the creatures we may see as we explore these special places.

Insects (Spring, Summer and Fall)

Insects are the keystone species for all habitats. This hands-on program emphasizes Social and Emotional learning as well as interconnections and adaptations.

Beaches (Spring and Summer)

Search for the hard and soft, the quick and slow, and all the colors of the intertidal community at Discovery Park, Carkeek Park or West Seattle beaches. Students experience a unique habitat in a hands-on manner that inspires curiosity, stewardship, and learning. Please note that scheduling for this program is dependent on tide times.

Spiders (Fall)

Weaving webs, waiting, stalking, and pouncing: delve into a micro-world as we search for and observe spiders. Discover beautiful and fascinating spiders as we explore fields and forests. Learn web construction and spider anatomy. Spider programs allow participants to explore the natural world in a safe, hands-on manner that inspires stewardship and appreciation.



Grades First – Fifth Programs

Forest (All Seasons)

The Pacific Northwest is famous for its evergreen forests. Explore forests and the wildlife that thrive in them, at Discovery Park, Camp Long or a forested parkland near your school. This field program is an exciting, hands-on way to teach participants about forest stewardship, interdependence, the cycles of nature, and native plants.

NGSS:

LS1A Structure and Function
LS1B Growth and Development of Organisms
LS2A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
LS4D Biodiversity and Humans
LS1A Structure and Function
ESS3A Natural Resources

Insects (Spring, Summer and Fall)

Insects are the keystone species for all habitats. This hands-on program emphasizes Social and Emotional learning as well as interconnections and adaptations.

NGSS

LS1A Structure and Function
LS1B Growth and Development of Organisms
LS2A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
LS2B Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
LS4C Adaptations
LS4D Biodiversity and Humans

Ponds (Spring and Summer)

Experience the freshwater habitats of Camp Long or Discovery Park. Delve into the world of invertebrates and the magic of metamorphosis. Water quality and habitat essentials are explored along with the experience of seeing pond animals up close.

NGSS

LS1A Structure and Function
LS1B Growth and Development of Organisms
LS2A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
LS2B Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
LS4C Adaptation
LS4D Biodiversity and Humans

Beaches (Spring and Summer)

Explore the saltwater beaches of Puget Sound at Discovery Park, Carkeek Park, or West Seattle beaches during low tide. Learn to find, touch, and handle, gently and safely, the unusual life forms that live between the tides. Discover the challenges of life in the tide zone. Students experience a unique habitat in a hands-on manner that inspires curiosity, stewardship, and learning. Please note that scheduling for this program is dependent on tide times.

NGSS

LS1A Structure and Function
LS1B Growth and Development of Organisms
LS2A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
LS2B Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
LS2D Social Interaction and Group Behavior
LS4C Adaptation
PS2A Forces and Motion
PS4A Wave Properties 1st, 4th, HS11th, HS12th
ESS2C The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes

Spiders (Fall)

Spiders are a fascinating group of animals with a bad reputation. Investigate spider characteristics and how their adaptations help humans to survive. Search for different types of spiders. Observe how spiders catch their food and their important role in the ecosystem. Participants explore nature and the lives of spiders in an experiential manner that inspires respect, stewardship, and curiosity.

NGSS

LS1A Structure and Function
LS1B Growth and Development of Organisms
LS1C Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms
LS2A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
LS1C Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms
LS2A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
LS2B Cycles of Matter and Energy
LS3A Inheritance of Traits
LS3B Variation of Traits
LS4A Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity
LS4B Natural Selection
LS4C Adaptation