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**Ecosystem Exploration – Second Grade Earth, Sea, and Sky**

We are looking forward to your visit to Acadia National Park which will provide your students with a special opportunity to hike along a portion of a nature trail and learn about the earth’s landforms and the processes that shaped them. This trail is considered easy overall; however, some of the trail has very rugged rocky uneven areas. It is around 1.2 miles long.

Note that students will NOT be in the water/mud/tidepool areas during this program.

Plan a restroom break just before departing school. If you have any questions about the program in advance please call the education office at 288-8823, or 288-8825 on the day of the program. If you will be more than 15 minutes late, please call the Visitor Center at 288-8832 so that they can contact the ranger by radio.

IMPORTANT NOTE! This program takes place along a nature trail. There is only one vault/pit toilet here (and no water fountain). You MUST inform Lead Ranger Michael Marion before your field trip if you will choose Option 1 or Option 2 below. Option 2 allows for a bathroom break with more facilities at a nearby picnic area.

OPTION 1: Meet at trailhead (best for groups w/ less than ~12 participants and/or are very close by)

Meet your rangers at 9:00am at the trailhead parking area. Rangers will be there to help manage parking. We will welcome the group, have a bathroom break (note there is only one toilet), and then begin the program. Remember that there’s not a water fountain here.

9:00 Welcome and bathroom break at trailhead

9:15 Hike trail. There will be a snack break during the program.

10:45 Bathroom Break

11:00 Depart trail

## OPTION 2: Meet at Seawall Picnic Area for a pre-program bathroom break

(Best for groups with more than ~12 participants)

Meet your rangers at 9:00am at Seawall Picnic Area for a welcome and bathroom break, as there are multiple facilities here. Then, rangers will escort the bus to the trailhead (~5 minute drive) for the program. After the program, groups can drive back to the Seawall Picnic Area for a bathroom break if they choose to. Remember there’s only 1 toilet at the trail.

9:00 Meet Rangers at Seawall Picnic Area for welcome and bathroom break. Then drive to trail.

9:30 Hike the trail. There will be a snack break during the program.

11:00 Farewell to rangers and depart. Drive to Seawall Picnic Area for bathroom break if needed.

11:30 Depart Seawall Picnic Area or stay and eat lunch, if applicable.

Plan to Bring

* **Chaperones**: Plan early! Acadia requires a chaperone for every ten students. Extra chaperones are welcome.
* **Food**: A water fountain is available at Seawall Picnic Area, but not at the program site. Also, there will be no food or drinks to purchase. Each student needs to bring a snack and a re-sealable drink. Although a lunch break will not be included in the program, you are welcome to plan to eat your bag lunches at Seawall Picnic Area before heading back to school.
* **Clothing**: Wear layered outdoor clothing to accommodate changing weather conditions. Supportive shoes are essential—no sandals or flip-flops. It’s best to wear pants instead of shorts for extra tick protection.
* **Nametags:** Students and adults need name tags. A piece of masking tape with the name in marker is sufficient.
* **Signed photo release forms:** Please send photo releases home with students for parent signatures.

# **Teachers’ Responsibilities**

* Prepare students for the program by utilizing suggested classroom activities or your own.
* Adherence to school procedures such as permission slips, insurance, transportation, etc.
* Recruit chaperones and inform them of their responsibilities. Please photocopy and distribute the chaperone handout.
* Prepare students to follow Leave No Trace practices:
  + Stay on trails if possible.
  + Respect, listen, and use quiet voices.
  + Leave all natural objects. Take trash with you. (You may want to bring a trash bag.)
* Supervise students and help them stay focused while on the program.
* Notify trip participants about the recommendation to check for ticks after visiting the park. Tick numbers here have risen in recent years.
* Ensuring that safe practices are followed throughout

# **Program Goals:**

* To provide an opportunity for students to connect to the resources of Acadia through sensory exploration and discovery
* To increase students’ understanding of landforms and the natural forces that help shape them
* To increase students’ understanding of weathering and erosion
* To foster a sense of respect and stewardship for Acadia and the environment

# **Program Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

* Identify several landforms.
* Describe one way the earth’s surface may change slowly or quickly.
* Identify forms of weathering and erosion
* Sketch different landforms and bodies of water.

# **Learning Standards:**

Next Generation Science Standards:

Structures and Properties of Matter; Earth’s Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth

2-PS1-1 Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties

2-PS1-3 Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how and object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object.

2-PS1-4 Construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot

2-ESS1-1 Use information from several sources to provide evidence that earth events can occur quickly and slowly

2-ESS2-1 Compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land

2-ESS2-2 Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.

2-ESS2-3 Obtain information to identify where water is found on earth and that it can be solid or liquid.

Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Speaking and Listening (Comprehension and Collaboration)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.3 Ask and answer questions in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of topic or issue.