



# Educational Programs



The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area strives to help educate people of all ages to the park and its resources. We offer curriculum-based programming, free of charge, to school groups (including home schoolers), those with special needs, scout groups, and other organized educational groups of fifteen or more.

Programs are presented either at your school or at the park. For in-class programs, staff can accommodate several classes in a day (to meet the needs of a grade group). For field studies, staff can accommodate two classes/program/day. Two field study programs can be combined to enrich your field experience.

For more information or to register for a program, please contact the park's education coordinator, Marjorie Thomas, at 678-538-1243 or the park's information number at 678-538-1200.

# Creative Classrooms

## Fur, Feathers, and Scales

Kindergarten

**30 - 45 minute duration**

Students compare and contrast living and non-living things through explorations with skins and shells of reptiles, birds, and mammals. Items are grouped to encourage use of the senses. Learning is reinforced through movement and song.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SKL1 and SKL2**



## Regions of Georgia

Second and Third Grades

**45 minute duration**

Through this program, students will better understand the characteristics of Georgia's geographic regions, as well as understand the relationship of these regions to the rest of the United States.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SS2G1 and S3L1**

## Chattahoochee

### H<sub>2</sub>O Charades

Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade

**30 to 45 minute duration**

Children explore the importance of water for people, animals, and plants. Using hands-on activities, song, dance, and role-play the students discover the importance of water to all living things and of the importance of the Chattahoochee River to their lives.

**Georgia Performance Standards: S1L1a.b**

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[Children's stress levels fall within minutes of seeing green spaces.](#)

Frances E. Kuo and  
Andrea Fabor Taylor

*American Journal of Public Health*

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## Leave No Trace

Third Grade

High School

**45 minute duration**

A park ranger will meet with students in the classroom to discuss the importance of environmental stewardship. The park ranger will provide a presentation about how people of all ages can help protect the natural environment and enjoy scenic and wild places while participating in physical activity and engaging with their communities. This program will include an activity from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

**Georgia Performance Standards: S3L2, SEV5, PEHS.5, and PEHS.6**

*These programs are presented in the classroom or other suitable location.*

## **The National Park Service!**

**What does it mean to you?**

**Fourth Grade**

**One hour duration**

This program is designed to help students understand the National Park Service — who we are, what we do, and why. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by becoming land managers, creating their own national park on paper, then sharing their work with their peers through an oral presentation.

**Georgia Performance Standards: ELAW1, ELAW2, LSV1, and LSV2**



## **Grow and Change, Animal Life Cycles**

**Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Grade**

**30 to 45 minute duration**

Children explore the life cycles of familiar wildlife and understand that things grow and change. Using hands-on activities, song, dance, and role-play the students will discover the life cycles/stages of frogs and butterflies, the differences between adult and baby animals, and the basic needs of animals.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SKL1a, SKL2a.c.d, and S1L1b**

## **The Story of a River**

**First, Second, and Third Grades  
45 minute duration**

This program will demonstrate the “life” and history of the Chattahoochee River, with brief discussions of its origin, how people have used the river, its role in how communities developed, and its future. The format of this program is told through a story and demonstrated on flannel board.

**Georgia Performance Standards: S1L1, S2L1, SS2G1, SS2G2, SS3E1,**

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*In a given week, children ages 3-12 spend 1% of their time outside and 27% of their watching TV.*

Richard Louv  
*Last Child in the Woods*

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# *In-School Field Trips*

## **Pioneers of the Chattahoochee**

**First and Second Grades**

**One and one-half hour duration**

Help your students understand what living on a farm was like in early Georgia. Students will compare and contrast life then and now through the presentation of artifacts and representative materials, followed by a ranger-led activity.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SS1E1-4, S2P1, SS2E1, and SS2E4**

[Children in the U.S. spend 53 hours per week with media.](#)

Richard Louv  
*Last Child in the Woods*

## **Industry along the Chattahoochee**

**Fourth and Fifth Grade**

**One and one-half hour duration**

Help your students understand more about industry along the Chattahoochee. This program takes students on an interactive journey to learn the role of water and its importance in history, beginning with the Civil War era. Students will build a mock turbine, learn about mass production, and appreciate how water connects all activities together.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SS4E1.f, SS5H1.c, SS5H1.e, and SS5E1.f**

National Parks are, in and of themselves, outdoor classrooms. As educators, help us reconnect kids with the out-of-doors. The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area promises to expand your horizons through programming relating to the natural and cultural world.



*These programs require a large program area (i.e. empty classroom, cafeteria, outside space, etc.) and assistance from additional school/parent volunteers.*

## **Native Peoples and National Parks**

**Second and Fourth Grades**

**One and one-half hour duration**

With this program, students will understand more about the first people of Georgia (2nd grade) and of the U.S. (4th). Students will explore a suitcase full of objects relating to the culture of the American Indians, and then participate in a ranger-led activity.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SS2H2, ELA2LSV1, VA2MC, VA2C1, SS4H1, SS4H2, M4D1 SS4H1.a, and SS4H1.b**

## **Regions of Georgia**

**Second and Third Grades**

**45 minute duration**

Through this program, students will better understand the characteristics of Georgia's geographic regions, as well as understand the relationship of these regions to the rest of the United States.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SS2G1 and S3L1**

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*In today's society, children are facing a "nature deficit"...a disconnect to the natural environment.*

Richard Louv  
*Last Child in the Woods*



“Increased study of science and nature and increased outdoor time has proven extremely beneficial for cognitive functioning, reduced symptoms of attention deficit disorder, increased self-discipline and emotional well-being. When integrated into curricula, environmental education has a measurably positive impact not only on student achievement in science, but also in reading, math, and social studies.”

No Child Left Inside Coalition

# Field Studies

## Forest Watershed Walk

Kindergarten, First, Third, and Fourth Grades

**One hour duration**

Following a stream to its confluence, students will participate in a dynamic field investigation of wildlife habitat, watershed processes, and forest functions. Using multiple observations, students will learn about their impacts on the natural versus human created water cycle.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SKL1, SKL2, S1L1, D3L1, S3L2, S4L1, and S4L2**

## The Mighty Chattahoochee:

A Study of Water Power  
Eighth Grade

**One hour duration**

Students will learn more about energy, force and motion as they investigate water power and its role in history. Through this hands-on program, students will make models using everyday items to simulate how early water mill operations harnessed the kinetic energy of water power along the Chattahoochee River.

**Georgia Performance Standards: S8P2 and S8P3**



## Aquatic Microinvertebrate Studies

High School

**One hour minimum duration**

Using sampling and field study techniques, students will collect, identify, and record findings of microorganisms and algae specimens to determine the health of an aquatic community of the Chattahoochee River watershed. Microscopes, field guides, and identification keys will be used to assist students in their discoveries. Energy flow and cycling charts will be developed to interpret findings.

**Georgia Performance Standards: SCSH1, SCSH2, SCSH3, and SB4**

*These interactive programs are presented at a park unit and offer learning in an outdoor setting.*

## **The National Park Service!**

**What does it mean to you?**

**High School**

**One hour duration**

This program is designed to help students understand the National Park Service — who we are, what we do, and why. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by becoming land managers, creating their own national park — outside on school grounds, then share their work with their peers through an oral presentation.

**Georgia Performance Standards: ELAW1, ELAW2, LSV1, LSV2, SSWG8.a, SSWG8.d, SSUSH12.a, SSUSH12.c, and SSUSH13**



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## **Leave No Trace**



**Third Grade**

**High School**

**45 minute duration**

A park ranger will meet with students at a park unit to discuss the importance of environmental stewardship. The park ranger will provide a presentation about how people of all ages can help protect the natural environment and enjoy scenic and wild places while participating in physical activity and engaging with their communities. This program includes a nature walk and an activity from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

**Georgia Performance Standards: S3L2, SEV5, PEHS.5, and PEHS.6**

## **Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Studies**

**Kindergarten, First, Third, and Fourth Grades**

**One hour duration**

Students will participate in a hands-on field study investigation of macro-organisms found in pond life to determine the health of this ecosystem. Younger students will focus on discovery and identification of specimens; older students will participate in water quality testing (i.e. temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen).

**Georgia Performance Standards: SKL1, SKL2, S1L1, D3L1, S3L2, S4L1, and S4L2**

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Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area  
1978 Island Ford Parkway  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

*Welcome  
to the  
Chattahoochee River  
National Recreation Area  
Educational Programs*



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

