



# Educational Adventures in the Valley

A Guide to Education Programs in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Ledges  
NPS / TED TOTTH



# Learning in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

National parks are dynamic classrooms where students interact with real places. Students retain information more readily, grasp meanings, and strengthen critical thinking skills through place-based learning in parks.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of over 400 national park sites where powerful learning takes place. This guide highlights the educational opportunities offered by the National Park Service and its primary partners. The first section provides an at-a-glance matrix. Teacher professional development opportunities are highlighted on page 11.

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Courtesy CCVNP



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# Every Kid in a Park

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The *Every Kid in a Park* campaign began in 2016 and provided an opportunity for fourth-graders and their families to visit public lands at no charge. The program will continue, and every fourth grader will have the opportunity to receive an *Every Kid in a Park* pass that's good for free admission (for them and their family) to all of America's federal lands and waters. It is also good for a free Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad ticket (must be accompanied by a paying adult).

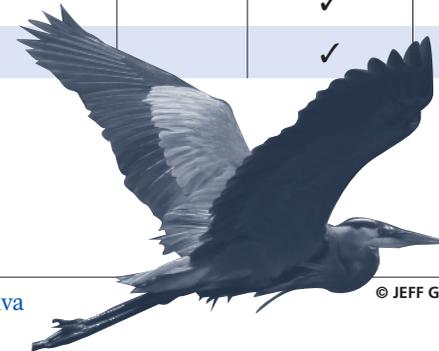
We invite fourth-grade teachers to try one of our curriculum-based programs through Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center or Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, or invite a ranger to the classroom for an *Every Kid in a Park* program. See pages 6-10.

Programs with this logo next to the title will include an opportunity for students to receive the *Every Kid in a Park* pass.



# Education Program Matrix

Programs Offered	Pre-K – Grade 1	Grades 2-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Curriculum-Based	Student Fee	Dates available	Page
<b>Reserved through the National Park Service</b>									
Service Learning (330-657-2350)			✓	✓	✓		Free	September-October; March-May	6
Every Kid in a Park (440-343-7035)			✓				Free	September-May	6
Community Engagement (440-343-7035)							Free	Year-Round	6
<b>Reserved through Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (330-657-2796 extension 100)</b>									
All the Rivers Run, Level 1 (Overnight/Multi-Day)			✓			✓	\$130-225	September-June	8
All the Rivers Run, Level 2 (Overnight/Multi-Day)				✓		✓	\$130-225	September-June	8
Summer Environmental Education Academy					✓	✓	\$130-225	June-July	8
Soar into Science (Multi-Day)			✓	✓		✓	\$130-225	June-July	8
Among the Trees		✓	✓	✓		✓	\$6	September-June	9
At Waters Edge		✓	✓	✓		✓	\$6	September-June	9
Low Bridge Everybody Down			✓	✓		✓	\$6	September-June	9
Naturally Diverse Field Trip Package		✓	✓			✓	\$15	September-June	9
Nobody Likes Me	✓					✓	\$6	September-June	10



# Education Program Matrix

Programs Offered	Pre-K – Grade 1	Grades 2-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Curriculum-Based	Student Fee	Dates available	Page
Really Big Rocks	✓					✓	\$6	September-June	10
Rockin’ at the Run			✓	✓		✓	\$6	September-June	10
Ways of the Whittlesey		✓	✓			✓	\$6	September-June	10
Who’s Hiding	✓					✓	\$6	September-June	10
Winter Blues	✓					✓	\$6	September-June	10
<b>Reserved through Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (800-468-4070, extension 1)</b>									
Deer’s Ears	✓					✓	\$7	March-May	13
All Aboard for Animals	✓	✓				✓	\$7	March-May	13
Are We There Yet			✓			✓	\$7	March-May	13
Explore the Underground Railroad			✓	✓		✓	\$7	March-May	13
<b>Reserved through Countryside Conservancy (330-657-2542, extension 225)</b>									
Countryside Kids	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Call	Call	14
Farm Tours	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Call	Call	14



The grade levels listed here are recommendations. We can adapt programs for your grade level and for children with special needs.

# National Park Service



## Cuyahoga Valley National Park

established in 1974 to preserve “the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River and the adjacent lands of the Cuyahoga Valley.” The park protects 33,000 acres of open space, natural ecosystems, and historic structures in close proximity to many schools in northeast Ohio.

Thousands of students participate in education programs every year. Most programs are scheduled through park partners and are listed on other pages of this guide. This section features programs scheduled directly through the National Park Service.

### Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Mailing Address: 15610 Vaughn Road; Brecksville, Ohio 44141

General Information:  
330-657-2752

cuva\_info@nps.gov  
www.nps.gov/cuva

## Service Learning



*Grades 4-12*

*September-October and March-May*

The National Park Service is the land management agency responsible for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Our daily work involves inventorying, monitoring, and ensuring the health of natural ecosystems. We conduct historical research and preserve historic structures. We build and maintain trails. We provide services for visitors that promote their understanding and enjoyment of the park.

All of this work ties to concepts taught in the classroom. Through service learning, we involve students in critical thinking around park management issues and help them to take action to improve the park while learning along the way.

Service learning activities are designed individually to match classroom goals with park needs. We prefer to work with a single classroom of up to 30 students, but can take groups that range in size from 15 to 120. Free. To schedule, call 330-657-2350 at least a month in advance.

## Community Engagement

*Age levels vary*

*Year-round*

Our Community Engagement team works to build relationships between targeted communities in Cleveland and Akron, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Classroom programs like Read with a Ranger promote literacy and connections to park stories, and park programs like Get Up, Get Out & Go! promote connections to the outdoors and an active lifestyle. Free. To discuss how the Community Engagement team can work with your class, call 440-343-7035 or [pam\\_machuga@nps.gov](mailto:pam_machuga@nps.gov).

## Every Kid in a Park



*Grade 4*

*September – May*

A ranger will bring this interactive program to your classroom. Students will be introduced to the national park idea through games, quotes and discussion. Free. To schedule, call 440-343-7035 or [pam\\_machuga@nps.gov](mailto:pam_machuga@nps.gov).

Courtesy CCVNP



# Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

## Self-guided Classroom Visits

Schools are welcome to come on a self-guided visit. We would like to help you have the best experience possible. Calling us prior to your visit will help you avoid conflicts with other groups. Call 440-546-5991.

## Online Lesson Plans, and Activities

The National Park Service maintains a website that provides one stop for educators seeking curriculum guides and lesson plans about national parks, including Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Visit [nps.gov/learn](http://nps.gov/learn).

More than 50 interactive online activities challenge children to use critical thinking in order to earn the coveted WebRanger patch. Activities cover themes such as marine life, water quality, the Civil War, and U.S. Presidents. Activities involve the use of skills and knowledge ranging from mathematics and science to writing. Visit [nps.gov/webangers](http://nps.gov/webangers).

## CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

### The Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

(CVEEC) is the home base for educational experiences offered in partnership with the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, a non-profit organization that engages the public to support and enjoy the park. CVEEC programs

occur on its 500-acre campus and throughout the park. Programs are taught by Conservancy field instructor interns, National Park Service rangers, and volunteers.

The Conservancy raises funds for scholarships so that all children may attend programs at CVEEC. At least 25 percent of the children who attend the residential program receive assistance thanks to area foundations, businesses, and individuals.

### Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

3675 Oak Hill Rd,  
Peninsula, Ohio 44264

[conservancyforcvnp.org](http://conservancyforcvnp.org)

For scheduling call:  
330-657-2796, extension 100  
[info@forcvnp.org](mailto:info@forcvnp.org)

Sign up for our educator newsletter by contacting [info@forcvnp.org](mailto:info@forcvnp.org)



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# Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

## Overnight and Multi-day Programs

Overnight and multi-day experiences deepen the impact of learning in a national park. CVEEC has two 64-bed dormitories, two dining halls, science labs, and a program building. All buildings are heated, air-conditioned, and wheelchair accessible.

Correlated to Ohio academic content standards, the programs incorporate the arts, technology, science, math, social studies, and language arts. Emphases on discovery, higher-level thinking skills, project-based learning, and use of modern technological tools make the programs truly unique. Children also enjoy classic camp activities such as hiking, campfires, and songs.

To experience the project-based curriculum effectively, three-night or two-night programs are recommended. Multi-day programs that do not include overnight stays are also possible. Programs occur through the school year. Schools can reserve dates up to two years in advance. We

recommend that schools schedule at least one year in advance. Fees range from \$130-225 per student.

### All the Rivers Run, Level I\*

*Grades 4-6*

Students discover the Cuyahoga River watershed; explore the river, ponds, meadows, and forests; conduct water quality tests; explore a sustainably built building; and apply their knowledge to the design of a dream building. Students learn concepts of energy flow, biodiversity, inter-relationships, cycles, ecosystems, change, and sustainability.

### All the Rivers Run, Level II\*

*Grades 7-8*

Through a week of discovery, the students examine how humans have impacted the environment. Students learn how to assess stream health, explore basic concepts of storm water management, and are challenged with the task of designing a housing development using low-impact development strategies.



### Soar into Science

*Grades 6-8*

Students engage in citizen science and study local bird populations through data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Students discover biodiversity and how habitat, healthy waters, and climate change can impact some of our more common bird species.

\*Program eligible for Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District credits.

### Summer Environmental Education Academy

The Summer Environmental Education Academy is designed for rising 9th-grade students. It incorporates academic enrichment through field-based learning experiences designed to improve academic skills. This program is offered in partnership with school districts with the goal of increasing student success in the 9th grade. Please call for details.

# Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

## Day Programs

Day programs are scheduled through Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center and conducted at sites throughout the park, as well as in

local schools. The listing includes the recommended grade levels according to academic standards, but programs can be adapted to your needs. Programs occur September through June. Call 330-657-2796 extension 100 to schedule.

## Among The Trees

*Grades 2-7*

Uncover clues about the inhabitants of local fields and forests and learn how both of these natural habitats change with time. \$6 per student.



how the canal encouraged entrepreneurship, business growth, and diversity. \$6 per student.

## Naturally Diverse Field Trip Package

*Grades 2-5*

Learn about biodiversity here in Ohio! The series begins with preparatory activities in your classroom, followed by two programs in the park. Students will visit pond and forest habitats to experience the variety of life that makes up a healthy ecosystem and explore adaptations for survival, energy flow, food webs, and more. \$15 per student.



## At Water's Edge

*Grades 2-7*

Learn what's living beneath the surface of a pond. Understand how these organisms depend on each other for survival. \$6 per student.



## Low Bridge Everybody Down

*Grade 4*

Students will learn about the history and importance of the Ohio & Erie Canal while helping operate a working canal lock and hiking on the Towpath Trail. \$6 per student.



*Grade 8*

Students will explore how the Ohio & Erie Canal impacted growth of Ohio's economy and population; how the canal connected Ohio to the larger nation; and specifically



# Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

## Nobody Likes Me

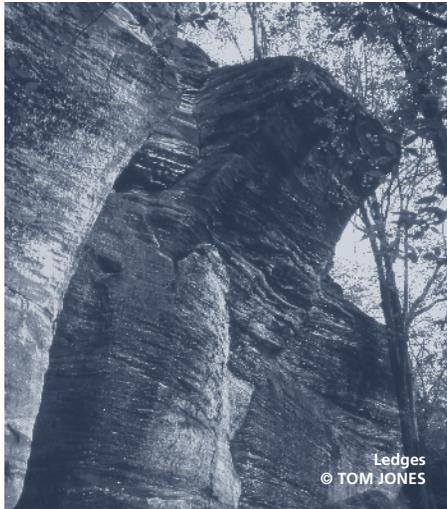
*Preschool-kindergarten*

Unpopular animal characters bemoan their unfair reputation with children. Learn the positive traits of bees, bats, earthworms, and spiders through science, craft, and music. This program can travel to your school. \$6 per student.

## Really Big Rocks

*Preschool-kindergarten*

Step into a wondrous place of huge rocks, evergreens, and moss. A hike below the Ledges is always special.



How were these rocks made? Do they change? \$6 per student.

## Rockin' at the Run



*Grades 4-8*

Hike along Haskell Run to the Ledges looking for evidence of how geologic forces have shaped the landscape and what environments formed the rock layers. \$6 per student.

## Ways of the Whittlesey



*Grades 3-5*

Discover the culture of these and other American Indians who once inhabited this region. Practice your hunting skills, grind corn, and listen to American Indian stories. This program can travel to your school. \$6 per student.

## Who's Hiding?

*Preschool-Grade 1*

Who lives in these woods? We'll search together for animal homes, tracks, scat, and other signs of forest critters. These clues reveal how animals survive in the woods. \$6 per student.

## Winter Blues

*Preschool-Grade 1*

Animal puppets discuss their feelings

about winter and learn what changes spring will bring. This program can travel to your school. \$6 per student.



# Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

## Teacher Professional Development

CVEEC offers multi- and single-day professional development opportunities. The extended experiences go deep into a topic and promote problem-based teaching skills. Shorter experiences let teachers build their knowledge and toolbox of activities for the classroom. Updates and additional sessions will be listed at [conservancyforcvnp.org](http://conservancyforcvnp.org), or call 330-657-2796 extension 100 for more information.

## Teacher Ranger Teacher Program

*Applications accepted starting in February*

Teachers can spend a summer in the Cuyahoga Valley and then bring the lessons of the park back to their students through the Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program. Teachers learn about the park, participate in a webinar about lesson planning, develop a lesson for their school, assist the park with an education project, and increase



# Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

their understanding of place-based learning. Priority is given to K-12 teachers from Title 1 schools. Stipends and graduate credit are available. Visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/) or call 330-657-2796 extension 112.

## Learning History Locally

Learn to more effectively teach Ohio history using problem-based learning, primary source documents, and local historic resources. Sessions are led

by local history faculty and experts in history pedagogy. Create problem-based lesson plans to share at a follow-up meeting. Graduate credit available. Check the website or call for schedule information.

## Watershed Stories

Spend a weekend immersed in watershed-based lessons and experience hands-on outdoor teaching. Learn to create lesson plans based on the Cuyahoga Valley watershed, storm water management issues, and methods to assess water quality and stream health. Graduate credit available. Check the website or call for schedule information.



## Latino Earth Partnership

Spend 5 days using the outdoors as an educational tool to learn about native ecosystems and how to transform your schoolyard into a learning lab. Integrate Latino perspectives and experience with Earth Partnership's ecological restoration curriculum to help Latino youth become the next generation of stewards. Includes Project Wild training. \$100 fee. 3 graduate credits available from University of Wisconsin for an additional \$165. Call 216-524-6580 extension 10.

# Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

## Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

is a non-profit organization that operates passenger rail service on the historic route of the Valley Railway. Education programs aboard the train are scheduled through Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and presented by National Park Service rangers and volunteers. Wheelchair accessible passenger cars are available.

All programs are two hours in length. They are offered March-May. Programs are \$7 per child. One adult chaperone is free for every 10 children. Additional adults are \$9 each. Scholarship opportunities are available for qualified schools. Please ask when booking your program.

### Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

P.O. Box 158  
Peninsula, Ohio 44264

[www.cvsr.com](http://www.cvsr.com)

To schedule programs, call  
800-468-4070 extension 1



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## Deer's Ears

### *Preschool-kindergarten*

Explore your five senses on a fun-filled train ride through the national park. Along the route, we'll answer the questions that little minds want to know: Is your nose as good as a coyote's? Can you hear as well as a deer? Are your eyes as sharp as an owl? Are your taste buds the same as a raccoon? Is your sense of touch similar to a river otter? \$7 per student.

## All Aboard For Animals

### *Kindergarten-Grade 3*

Climb aboard Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for a journey of discovery

and revelation in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Park rangers and volunteers will share pelts, skulls and stories of the animals who call the park home. \$7 per student.

## Are We There Yet?

### *Grades 4-6*

Are We There Yet? explores the history of transportation in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Students will experience a historical form of transportation while participating in interactive activities that explore how different modes of transportation have changed the landscape and the lives of those who have lived and traveled here. \$7 per student.



## Explore the Underground Railroad

### *Grades 5-8*

Take a journey through the harsh realities that were the Underground Railroad. Traveling through an area utilized by runaway slaves, students will participate in hands-on and interactive activities. Join park rangers and costumed characters as they draw your students into a complex period of history when individuals used their lives to change the world. \$7 per student.



# Countryside Conservancy



**Countryside Conservancy** connects people, food, and land by increasing public awareness of how food and farming impact personal, community, and environmental health, and by inspiring personal commitment to building a resilient, sustainable food culture.

Countryside has worked with the National Park Service to reestablish working family farms in the Cuyahoga Valley. It also manages three thriving farmers' markets and offers education programs.

**Countryside Conservancy**  
2179 Everett Road  
Peninsula, Ohio 44264

To schedule programs,  
call: 330-657-2542 extension 225

[www.cvcountryside.org](http://www.cvcountryside.org)  
[hroszczyk@cvcountryside.org](mailto:hroszczyk@cvcountryside.org)



Winter carrots and radishes  
Courtesy COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY



Harvest fruits  
Courtesy COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY

## Countryside Kids and Farm Tours

Work with Countryside to customize educational experiences for your classroom. We can help create exciting, hands-on days of learning that focus on local food, farming, and sustainability. Opportunities include trips to working farms in Cuyahoga Valley National Park to give students a chance to experience agriculture

up close and learn about the sustainability of our local food system. All age groups are welcome.

## Technical Assistance

From helping to secure sourcing for local food in the cafeteria, to finding in-classroom speakers, Countryside provides reliable support to schools and educational networks.

## Train the Trainer through Countryside U

Countryside offers educational programming for farmers, backyard gardeners, and home cooks through the Countryside U. Educators are invited to participate to build skills that they can use with their students. Visit [www.cvcountryside.org/countryside-u-classes](http://www.cvcountryside.org/countryside-u-classes) for current offerings.





**CONSERVANCY**  
*for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK*

