



# FREE & FUN Curriculum-Based Programs



*These opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade challenge students with hands-on learning experiences that are correlated with North Carolina elementary school curriculum standards. Each program enhances classroom learning by using the park's cultural and/or natural resources as teaching tools. Students have the opportunity to make real-world connections with science and history, while having fun at the same time!*

## Program Description

## North Carolina State Standards

### ***Kindergarten: Explore with Your Senses!***

Students will explore the Mountain Farm Museum and neighboring river and forest using their senses. Students are introduced to the history and wildlife of the National Park through conversations with talking barns, sensory walks, listening tests, classification exercises and color hunts.

**Location:** Oconaluftee Visitor Center

Science Goal 1: observe and build understanding of animals  
1.01 - 1.05

Science Goal 3: build understanding of properties of objects  
3.03, 3.04

Social Studies Goal 3: recognize and understand concept of change  
3.02, 3.03

### ***First Grade: Have to Have a Habitat***

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a special area that provides habitat for many of North Carolina's native plants and animals and provides a place for people to have fun. Students use sifter boxes to discover and classify soil organisms and role play bears to learn about the needs of animals.

**Location:** Deep Creek Picnic Area near Bryson City

Science Goal 1: needs of living organisms.  
1.01 - 1.05

Science Goal 2: soil earth materials.  
2.03

Math Goal 4: understand and use data and simple probability concepts

Social Studies Goal 1: change in various settings.  
3.03



## Program Description

### *Second Grade: History and Culture*

Students study communities as they tour Mingus Mill and learn the role corn played in lives of local residents 100+ years ago. Students will also learn how the forest was a supermarket and a drugstore and make a wooden toy to take home.

**Location:** Mingus Mill

## North Carolina State Standards

Social Studies Goal 3: how individuals, families, and communities are alike and different  
3.01 -3.06.

Goal 6: how people depend on the physical environment and use natural resources  
6.01-6.03

Goal 8: recognize how technology is used at home, school, and in the community  
8.01, 8.02

### *Third Grade: What Makes Great Smokies Great?*

Quiet walkways, stream floodplains and picnic pavilions provide the backdrop for students to discover soil properties, plant adaptations, and the environmental issues facing the park. Lifecycles, habitat, biodiversity and interrelationships are a constant focus of the hands-on activities while stewardship is the underlying theme during discussions.

**Location:** Collins Creek Picnic Area

Science Goal 1: conduct investigations of plant growth and adaptations  
1.01-1.03

Goal 2: build an understanding of soil  
2.01-2.05

Social Studies Goal 1: characterize qualities of good citizenship  
1.01, 1.03, 1.05

### *Fourth Grade: Mountain Farm Museum*

Students study rural life in the 1800's by working in a blacksmith shop, cooking at an open hearth and studying artifacts. Through this exposure, students learn about the challenges and rewards of preserving and protecting our heritage and public spaces.

**Location:** Mountain Farm Museum (at Oconaluftee Visitor Center)

**Offered in Spring Only**

Social Studies Goal 1: five themes of geography  
1.04

Goal 2: role of ethnic groups in the development of North Carolina  
2.01, 2.02, 2.03, 2.04

Goal 3: trace the history of colonization  
3.01, 3.04

### *5th Grade: On Top of Old Smoky*

Clingmans Dome serves as the high elevation classroom where students examine the ecology of sky-island habitats. The mountain top is also a great venue for students to build their understanding of weather and landforms both through direct observation and through the use of maps, data, and activities.

**Location:** Clingmans Dome

Science Goal 1: interdependence of plants and animals  
1.01-1.07

Goal 2: understanding of landforms  
2.01-2.07

Goal 3: understanding of weather and climate  
3.1-3.06



*All Programs Are Free  
Bus assistance money may be available*

*For additional information or to sign your class up, call Ranger Julie today!  
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*(Note: Some programs are more suitable for larger groups than others - call to discuss)*

