

Nature is Our Classroom

Hands-on Environmental Science Programs in Prince William Forest Park



NatureBridge environmental science programs provide students from upper elementary through high school the opportunity to learn in the largest protected natural area in the Washington, DC area.

Sense of Place: Students spend three days, two nights in historic cabin camps in a 15,000 acre forest.

Interconnections: NatureBridge educators guide students through hands-on science investigations that are augmented by activities that incorporate teambuilding, art, writing, and math.

Stewardship: Students are motivated to take action to protect the natural world.

Outcomes: Students experience personal growth, build interpersonal skills, and engage in academic content that supports Common Core and NGSS Standards.

“ At NatureBridge, students were engaged in productive talk, experimenting, and curiosity. It’s amazing how much learning takes place when students are immersed in the actual environment. ”

—Tondra Odom, Teacher, DC Public Schools



NatureBridge is proud to be the largest nonprofit residential environmental education partner of the National Park Service.

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SAMPLE DAY

Morning: Students wake up in historic cabins, eat breakfast in the dining hall, pack backpacks, and prepare for the day.

Instructional Day: Lessons will support curriculum standards and provide valuable hands-on experience asking questions and collecting data. Students will be divided into small groups and led by an experienced NatureBridge educator. A customized learning experience will be provided based on your school's input to reinforce and extend classroom learning. Lunch is eaten out on trail.

Afternoon/Early Evening: Students will return to their cabins to reflect, relax, and unwind while school chaperones supervise. Dinner will give everyone a chance to share their trail stories.

Evening: NatureBridge educators will facilitate an evening program that could include a short night hike or sharing songs and stories around a campfire. Students will then return to the cabins and get ready for bed.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- Conduct a reptile and amphibian study. Observe salamanders, turtles, and frogs in their natural habitats.
- Explore a nearby creek and participate in a stream bio-monitoring project while learning about watersheds and water use.
- Investigate the physical processes that affect the landscape and the forest ecosystem. Topics include erosion, weathering, rock types, and soil composition.
- Learn about nocturnal animals and astronomy on a night hike.

