

A photograph of a forest with tall, slender trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. The text is overlaid on this image.

Sandy Creek Nature Center's

Environmental Education Program and Service Guide

Fall 2025-Spring 2026

Welcome to Sandy Creek Nature Center!

Let Sandy Creek Nature Center open the door to outdoor exploration for you and your group. Our site features 225 acres of woodlands and wetlands, more than four miles of trails and a Boardwalk Trail. The Education & Visitors Center includes live reptiles & amphibians, marine and freshwater aquariums, interactive natural history exhibits, planetarium and a resource library all housed in a green-friendly building. Our mission is to preserve green space and local habitats while giving visitors a chance to learn more about our natural world. We support this mission through our environmental education programs on-site and off. We also welcome groups to come for self-guided visits to explore the exhibit hall and trails. Plan your next trip with us!

Program Information

Field Study Program (FS):

Topic of your choice from program guide, includes guided trail walk with small groups
Times: 9:30-11:30a.m. Tuesday - Friday,
Number of students: up to 90 students
Location: Sandy Creek Nature Center, Education and Visitors Center or Walker Hall
Cost: \$3.00/ACC students (minimum \$30) or \$5.00/non-ACC students (minimum \$50).
Parents/Grandparents/Guardians attending field study: \$3/ACC adult, \$5/Non-ACC adult.

Outreach Programs (OR):

Topic of your choice from program guide
Times: 1 hour program/class, unless otherwise noted.
Location: your school
Cost: \$3/ACC students (minimum \$30) or \$5.00/non-ACC students (minimum \$50).
Travel costs of \$0.62/mile if more than 40 miles round trip. We do not travel more than 30 miles one way.

To register for a program please call (706) 613-3615
Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30am-5:30pm

Deposit of minimum charge must be made within two weeks of booking to reserve the space.

Pre-k

Who am I? (FS, OR)

From scales to feathers to exoskeletons, we'll learn characteristics of groups of animals. Students will come face to face with live animals.

The Nose Knows! (FS or OR)

Our senses help us to be aware of our surroundings. We'll test our senses and learn about how animals depend on their senses during this program.

Kindergarten

Science Rocks! (FS, OR)

Come unearth the secret world of soil. Find out that rocks and soil come in many colors, sizes and textures, and learn about Georgia rocks!
GSE: SKE2a,b,c

Nature Watch (FS)

Discover what nature has to offer by exploring our surroundings. Learn how to group plants and animals by comparing similarities and differences of each through hands-on activities, an animal encounter and a hike.
GSE: SKL2a,b,c



1st grade

Staying Alive (FS, OR)

What do plants and animals need to stay alive? Learn what all living things need to survive. Meet an animal up close and investigate a plant to learn about their special needs. GSE: S1L1a,b

Wacky Weather (FS)

Cold or hot, wet or dry, calm or windy, use scientific instruments to see how weather is measured and why the seasons change. GSE: S1E1a,b,c

2nd grade

Around and Around (FS, OR)

From birth to death, all animals and plants grow, change, reproduce and die. Discover the amazing diversity of lifecycles of herps, birds, insects and mammals lifecycles. GSE: 2L1a



Out of this World (FS)

Visit our planetarium to travel in space to learn about our solar system starting with the sun and how it affects our planet. Complete an activity on shadows during the trail hike. GSE: S2E1a,b, S2E2a,c,d Chaperone numbers may be limited.

3rd grade

Georgia Habitats: From the Mountains to the Sea (FS)

We'll explore Georgia's habitats, from mountains to its coast to discover what animals need to survive and how different habitats support a variety of animals and plants. GSE: S3L1a,c and S3E2a

Geology Rocks! (FS, OR)

Come explore the rocks beneath our feet, fossils of life forms from millions of years ago and learn how they are formed. Examine fossils, gems and minerals and become a geologist for the day. Activities include sorting and classifying rocks, fossils and minerals. GSE: S3E1a,b and S3E2a,b

4th grade

Wonderful Weather (FS)

Be a weather detective to solve a mysterious weather event. Use weather instruments, maps and charts to learn about weather and the changing seasons. Learn how scientists predict weather conditions. GSE: 4E3c,d,e and 4E4a,b

Out of this World (FS)

Journey through space as students enter our planetarium. Students will identify major constellations, learn about our solar system and discuss concepts such as planetary rotation, revolution and eclipses. GSE: S4E3b and S4E4a,b,c,d Chaperone numbers may be limited.

5th grade

Mighty Micros (FS)

Microorganisms are everywhere. Using microscopes, we'll identify some microorganisms that are beneficial and some that are harmful to us.

GSE: S5L3a,b,c S5L4a,b

Forces of Nature (FS or OR)

Constructive and destructive forces are constantly changing the face of the Earth. Identify examples of these forces and how people use technology to understand and control the effects of these forces.

GPS: S5E1a,b,c

Nature Investigators (FS)

We'll make classification fun and simple with a group investigation using classification skills. We'll learn the difference between invertebrates and vertebrates, and about the five vertebrate classes. GSE: 5L1a, 5L2b

Additional Programs

Georgia Wildlife (FS, OR)

Georgia is home to a wide variety of animals. Learn about local animals as well as a few found in other parts of the state.

Pond Study (FS)

Plan to get muddy while studying the natural community of our Claypit pond. Explore the area by making observations and taking biological samples. Students will learn how water quality can affect life in a pond.

Animal Encounters

We'll bring out a variety of animals (or you can specify a theme) to share with visitors.

Encounter can be a booth or large group program. Cost: \$75/hour



Self Guided Options

If you would like to bring a group to the nature center without scheduling a program, these self guided opportunities may be what you are looking to do. We ask that groups call in advance to let us know when they will be visiting the center.

Exhibit Hall-Visitors will learn about oceans, wetlands, woodlands, agriculture and their own backyards as they interact with the hands-on exhibit. Free.

Trail Packs-Check out a trail pack for a hike on the property. Each pack contains items to help you explore the outdoors. Packs have different themes, so choose which one fits your group's needs. Free.

Hike-SCNC has over four miles of trails to choose from. Trails cover a variety of habitats including a pond, Oconee River, Sandy Creek, Piedmont prairie, pine/hardwood forest. Free.

In addition to the trail packs and kits, binoculars,identiflyers and scavenger hunts are available upon request.

Teaching Resources

Our Discovery Boxes are filled with nature artifacts, teacher activity books, posters, scientific equipment, puzzles and games on a wide variety of topics. These resources are appropriate for grades pre-k through 5th grade. Boxes measure: 1.5'X 2' X 1' or large suitcase size

Fee: \$5/2 weeks. Please reserve your box at least two weeks in advance. Free to CCSD schools.

Discovery Boxes must be picked up and dropped off at the Nature Center. Topics include:

Animal Tracks	Shells	Vertebrates
Reptiles and Amphibians	Creatures of the Night	Insects
Astronomy	Spiders	Weather
Rocks and Minerals	Dinosaurs	Mammals
Birds	Trees	Marine Life
	Earth Paints	

Homeschool Programs

We offer homeschool programs that individual families can sign up for from September-May. We offer a program once a month. Ages range from 5-7 years and 8-12 years. Topics vary each quarter. Visit our [website](#), for more information about upcoming classes.

If you coordinate a homeschool group, you may also sign up to do a field study. Choose from our wide variety of programs listed in this program guide.



Scout Groups

We offer programs for both Girl and Boy Scouts. Sign up as a troop or join us for one of our scheduled scouting events. We can help complete requirements for Earth Science, Natural Science, or Animal related topics.

Call to sign up or request more details. Send us the requirements you want to complete and we will share with you what we can do while at SCNC.

Fee: 2 hour program \$5/ACC Scout, \$7/Non ACC Scout, minimum 10 scouts
3 hour program \$7/ACC Scout, \$11/Non ACC Scout, minimum 10 scouts
Two Chaperones per 10 scouts are free. Additional adults pay the program fee.

Interested in scheduling your next field trip or outreach?

It's easy as 1,2,3! Fill out the online form to request a field trip or outreach for your group.
We'll contact you with the date.

[SCNC Program Registration Online Form](#)

Deposit of minimum charge must be made within two weeks of booking to reserve the date.

Email: sandycreeknc@gmail.com

Phone: (706) 613-3615

