



## Teacher and Chaperone Field Trip Guide

Greetings teachers and chaperones!

Thank you for scheduling a Riverbend field trip! Please review this document for some helpful tips to enjoy your visit to our preserve.

### Things to know before you come to Riverbend:

- Visitors should wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and dirty. Long pants, long sleeves and close-toed shoes are best! We recommend students have clean and dry clothes to change into when they return to school, if needed.
- Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. We are an all-weather facility. Please make sure that students come prepared to be outdoors in any weather.
- Please leave your valuables at home.
- We recommend applying sunscreen and bug spray before arriving at Riverbend.
- Please let us know in advance if you plan to eat lunch at Riverbend. Bagged lunches can be stored in the barn during field trip activities. Students should bring a lunch that does not require refrigeration or a microwave.
- Riverbend is a **carry in/carry out facility** so please remember trash bags for recycling and trash. Bags of trash and recycling must be taken back to your school or facility for disposal.
- We practice the principles of “**Leave No Trace**” at Riverbend. We encourage students and visitors to explore and pick up natural objects. When they’re finished natural objects should be returned to the location where they were found.
- A map as well as additional information about our preserve are always available on our [website](http://www.riverbendec.org).

### What to expect when you arrive:

- An educator will greet your group and direct you to our introduction area. After an introduction with a Riverbend educator, groups will split up and head to their first stations.
- Restrooms are located in the Snider Barn or the Pavilion (at the top of the hill). During summer months, porta-potties are available near the parking lot. Water fountains are also available in the barn.
- Most groups will have a lunch break in the middle of the field trip. After completing all of the stations, groups will return to the introduction area for a wrap up.
- Ticks and poison ivy are common in Southeastern PA. A Riverbend educator will lead the group through a tick check at the end of the program.



### Field Trip Schedule:

9:45: Buses arrive at Riverbend  
10:00-10:15am: Introduction  
10:15-11:15: Rotate through two Education Stations  
11:15-11:45: Lunch  
11:45-12:45: Rotate through two Education Stations  
12:45-1:00: Wrap-up  
1:00: Load Buses and Depart  
OR  
1:00-1:30 Independent Exploration Time (see info below)  
1:30 Load Buses and Depart

**Please reach out with any additional questions. Have fun and enjoy nature! We look forward to seeing you soon!**

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### Independent Exploration:

We invite you to stay at Riverbend after your program for 30 minutes of independent exploration.

Riverbend Educators recommend:

- Taking a hike:
  - Blue Bird Loop goes through new tree planting, turtle pond and the fort building area
  - Sassafras Loop goes to the Frog Pond and through our meadow
- Fort Building in Decomposers
  - Students are encouraged to build forts using our supply of sticks.
  - Our safety recommendations:
    - Students should work with a buddy to carry sticks longer than their arms.
    - When students are building the fort, no one should be inside the fort.
- Exploring the Frog Pond
  - Spend time searching for more frogs and tadpoles
  - Our safety recommendations:
    - Students should have *only* their knees or bellies on rocks
    - Students should refrain from touching tadpoles or frogs because our skin hurts them
- Play Field
  - Located by the Frog Pond, students can use the field to run around.
  - They are encouraged to balance on our log, roll down the hill and explore our pollinator garden
- Quiet Spot at the BOA
  - A spot for students to sit quietly and listen to nature (birds, flowing water, the wind)



Here is a map of the preserve and activity locations:



# WELCOME!



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[www.riverbendeec.org](http://www.riverbendeec.org)