

Elementary Outdoor Investigations

Jennings Environmental Education Center

To Schedule:

SCHEDULING:

Reservations at least one month in advance are required for all programs. Spring programs should be scheduled by January 30. Contact the center at 724-794-6011 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, or email Miranda Crotsley, Program Coordinator at mcrotsley@pa.gov

PRICING:

\$3/student for onsite programs
\$10 additional travel fee for offsite
Needs-based funding may be available – please inquire

About Jennings:

Jennings Environmental Education Center is one of several state parks specifically dedicated to providing environmental education and interpretation to the community. Jennings has a unique combination of prairie and forest, which offers a wide array of resource and education opportunities. One of the park's main features, the 20-acre prairie ecosystem, is home to distinctive prairie plants and the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. A series of ponds and wetlands that passively treats abandoned mine drainage provides yet another unique educational opportunity to study water quality, industry, and wetlands.

More Information:

Miranda Crotsley, Program Coordinator
V. 724-764-6011
Email: mcrotsley@pa.gov
Location: 2951 Prospect Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/jennings/index.htm>



K-3 (2-4 hours)

BIRD ADAPTATIONS - Students model what makes a bird a bird and analyze how a bird's structures and behaviors allow it to function and survive.

FALL PREPARATION - Through gaming, observation and discussion student explore how most animals prepare for winter - hibernation, migration or adaptation to conditions. Fall only.

INVESTIGATING INSECTS - Students observe different types of insects and gather evidence to explain how their adaptations and interrelationships with living and non-living things help them to survive.

TREES ARE TERRIFIC - Students work together to model a tree and investigate plant life cycles and needs.

SCIENCE AND SENSES - Students learn to use their five senses to observe, ask questions, and investigate the natural world (Especially for Kindergarten).

Special Program K-6

MAPLE SUGARING – A local tradition, and the oldest industry in North America, maple sugaring is a once-a-year treat at Jennings. Students will discover the structure and functions of a tree that make maple sugaring possible each spring, and will go on a walk back in time to experience how the science and technology of maple sugaring has changed through the ages. All students get a taste of real maple syrup made at Jennings, and have the opportunity to purchase local syrup and other sweets from the Nature Shop. Maple Sugaring takes place Tuesday-Thursday of the third week of March each year. Schools may schedule a program at 10, 11, 1 or 2. **REGISTRATION BEGINS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF JANUARY AT 8:30 AM** and fills quickly.

4-6 (3-4 hours)

EXPLORING ECOSYSTEMS (Options to study WETLANDS, STREAM, FOREST, and PRAIRIE) - Students explore up to two different ecosystems, comparing and gathering observational data to illustrate the diverse interactions of living and non-living things in each ecosystem. Students may also investigate an environmental issue such as pollution or invasive species.

EXPLORING THE SOIL - Students determine the soil color, permeability, temperature, pH and slope of an area. Discussion of collected data centers on soil fertility, plants and animals present, erosion potential and use by people.

PENNSYLVANIA COAL: DIGGING UP THE PAST - Students discover how coal is formed, role play the life of a young coal miner of the early 20th century, and investigate a major environmental impact of coal extraction, abandoned mine drainage (AMD). Students plan and carry out an investigation into the effectiveness of treating abandoned mine drainage using ponds and wetlands and conduct chemical and biological sampling.

PREDATOR/PREY - Students determine the difference between predator and prey animals and their place in the food chain. Through gaming and observation, students discover adaptations and survival techniques for each group and the importance of each to their community.

WINTER ECOLOGY - Students examine plant and animal life in the winter. Students determine how plants and animals adapt to cold and snow. Through animal tracking, students learn how to identify which animals are active in the winter. Winter only, snowshoes may be used if weather permits.