

# College-Level Programs

## Jennings Environmental Education Center

### To Schedule:

#### SCHEDULING:

Reservations at least 1-4 months in advance are required for all college programs. 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](mailto:mcrotsley@pa.gov). There is no fee.

### 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

For more information contact:

Miranda Crotsley, Program Coordinator  
V. 724-764-6011

Email: [mcrotsley@pa.gov](mailto:mcrotsley@pa.gov)

Location: 2951 Prospect Road  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## ECOLOGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### **COAL AND ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE INVESTIGATION (2 hours)**

Students investigate an abandoned coal mine site and its passive treatment system, determining the pollution type, effectiveness of the treatment (using chemical and biological parameters) and explore the history of the source.

### **COAL: LEARNING FROM THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

**(1 hour)** This classroom presentation focuses on the history of coal mining in western PA, the human and environmental issues that resulted from that history, and the efforts Jennings and others take to remedy the associated pollution through passive treatment.

**STREAM STUDY (2 hours)** Students examine the chemical and biological parameters of the stream to determine water quality. This program is often combined with the Coal and Abandoned Mine Drainage Investigation, above.

**PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM INVESTIGATION (2-4 hours)** Students receive an overview of the formation of this unique ecosystem, then develop and/or take part in an investigation of management methods in the prairie (e.g. conduct a vegetation survey in areas managed by winter cutting vs. late spring cutting). Other management includes prescribed fire, which can be an additional focus of the program.

**PRAIRIE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLLED BURN (1 hour)** This classroom presentation focuses on the natural history of the prairie ecosystem, and how it is managed, including through the use of prescribed fire

**MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE (1 hour)** This classroom presentation focuses on the natural history and management of endangered massasauga rattlesnake at Jennings.

**MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH INVESTIGATION (2-4 hours)** Students receive an overview of the prairie ecosystem (the massasauga's habitat), then take part in one of two experiences: 1) An interactive demonstration of massasauga research techniques using snake models or 2) conducting an investigation of massasauga habitat under various management.

**STATE PARK RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – This classroom presentation is an overview of park resource management planning and techniques.

## INTERPRETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS (3-6 hours, in class or on Saturdays)** Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, Growing Up Wild, Project WET, Pennsylvania Songbirds, Watershed Education (see below), GO Teach Snowshoeing.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTERS AND STATE PARKS (1 hour)** An overview of the center's programs and operations, and state parks management.

**INTERPRETIVE TRAIL WALKS AND TALKS (1 hour)** How to write and conduct interpretive walks and talks.

**MAPLE SUGARING (1-MANY hours)** A comprehensive interpretive walk training program. An overview is presented, and then students attend interpretive training and conduct walks. Training is conducted in January, programs conducted in March.