The McDuffie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) provides a unique site for teachers to bring students for hands-on outdoor and indoor learning experiences. These experiences teach students about the ecology of our wildlife, water, soils, and forests, and the stewardship of these important natural resources. Lessons address the dimensions of the Georgia Standards of Excellence in a diverse biologically rich area, with activities available for PreK through Seventh Grade.

The McDuffie Environmental Education Center is open by reservation only. It is recommended that dates be booked well in advance in order to secure desired dates.  Reservations for up to 3 classes for a total of 75 students can be made.

Fees: $5 per student

We also offer accommodations and adaptations of Performance Standards for students with disabilities, based on information provided when reservations are made.

First Grade – Living Things and Their Needs

**Wildlife Puppet Drama**

TA1.RE.1, TA1PR.1, ELAGSE1RL3, ELAGSE1RL4, ELAGSE1SL9, S1L1b

Students will connect with wildlife through an interactive play set in “The Woods at McDuffie.” Each student uses an assigned animal puppet to act out a narrative which emphasizes animal characteristics and habitat. The lesson integrates reading standards related to drama and comprehension of narratives.

**All About Crickets**

S1L1

(Seasonal, depending on availability of crickets.) Students learn about cricket characteristics and can view their own cricket in a magnifying box. There is a focus on the needs of crickets and other animals. Following the instructional session, students are allowed to release crickets outdoors and see if theirs can be first to cross the finish line in a cricket race.

**Longleaf Pine Trail**

SMGSE1, NBT.1, MGSE1.NBT2, MGSE1, MD.4, PE1.3, PE1.5

Following a brief orientation, the instructor lead students through a mature longleaf pine forest habitat where students practice observation, inquiry, data collection and counting skills as they search for hidden plastic “critters” in the foliage along the trail. Students’ math skills are used as they record their count (data) with tally marks. Students are encouraged to ask questions about the seasonally changing habitat and draw conclusions based on their observations.

**Habitat Art**

S1L1, VA1CR2, VA1CR.3c

Students use knowledge of animal needs to draw a habitat where these needs can be met. They use animal stickers to populate the appropriate habitats.

**Wheel of Nature**

Students participate in a game-style two-team activity. When it is his or her turn, a team member spins a wheel to determine how much a question is worth. To obtain the points for his side, the student answers the given question. Questions are based on the MEEC curriculum and include habitat features, wildlife adaptations, and identification of animal pictures, pelts, sounds, skins etc. to bring questions to life. Teamwork is encouraged as rules allow students to confer on difficult questions.