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.

**Second Grade – Butterflies**

**The Butterfly Story**

SS2L1B, VA2.CN3, VA2.CR5, VA2.CR4.c

Students create a bead project (zipper pull) in which the beads represent stages of the butterfly’s life cycle. The life cycle lesson is reinforced with an age- appropriate video featuring a butterfly as the narrator as she describes her life from egg to adult.

**Butterfly Model**

SS2L1B, VA2.CN3, VA2.CR5, VA2.CR4.c

Focus turns from life cycle to the importance of butterflies in the ecosystem and an explanation of the unique structure and adaptations of butterflies. The concept of symmetry is introduced. Students construct a butterfly using paper, pipe cleaners and a party blower.

**Longleaf Pine Trail**

MGSE1, NBT.1, MGSE1, NBT2, MGSE1, MD.4, PE2.3, P2.5

Following a brief orientation, the instructor leads students through a mature longleaf pine forest habitat where students practice observation, inquiry, data collection, classification 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) on a tally sheet. Tallies are done using the animal classifications of insect, arachnid, reptile/amphibian, or bird based on each critters’ characteristics. Students are encouraged to ask questions about the seasonally changing habitat and draw conclusions based on their observations.

**Discovery Room**

S2L1, ELAGSE2RI1, ELAGSE2RI2

Students rotate through centers and displays which emphasize wildlife characteristics and habitat. Students begin with a scavenger hunt for facts using the expository texts located in the display cases. Additional stations may include making leaf rubbings, creating animal tracks, identifying animal furs, using magnifying instruments, and using scales.

**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.