

# McDuffie Environmental Education Center

## School Outreach Programs



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

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. Fees: \$5 per student

*We offer accommodations and Adaptation of Performance Standards for Students with Disabilities based on information provided when reservations are made.*

## Sixth grade – Earth Science

### WETLAND TRAIL

#### **S6L1a, S6E1 PE6.3, PE6.5**

Students walk the trail around the fishery ponds to the Blackwater Swamp. During the first part of the hike students are challenged to observe the contrast between the geology of a sand-hill habitat and a wetland habitat as well as compare and contrast the public fishing ponds with the hatchery ponds. Student observations of surface features within both habitats add to discussion of constructive and destructive processes such as weathering, erosion, and deposition as well as effects of animal and human activity.

### SOILS LAB

#### **S6E5, ELAGSE6SL1**

Students will use soil sampling tubes to take soil samples in the sand hill habitat. Using screen sieves, students will sort samples into layers, and time-permitting will weigh each layer to determine soil layer proportions.



For questions and further information contact us at  
706-449-7521 or [Kimberly.Clements@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Clements@dnr.ga.gov)

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## **SOLAR SHADOWS**

### **S6E2, ELAGSE6SL1**

(Weather permitting) The instructor demonstrates how students can use a solar tracking board to demonstrate the earth's rotation. Students will then keep track of solar shadows for themselves as well as build a pocket sundial.

## **FOSSILS LAB**

### **S6E5, ELAGSE6SL1**

Students will discuss the rock cycle and the importance of fossil evidence in studying the earth as they use fossil molds and plaster of Paris to make their own fossil casts.

## **DISCOVERY ROOM**

### **S6L1, ELAGSE6RL1, ELAGSE6RI, ELAGSE6RI4, ELAGSE6RI5**

Students rotate through centers and displays including fossils and rocks and minerals of Georgia. 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 Mohs hardness scale.



## **ARCHERY (NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM)**

### **ELAGSE6SL1, PE6.2, PE.6.3c, PE6.3d, PE6.5, PE6.6, ELAGSE6SL1**

A certified instructor teaches the safety and technical basics of archery as specified by NASP. Students are then allowed to participate in shooting targets, scoring their attempts, and retrieving arrows. NASP promotes student education, physical education and participation in the lifelong sport of archery in an effort to inspire students to spend more time outdoors.

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### WHEEL OF NATURE

#### ELAGSE4SL1

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, offspring and tracks. Models and other audio visuals are used to bring questions to life. Team work is encouraged as rules allow students to confer on difficult questions. (Questions are adapted to grade/ability level.)

### FISHING

#### ESS3.A, PE6.1, HE6.1.c, HE6.1.d, HE6.1.f, HE6.2.d

Following an orientation on how fish depend on their surroundings, adaptations, specialization of catfish receptors, reason for the hatchery, what humans need fish for, what the sport of fishing is and does for us and the safety and proper use of equipment the students will participate in the sport of angling. Students will be supervised by the instructor, staff, teachers and chaperones. Students will learn to bait a hook, cast, reel and hopefully catch a fish. If fish are caught measurements will be taken and depending on grade level student or adult will read off measurement and instructor will help student place their fish's measurements on a simple bar chart. Students will also learn to tally the number of fish caught.

### CUSTOMIZED SESSIONS

Depending on fish production, a tour of the hatchery building may be available upon request. A Kids Fishing Event may also be arranged as part of the MEEC experience.