



Rowan Wild Onsite and Outreach Programs

Offered Monday-Friday. Saturday programs are contingent upon staff availability

Programs can be scheduled between 10:00am – 2:00pm

All programs must be scheduled at least 1 week in advance. All of our onsite and outreach programs are free of charge for all organizations and participants. There is a 65 person maximum auditorium capacity for all programs that take place indoors.

Onsite Programs

Animal Program

In this program participants get a closer look at some of our small education animals that include native and non-native birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. We discuss species adaptations and basic natural history. This program can potentially offer for participants to touch some of the animals during the program. Pre-K and younger are not guaranteed to touch any of the live animals but will be given the opportunity to touch an animal biofact.

- 30 minute program **program can be extended to 45 minutes or an hour upon special request**
- Pre-K and above
- Minimum of 10 participants; maximum of 65
- This is the only program included on the Field Trip Registration Form for school groups and is scheduled by the reservation staff at the Dan Nicholas Park reservation office. They can be reached at 704-216-7803.
- Rowan County public, private, and homeschool groups that schedule this program through the Dan Nicholas Park reservation staff are eligible to get into Rowan Wildlife Adventures and the Barnyard for free.
- If the Animal Program is the only program you would like to schedule and your group does not need to reserve a shelter or schedule a program with Gem Mine then you may contact Nature Center staff directly to schedule the program.

The following programs are scheduled by Nature Center staff only.
Please contact Brooke Wilson at 704-216-7834 or email at
Brooke.Wilson@rowancountync.gov

Trail Walk (Offered at Multiple Locations)

This program takes place on the 2-mile Persimmon Branch trail at Dan Nicholas Park but can also be offered at Dunn's Mountain Nature and History Preserve, or Eagle Point Nature Preserve. Both Dunn's Mountain and Eagle Point are located within 5 miles of Dan Nicholas Park. Participants will be lead on a trail walk at a location of their choosing. We discuss history of the location, tree identification, animal habitats and whatever else we happen to come across.

- This program is weather permitting and may be cancelled the day of by Nature Center staff.
- 1.5 hour program
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Nature Walk

This nature walk takes place around the lake at Dan Nicholas Park. This is a shortened version of the trail walk where we discuss history of the location, tree identification, animal habitats and other interesting finds we happen to come across. This walk is ideal for younger students or individuals with limited physical abilities.

- This program is weather permitting and may be cancelled the day of by Nature Center staff.
- 45 minute program
- Kindergarten and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Owl Pellet Dissection

Participants will be shown how to dissect an owl pellet and identify the prey animal bones found within. Some discussion of owl natural history, adaptations and environmental issues will take place.

- 1 hour program
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 participants; maximum of 25

Poisonous Plants/Venomous Animals

In this program we discuss and show examples of some plants that are poisonous and animals that are venomous all of which are native to North Carolina. Some preserved specimens may be shown.

- Program lasts 45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 participants; maximum of 65

Nature Journaling

This program is designed to introduce participants to nature through art and poetry. Students will make their own nature journals before heading out into the park to creatively explore their surroundings.

- 1.5 hour program
- 1st grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Skulls and Skins

This program allows us to showcase some of our wild animal ambassadors without having them come into the classroom. We use skulls and skins from native North Carolina animals to teach natural history and adaptations.

- Program lasts between 30 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 participants; maximum of 65

Working Wild

Do you dream about working with animals as a career? Do you wonder what it takes to get a job working animals? If you answered yes to either of those questions then this might just be the program for you. We discuss how our staff obtained their current job roles and we explore all of the many job opportunities available to people who think they want to work with animals.

- Program lasts between 30-45 minutes
- 6th grade and above
- Minimum of 10 participants; maximum of 65

How do you Zoo?

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of running a zoo? Are you curious about what it takes to care for a collection of wild animals? This program answers those questions by providing an in depth look into how our facility operates.

- Program lasts between 30-45 minutes
- Kindergarten and above
- Minimum of 10 participants; maximum of 65

Box Turtle Connection Project (*This program is only offered April- September*)

The Box Turtle Connection is a 100 year long term study underway across the state in North Carolina with more than 30 active research sites whose collective goal is to learn more about the status and trends in Box Turtle populations, identify threats, and develop strategies for long term conservation of the species. In this program we will discuss the natural history and adaptations of Box Turtles. Following the discussion, we will venture out into the park to look for Box Turtles for the study.

- 1.5 hour program

- 6th grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Outdoor Skills

Participants will learn a few basic outdoor and survival skills such as shelter building, fire building, and water purification techniques. No prior experience with outdoor skills is necessary for this program.

- 1 hour program
- 6th grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Hook, Line and Sinker

Join us for a basics of fishing program where participants will learn some of the basics of fishing, handling of tackle, identification of fish species, and catch and release techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring their patience as we try our luck fishing at our lake. All animals caught during the program will be released.

- 1.5 hour program
- 1st grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Macroinvertebrate Detectives

Studying Macroinvertebrates is a great way to tell how clean a water source is. In this program, participants will use their best detective skills to find the tiny macroinvertebrates living in the lake at Dan Nicholas Park and deduce what kind they are in order to figure out how healthy the water at the lake really is.

- 1 hour program
- 1st grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Water Quality Assessment

We take a close look at the water quality of Dan Nicholas Park lake by using kid friendly scientific research and hands on chemistry analysis of water samples. Students will be able to study how water acts as an important resource for all living things and how water pollution can affect both humans and animals.

- 1 hour program
- 6th grade and above
- Minimum of 5 participants; maximum of 15

Black Bear Program

In this program we talk about the only bear species found in the eastern part of the United States. We cover natural history, adaptations and the regulations and conservation efforts made on behalf of this species.

- Program last between 30-45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 people required

Red Wolf Recovery

Red Wolves are one of the world's most endangered wild canids and just so happen to be native to North Carolina! In this program we discuss natural history, adaptations and the current wildlife recovery efforts conducted by the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service in an effort to restore Red Wolves to the wild.

- Program last between 30-45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 people required

White-tailed Deer Program

White-tailed Deer are probably one of the most popular, well known animals in North Carolina. In this program we discuss this natural history, adaptations and conservation efforts surrounding this adaptable species.

- Program last between 30-45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 people required

Raptors of North Carolina

Silent, swift and strong predators, Birds of Prey otherwise known as "Raptors" are very prevalent in North Carolina with around 17 commonly found species that call our state home. Learn about the natural history, adaptations and conservation efforts surrounding a few of these species.

- Program last between 30-45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 people required

Snakes of North Carolina

North Carolina is home to 38 species of snakes with only 6 of those species being venomous. In this program we do a brief overview of the different species natural history, adaptations and conservation efforts.

- Program last between 30-45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 people required

Turtles of North Carolina

Turtles are found all over North Carolina, from the mountains to the coast. Find out what the difference between turtles, terrapins and tortoises are and find out which turtle species is

primarily terrestrial. We will cover natural history, adaptations and conservation efforts surrounding turtles in North Carolina.

- Program last between 30-45 minutes
- 3rd grade and above
- Minimum of 10 people required

Outreach Programs

Outreach programs are available Monday-Friday year-round depending on staff availability. We cannot guarantee that the dates you want for your program will be available as we are only able to do outreach programs on a very limited basis. Currently outreach programs are only available to organizations and school groups within Rowan County.

At this time the following programs are available for outreach:

- Animal Program
- Owl Pellet Dissection
- Poisonous Plants/Venomous Animals
- Working Wild
- How do you Zoo?
- Skulls and Skins

Don't see an onsite or outreach program that is right for you? Please contact Misty Parrish at misty.parrish@rowancountync.gov or 704-216-7834 to discuss options for programs tailored to your specific needs.

How to Book

To book a program please go online to our website at www.rowanwild.org

If you have any questions about the programs or cannot schedule a program on the website please contact Misty Parrish at misty.parrish@rowancountync.gov or by phone at 704-216- 7834.