

Nature Center Programs

The following programs can be scheduled by individual groups at no cost. Some programs have a minimum or maximum number expected or allowed. The Nature Center auditorium maximum capacity is 65 by Rowan County Fire Marshall regulations. Call Naturalist Mike Lambert at 704-216-7833 or email at Michael.Lambert@rowancountync.gov

Animal Program (30 minutes) *65 maximum including teachers and parents*

This program is the only Nature Center program included on the Field Trip Registration Form, and is the only program scheduled through concessions.

The program can be scheduled Monday – Friday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Rowan County groups that schedule this program get into Wildlife Adventures and Barn free. This program is an up close look at some smaller animals, including a few non-native “pocket” pets. Differences between mammals, birds and reptiles are presented along with naturalist history and adaptations.

First grade and older can touch some animals. Kindergarteners can touch mammals only. Pre-k and toddlers are not allowed to touch.

Trail Walk (1.5 hours) *Weather permitting.*(25 max)

Participants will be lead on a trail walk on Persimmon Brach Trail, which is a two mile loop trail. There can be discussion of ecology, habitats, plants, and whatever is seen if desired. There is a trail guide available for sale at concessions.

Tree Leaf Identification (1 hour) (3rd grade and older)

Using a PowerPoint presentation and a simple dichotomous key, participants will be shown how to identify some local trees. Depending on the weather, participants will be lead on a short walk to identify trees.

Owl Pellets (1 hour) (3rd grade and above-25 max)

Participants will be shown how to dissect an owl pellet and identify the prey animal parts found. Some discussion of owl natural history, adaptations, and environmental issues. For larger groups there may be pellet cost involved.

Poisonous Plants/Venomous Animals (45 minutes) (3rd grade and older)

PowerPoint presentation with discussion and examples of some plants and animals. Some preserved specimens may be shown.

Stream Walk (1.5 hours) *Weather Permitting* (3rd grade and older -15 max)

Participants will be shown how to identify macro-invertebrates using a PowerPoint presentation, and then led to Persimmon Brach to collect specimens. Discussion of water/stream quality and habitats. Wear appropriate clothing. Shoes will get muddy and wet.

Reptiles (45 minutes) (1st grade and older)

Natural history and adaptations of reptiles is discussed using live examples.