



2025-2026 TEACHER PACKET

Greetings teachers!

We hope your school year is off to a great start! As you continue your planning, please keep the Fayette Environmental Education Center's programming in mind, as we would love to bring our fun and engaging environmental educational programs to your students this year. In this packet, you will find information on our education team, a breakdown of our environmental science program offerings, the benefits of outdoor learning, and descriptions of the four nature areas available for field trips.

About Us:

The Southern Conservation Trust is a US 501 (c)3 public charity (EIN 58-2036727) that elevates nature through the exceptional stewardship of over 60,000 acres of conserved land in 13 states. We operate 5 public nature areas in the South Metro Atlanta area and provide environmental education through our Fayette Environmental Education Center.

What We Offer:

We offer a variety of hands-on, project-based, standard-correlated programs covering topics ranging from earth and life sciences to ecology and plant-animal interactions. With 15 program topics to choose from, our goal is to give educators cost-effective field trip options without having to travel to Atlanta. Each program is a worthwhile experience that teachers and their students can keep coming back for. Highly qualified educators lead trips with a combined 25 years of experience teaching STEM outdoors, with multiple certifications in state and nationally recognized organizations. We are also well-versed in creating custom programming to fit individual teachers' and classes' unique needs and lessons.

If we have had the opportunity to work with you in the past, thank you so much for allowing us to partner with you on your student's education, and we hope to be a resource for you again in the future. If you are new to the programming opportunities of the Fayette Environmental Education Center, we look forward to a chance to show you what we're all about! Don't forget to ask about discounts opportunities for Title 1 schools!

To learn more about our programs or to book today, [Click Here!](#)

Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions.

Naturally yours,

[Charlee Glenn \(she/her\)](#)

Director of Environmental Education

Southern Conservation Trust | Fayette Environmental Education Center

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MEET THE EDUCATORS



Charlee Glenn

Director of Environmental Education

With a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Clayton State University, a Master of Herpetology certification through the Amphibian Foundation, a Georgia Master Naturalist, and an ATEEG certification through the North American Association for Environmental Education (ETC fall 2025), Charlee has been teaching and coordinating environmental education programs at museums and nature centers around Georgia for over 15 years. She has taught with and cared for over 50 different species of native and exotic mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and birds of prey throughout her career, with a special place in her heart for snakes. Charlee joined the Southern Conservation Trust team in June of 2021, where she enjoys creating, scheduling, booking, and teaching field trips, in-school programs, and coordinating the homeschool and summer camp programs. Charlee hangs out with her 9-year-old ball python and fiancé in her free time. Together, they enjoy cosplaying and throwing themed parties for friends and family.



Carol Garrison

Environmental Education Coordinator

Carol joined the Education Team at the Southern Conservation Trust last October. In addition to being an environmental educator, Carol enjoys public speaking to youth and adult groups including scouts, the Sierra Club, Master Naturalists, and local community organizations. She's a Texas Master Naturalist, Certified Interpretive Guide, and certified Bat Ambassador through Bat Conservation International. She has been accepted into the 2024 class for the Georgia Master Naturalist program and is looking forward to learning more about her new home state. Carol's hobbies include gardening and exploring trails while making observations for iNaturalist. Carol is also the docent for the Fayette Environmental Education Center, so be sure to ask for a tour during your next visit.

Environmental Education Programs

Most programs can be tailored to fit any grade level upon request. Programs with an asterisk can only be taught at Southern Conservation Trust.

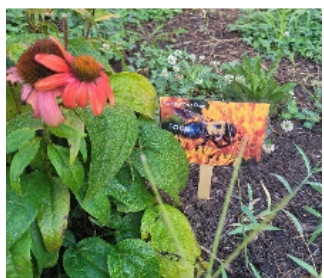


Enviroscope: What About Our Water

Recommended Grades: 2, 3, 6

S2P1 a, b; S2L1a; S3L1 a, b, c, d; S3L2 a, b; S6E3 a, b, c; S6E5 h, i, j

Students are introduced to what a watershed is, how it functions, and how we all live in and contribute to one. Using the Enviroscope teaching tool, students create a typical town and explore point source and nonpoint source pollutants. Students will discover how our everyday lives can significantly impact the natural environment and, consequently, the watershed they live in. Then, students brainstorm practical ways of reducing certain pollutants in the town and learn what positive impacts they can have.



Habitats & Impacts

Recommended Grades: 3, 4, 7

S3L1 c, d; S3L2 a, b; S4L1a, b, c, d; S4L2a, b; S7L4 a, b, c, d, e

Students will review habitats and basic needs by exploring some of the many plants and animals that make their home at the nature center or their school. Students will be broken up into groups, assigned an animal that can be found nearby, and tasked with finding where that animal might find all their basic needs. Through exploration and hands-on activities, the students will learn about several factors that may impact an animal and its habitat, directly or indirectly, through the food web.



Insects & Decomposers

Recommended Grades: 1- 5

SKL1a, b; SKL2a, c, d; S1L1.a, b, c; S2L1a; S2L1 a, b, c, d; S2E3 a, b; S4L1a, b, c, d; S5L1. a, b

In this fun and interactive program, discover the vital role that insects, other arthropods, and invertebrates play in the food chain. Students will first learn what insects and other arthropods are and some of their identifying characteristics and then test their knowledge in a tournament-style game of speed and accuracy. Then, students will take to the garden to see how many kinds they can find between the garden beds, compost pile, and pollinator garden!



***Interpretive Hike**

Recommended Grades: All Grades

SKL1 a, b, c; SKL2 a, b, c; SIL1 a, b; SKL1 a, b, c, d; S3L1 c, d; S3L2 a, b; S4L1 a, b, c, d; S4L2 a, b; S5E1 b, c; S5L1 a, b

Join a SCT environmental educator at one of our public nature areas to see what we can see! On the hike, students can expect to learn how to identify several plant and tree species (even in the winter!), listen for bird calls, search for animal signs, discuss ecosystems, food chains, and learn some of the natural history of the nature area. Please come prepared with weather-appropriate hiking clothes, closed-toed shoes, and water.



Living With Wildlife

Recommended Grades: K-4

SKL1 a, b; SKL2 a; SIL1 a, b; S3L1 c, d; S3L2 c; S4L2 a, b

Students are introduced to the word habitat and discuss the basic needs of animals and what they need to stay alive. We'll discuss some differences between wildlife and domesticated animals and how they find their basic needs. Students will realize that their very own backyard is a habitat for a surprising number of wildlife species, including some they don't readily recognize as wildlife. We'll discuss when it is and when it is not appropriate to help wildlife and create a take-home to help migratory birds.



Mighty Microorganisms

Recommended Grades: 4

S5L4 a, b

Students will go over what bacteria are and realize that they are all around us all the time. Then, the students will be broken into small groups to read and discuss real-life scenarios involving several types of bacteria. Students will be tasked with deciding if the bacteria were beneficial or harmful in each scenario. By the end of the program, students will realize that bacteria are everywhere and, more often than not, vital to life itself.



Plants & Animals

Recommended Grades: K & 1

SKL2 a, b, c & e; SIL1 a, b, c & d, S1E1 c

The nature center is the perfect place to explore the basic needs of plants and animals. First, students will get moving to learn the life cycle of a plant through some "Plant Yoga." We'll discuss what things they need with each movement. Afterward, we'll explore the plants around the nature center to find them in each stage of their life cycle. Next, we'll visit our barnyard area to learn what the chickens and goats need to survive and try to find them in their enclosures while discussing the needs of domesticated animals and wildlife.

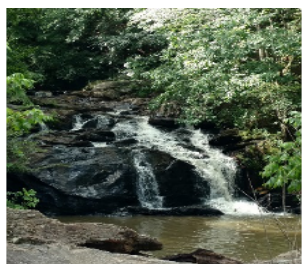


Pollinators in Action - Bees

Recommended Grades: K, 1, 2 4

SKL1 a, b, c; SKL2 a, b, c; SIL1 a, b, c, d; S2L1 a, b, c; S4L1 a, b, c

Explore the amazing world of pollinators. Students will learn about several kinds of pollinators (some may even come as a surprise) and their vital role in the ecosystem, not only for plants and animals but for people, too. Then, we'll dive deep into bees, learning the hive's structure, bee jobs inside the hive, and bee anatomy before learning how honeybees communicate and turn nectar into honey. At the end of the program, students will learn that honey's flavor changes based on the flowers they visit and will get to taste at least two different types! *Please let us know of any honey allergies prior to the program.*



***Regions & Wildlife of Georgia**

Recommended Grades: 3, 4, 5, 6

SE32 a; S3L1 a, b, c, d; S3L2 a, b; S4L1 a, b, c, d; S4L2 a, b; S5E1 b; S6E3 a, S6E5

Join a SCT educator as we explore the five ecoregions of Georgia. Through a power point presentation, students will learn about important geological features of each region, how they were made, and how they help to define the various ecosystems of each region. Students will learn what makes each region unique in the state, and the wildlife that thrives there. Throughout the presentation, students will have the opportunity to meet a live animal ambassador that can be found across Georgia.



Reptile Program

Recommended Grades: All

SKL1 a, b, c; SKL2 b; SIL1 b, d; S2L1 a; S3L1 a, c, d; S4L1 a, c, d; S4L2 a; S5L1 a; S7L1 a, b

Students will be introduced to the wonderful world of reptiles, some defining characteristics, and their many amazing adaptations. They'll learn about the four main groups of reptiles and some of the unique features specific to each group. Then, students will meet one to two of the Nature Center's resident reptiles and have the chance to touch one or both animal ambassadors.



Rocks & Minerals

Recommended Grades: 3, 5, 6

S3E1 a, b, c; S3E2 a, b; S3L1c; S5E1 a, b, c; S5P1 a, b, c; S6E5 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h

Students will begin with a quick review of what rocks and minerals are and play a game that will help them remember the difference between the two. Next, students will discuss fossils and how they fit into the scheme of things. Then, we'll pass around some interesting examples of each, discussing how and where they form. We'll also talk about some of the many rocks, minerals, and fossils that can be found here in the state of Georgia!



Skulls & Furs

Recommended Grades: K - 5

SKL1 a, b; SKL2 a; SIL1 b, d; S2L1 a; S3L1 a, b, c, d; S3L2 a, b; S4L1 a, b, c, d; S4L2 a, b; S5L1 a

SCT Educator will share skulls and furs of animals native to the Piedmont region of Georgia. Students will investigate the skulls and make hypotheses about some of the animal's adaptations, the type of consumer it may be, its place in the food chain, its role in the ecosystem, and finally the type of animal it might be. Students will have the chance to handle the skulls to identify key characteristics and explore some of the furs belonging to the animals discussed, further exploring some of the adaptations.

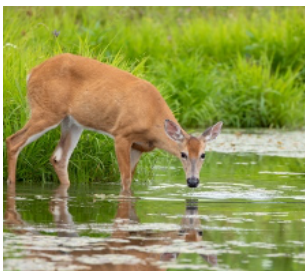


Vascular & Non-Vascular Plants

Recommended Grades: 4, 5, 7

S4L1a, b, c, d; S4L2a, b; S5L1 a & b; S7L1 a, b; S7L5 a, b

Students will review the difference between vascular and nonvascular plants, discuss how they reproduce, some of the advantages and limitations of each group, and why we still find both in nature today. Students will also play a fun resource game that demonstrates some of these differences. If time permits, students will explore live examples of vascular and nonvascular plants that can readily be found outside.



The Incredible Journey of Water

Recommended Grades: 1 – 6

S1L1.a, b, c; S1E1.a,b,c,d; S2P1 a, b, c S2L1 a, b, c, d; S2E3 a, b; S3L1 a, b, c; S4E2b; S4E4a, c; S4E3a, b; S4E4a, b, c, d; S6E5 d, e

Students will take an incredible journey throughout the world, and everywhere a drop of water might travel in the water cycle. With a roll of a dice, students will journey through clouds, oceans, plants, animals, and more! At each station, students will gather a bead to add to a bracelet which is theirs to keep commemorating their unique water story! At the end of the game, students discuss how their drop of water got into and out of each station and why they were stuck at some stations for so long!



*Weathering & Erosion

Recommended Grades: 2, 3, & 5

S2P2 a, b, c; S2P1 a, b, c; S3E1 a, b, c; S3E2 a; S3L2 a, b; S5E1. a, b, c

Students begin by discussing the different types of weathering and exploring physical examples of each, noting some that are pretty famous and some happening a lot closer to home. Then, students participate in a fun game exploring forces that can contribute to erosion and deposition and how plants can play a vital role in keeping soil in place.

Why Outdoor Education?

Better Grades



According to a 2006 academic paper and a study conducted in California in 2000, students from 11 schools who studied an outdoor curriculum scored higher in 72% of assessments in math, science, and attendance than those who did not receive the outdoor curriculum.

Lower Stress Levels



Hearing the sounds of nature triggers the brain to release serotonin, which causes feelings of safety and well-being, and repetitive actions release the “pleasure chemical” dopamine. This means that doing garden-based activities like monitoring plant growth or watering every day is a great way to improve your students' moods.

Better Behavior



Students' ability to behave in an educational setting is improved by learning outdoors. The California study found that the number of on-task students increased when learning outside, and other studies have shown that outdoor education leads to better social adjustment and group cohesion, which contribute to improved behavior in a group setting.

Improved Communication Skills



Because it often requires students to work as a team to solve problems, outdoor education, especially project-based expeditions, trains students to communicate effectively. This often involves leading and participating in group discussions, giving and listening to feedback, and resolving conflicts on their own. According to [a 2006 study](#), the impact of these activities on students is more significant when the consequences are real, as they often are in outdoor education.

Better Health



A study published in the *International Journal of Obesity* found outdoor education can help avoid childhood obesity. The phrase “nature-deficit disorder” describes the negative effects of too much indoor overstimulation, which may lead to anxiety, depression, ADHD, and obesity. This overstimulation is eased by simply being outside.

Improved Memory



Learning outdoors can help improve memory by providing students with fresh stimuli instead of learning in a familiar setting. This improves recall by releasing dopamine into the part of the brain where memories are created, helping the brain retain new information.

Field Trip Locations



Fayette Environmental Education Center

305 Beauregard Blvd.

We provide environmental education through our Nature Center located at the heart of downtown Fayetteville. Through a variety of programming, we provide meaningful interactions with nature with live animal exhibits, pollinator gardens, playgrounds and picnic areas






The Nature Center is the default location for our environmental education field trips, with easy access to classroom spaces, learning supplies, our live program animals, bathroom, a picnic area, and a new hiking trail to an adjacent property.




The Ridge Nature Area

390 Burch Rd.

The Ridge Nature Area encompasses 308 acres of natural beauty providing a glimpse into contrasting ecosystems, passive recreational experiences, and environmental exploration opportunities. As you work your way around the Creek Trail, you get to experience the bottomland hardwood areas along Gingercake and Whitewater Creeks. Frequently seen wildlife include eastern box turtles, a multitude of songbird species, armadillos, hawks, white-tailed deer, and the occasional barred owl!



For longer hikes where the primary focus of the trip is native plants, animal and decomposer wildlife interactions, identification, and other ecosystem concepts, The Ridge is the perfect spot! There is something to see, hear, and experience all year round. Short demos and games can be played at the picnic area before or after the hike (time permitting), but most of the trip will be focused on the hike.

** Bathrooms, trashcans, and six picnic tables are available at this location.*

Field Trip Locations




Morgan Grove Nature Area

181 Morgan Rd.

A 60-acre property near the Flint River in east Fayette County that gives visitors a first-hand glimpse of a retired working forest with an adjacent bottomland habitat. This nature area showcases both natural succession & active management. During the spring a vibrant butterfly garden is maintained to attract pollinators to the area. A small network of trails winds through the natural successional areas, young pine forest, and bottomland forest near Gay Creek.




Morgan Grove has shorter hiking trails with lots of space that can support many of our environmental education topics, primarily on habitats, pollinators, and ecosystems.

**A port-a-potty, two picnic tables, and trash cans are available at this location.*




Sams Lake Bird Sanctuary

260 Old Senoia Rd.

The 56-acre site was donated to SCT by the Sams family in 1997. The natural oasis is home to deer, beavers, turtles, and over 142 documented species of birds — the third-highest bird population on record in Fayette County. Trails along the wetland areas include two observation platforms overlooking open water and wetland habitat, a small boardwalk, a wildlife observation blind overlooking the northernmost wetland, and a picnic area on the southern lake.




If your trip emphasizes birds, birding, migration, and conservation, we suggest choosing our Sams Lake Bird Sanctuary. This beautiful property has the option for a short and easy hike with several spots to look out over the water to view and hear a variety of bird species or a longer hike with the opportunity to discuss the beavers and bats that live on the property. Quick games and activities are an option for smaller groups.

**A port-a-potty, two picnic tables, and trash cans are available at this location.*