

Anita Purves Nature Center

School Field Trip Information



Thank you for booking a field trip to the Anita Purves Nature Center! Please review the following information and reach out with any questions. We look forward to your visit.

General Tour Outline

~15 min. Nature Center Introduction & Field Station visit

- *You have the option to include time in the Field Station during your program, or add that time to the outdoor hike. You are welcome to visit the Field Station before or after your program.*

~15 min. Program Introduction (may be indoors or outdoors)

~1-1.5 hrs. Outdoor Hike Activities (class divided into 2 groups)

Chaperones – When it is time for the outdoor activities please be prepared to divide your students into 2 equal groups. At least one adult chaperone is helpful for every 10 students in your class. Likewise, we ask that you limit adult numbers to no more than 4 per class. Please explain that adults are expected to participate in the field trip activities – adult enthusiasm inspires the children! ***Chaperones are expected to set cell phones to silent mode and refrain from text messaging during the program.***

Siblings and Younger Visitors – Nature Center staff understands that some adults must bring younger siblings or children in their care along. We ask that adults be aware that this can cause a distraction from the program, and if need be they step away for a moment.

Dressing for the Field Trip – Please remind the students to wear the following suggested clothing.

In late fall and winter: Wearing layers of clothing creates insulating pockets of air and can be removed depending on the temperature. Students should also have a hat, mittens and warm boots.

In spring, summer and early fall: Layers of clothing are still appropriate for early spring days. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are preferred at all times to avoid scratches and insect bites. Tennis shoes or some other durable footwear offer more protection than sandals or slip-ons. **No sandals or flip-flops please!** Encourage students not to wear their favorite tennis shoes! **Mud is possible at any time of the year.**

Please let us know if this may be an issue for some of your students and we can try to help.

Rules of Busey Woods – To preserve the natural habitat, certain guidelines must be respected. Please make sure your class understands the following requests.

1. **Everyone must stay on the trails.** We want to minimize our impact on the woods and can do so by only walking on designated pathways. Straying off the trail may crush small plants, disturb animal homes or result in a case of poison ivy.
2. **Nothing should be picked, damaged or removed.** Busey Woods is a nature preserve. Picking or removing plants or animals disturbs the natural balance of nature and detracts from the experience of future visitors.
3. **Everyone must stay together.** Students need to know who their guide is, and that they will remain together as a group during the tour.

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Inclement Weather

- Groups may go on their scheduled hikes if it is misting or raining lightly.
- In the event of inclement weather (downpour, lightening & thunder, severe weather warnings or very low temperatures), school tours will still be held and indoor activities and games will be substituted. **Custom programs will need to be rescheduled.**
- If weather is borderline, teachers will be consulted on whether a group will stay inside or try to venture into the great outdoors.

Payment

- Payment is due by or on the day of the program. The \$42 fee covers up to 25 students.
- Each additional student costs \$1 each up to a maximum of 36 students.
- We accept all major credit cards, cash, and checks made out to the “Urbana Park District.”
- If payment is not received by or on the day of the program, a \$10 late payment fee will be applied to the balance.

Cancellations

- If you decide to cancel a trip for any reason, please be sure to contact the Nature Center at 217 384-4062 at least one week before your scheduled visit. You may leave a message on the answering machine if you are unable to call during business hours, or email Chelsea Prah! at ckprahl@urbanaparks.org.
- If a program is cancelled with less than 1 business day notice, the program fee is still due.

Thank you for your interest in environmental education. I look forward to meeting you and your students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.P.' or 'C.K.P.', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chelsea Prah! (she/they)
Environmental Education Coordinator
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217-384-4062