

## Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

### Natural and Historical School Programs

**Raven Run Nature Sanctuary** is a 734-acre nature preserve located in southern Fayette county. Ten miles of trails provide access to forests, meadows and several 19th century historical sites.

The Sanctuary offers **FREE** outdoor programs for school groups. In addition to those offered below, we would be glad to create new programs to meet your teaching requirements.



All programs are constructed integrating:  
**The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**

In addition we support the important points outlined in  
**The Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan**

- Significant childhood experiences in the outdoors, in addition to knowledge, moves a student from awareness to stewardship.
- Environmental learning includes the integration of science with other study areas such as social sciences, art and math.

To schedule a program, please contact  
**Michael Downs at (859) 272-6105 or [cdowns@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:cdowns@lexingtonky.gov)**

#### **Biodiversity and Adaptations**

Utilizing the incredible biodiversity of the Sanctuary, students explore meadows and forests to learn how native Kentucky organisms adapt to each system. These Programs can be done with a general examination of plants and animals or an emphasis on insects, wildflowers or trees.

Core Standards emphasized in this program include:

- Exploring the needs of plants and animals living in Kentucky's native ecosystems
- Examination of adaptations (dispersal, pollination, life cycles, structures, behaviors, etc.)
- An examination of the great biodiversity of Kentucky
- Understanding the relationships between organisms

#### **Fossils of the Bluegrass**

This program includes an indoor examination of Bluegrass fossils and information on fossil sites across the state. During a guided hike, participants learn about historical use of rocks and search for fossils along our trails.

Core Standards emphasized in this program include:

- Fossil evidence of organisms and their relation to prehistoric environments
- Examination of fossils that document the diversity, extinction, and change of organisms through time
- How similarities and differences between modern and fossil organisms demonstrate evolutionary relationships

#### **Bluegrass History**

Students explore a preserved historical homestead and graveyard to learn how people lived and affected the landscape in the early 19th century. Information and museum materials from recent on-site archaeological investigations will give participants an understanding of Native American and European interactions over the last 3000 years.

Core Standards emphasized in this program include:

- Historical perspectives toward the landscape
- History of Kentucky
- Examination of actual materials to understand historical events