

**City Of Gainesville**  
**Environmental and Cultural History**  
**Field Trip Program Descriptions**

- **When?** Field Trip programs are mainly offered September through May, with limited summer availability
- **Where?** Field Trips programs most often take place at Morningside Nature Center, but are also offered at a number of Gainesville's nature parks.
- **Fees:** The Fee is per person and there is a 15 person minimum.
- **Chaperone Policy:** The booking teacher attends free of charge as well as one chaperone per 10 participants. Any number of chaperones over that amount would pay the participant fee.
- **Questions:** Contact us at (352)393-8242 or [EEprograms@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:EEprograms@cityofgainesville.org)

**Critter Classification**

**Grade:** 1-3      **Time:** 1.5 hours      **Max Students:** 25      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$5.75

Animals belong in a class, but it's not because they have to learn! The students learn that animal classes are groups of critters that are alike in certain ways. They will discover the world of classification with live and preserved animals as well as a series of sorting games. We begin by learning the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates. By the end of the program they will also be able to classify animals as Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals.

**Exploring Florida's Ecosystems**

**Grade:** 3-5      **Time:** 2.5 hours      **Max Students:** 30      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$5.75

Which of Florida's ecosystems is more critically endangered than tropical rainforests? Which ecosystem helps filter and clean water entering the aquifer? Participants explore three of Florida's ecosystems and find out the answers to these questions and more using scientific equipment to measure environmental factors and describe the landscape.

**Farm Adventure**

**Grade:** PK-1      **Time:** 1.5 hours      **Max Students:** 30      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$4.50

Morningside Nature Center has a farm ee-i-ee-i-oh! And on that farm students discover what life was like in the late nineteenth century for Florida farmers. With an 1840's cabin here, an heirloom garden there, and heritage breed livestock nearly everywhere, at Morningside Nature Center you'll have a farm adventure...ee-i-ee-i-ohhhh!

**Farm Fit**

**Grade:** 3-5      **Time:** 1.5 hours      **Max Students:** 25      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$4.50

Come on down to the farm to get fit as a fiddle! Students will participate in a fun exercise circuit that involves toting water, stacking wood and plowing the garden. It's good old fashioned fitness with farm flare!

**Farm Livin'**

**Grade:** 3-5      **Time:** 3.0 hours      **Max Students:** 30      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$7.00

Participants travel back in time to the year 1870 and experience life on a Florida Farm. Dressed in period clothes, students do chores children would have been responsible for. But life on the farm was not all work. After baking on a wood stove, gardening, sewing, and working with hand tools students kick up their heels to an 1870 play party tune!

**Location abbreviations:** BA=Bivens Arm Nature Park, BS=Boulware Springs Nature Park, C=Cofrin Nature Park, LEF=Loblolly Environmental Facility, MNC=Morningside Nature Center, RP=Ring Park, SWP=Sweetwater Wetlands Park

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**Hooray for Habitats**

**Grade:** 1-3      **Time:** 1.5 hours      **Max Students:** 25      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$5.75

Participants investigate animal habitats and homes and learn about animal adaptations and needs. Plant-animal interactions, food chains, and the importance of conservation are revealed as students work in groups to construct animal habitats. This program stresses food, water, shelter, and space as essential parts of habitat for all animals, including people!

**NSI: Nature Scene Investigation**

**Grade:** 3-5      **Time:** 1.5 hours      **Max Students:** 30      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$5.75

A program for aspiring nature detectives! Participants will use wildlife investigation techniques and naturalist know-how to solve a nature mystery. Tracks, scat, bones and feathers are just some of the clues that will help students to crack the case!

**Sensing Nature**

**Grade:** PK-1      **Time:** 1.5 hours      **Max Students:** 25      **Locations:** MNC      **Fee:** \$5.75

Discover the wonder of nature through the senses of touch, sight, smell, and hearing. Students use their senses to explore how animals survive in nature while rotating through stations. Special goggles, audio devices, and touch containers are just a few of the props that make this program SENSE-ational!

**Timucua Times**

**Grade:** 3-5      **Time:** 3.0 hours      **Max Students:** 30      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$7.00

Go native and explore the culture of the Timucua speaking Potano people, an early Native American group of North Central Florida. Students rotate through a Timucua village and engage in activities that reveal the technology, food ways and other cultural practices of a vanished people.

**Wetland Wonders**

**Grade:** 3-5      **Time:** 3.0 hours      **Max Students:** 25      **Location:** SWP      **Fee:** \$7.00

Wetlands were once thought of as wastelands. Not anymore! Discover the wonders of wetlands at the recently built Sweetwater Wetlands Park where students rotate between stations using scientific equipment to catch and observe live organisms, examine water quality and use a hands-on watershed model to manipulate pollution in their community.

**Large Group Program**

**Makin' a Livin'**

**Grade:** 3-8      **Time:** 3.0 hours      **Participants:** 30-80      **Location:** MNC      **Fee:** \$5.75

Come and get a sample of Morningside with your large group and see how those in the past and present are makin' a livin'! Visit our Living History Farm to see what life was like on an 1800s Florida Farm, hike through our sandhill ecosystem to experience the ecology and connections around us and learn about the technology and history of local Indigenous People in our Timucua Village!

Updated July 29, 2025

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