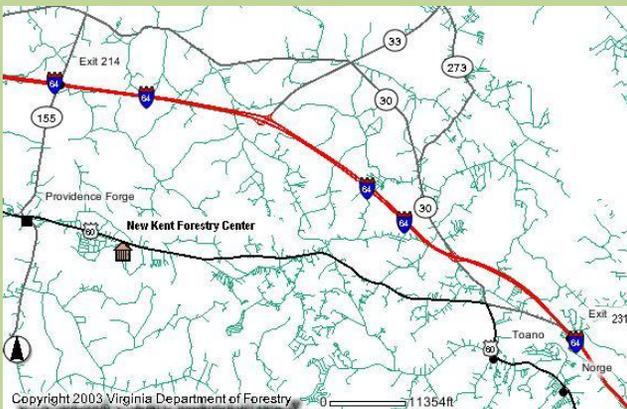


The New Kent Forestry Center Educational Experience

A school trip to the New Kent Forestry Center is an educational experience that will get students excited about learning. We engage students in hands-on activities that teach them about the natural world. We can provide equipment and tools, and our programs are matched to the Virginia Science Standards of Learning.

Programs can also be scheduled on the nearby Zoar, Sandy Point, or Crawford's State Forests. The Virginia's State Forests Tax Fund supports education initiatives in the state forests system. A map of all Virginia State Forests is available at www.dof.virginia.gov.



New Kent Forestry Center
11301 Pocahontas Trail (Route 60)
Providence Forge, VA 23140
Phone: (804) 966-2201
FAX: (804) 966-9801

Planning Your Trip

- Programs are FREE! To allow adequate planning time, please schedule your class visit at least one month in advance. Contact Lisa Deaton, Forest Education Specialist: E-mail - lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov Phone: 804-966-2201, Ext. 115
- Up to 4 classes of students can be scheduled per day. Activities are typically arranged in a rotation, so that each group is always in a learning activity. Each station lasts 30-45 minutes, but longer activities are possible when fewer than 4 groups are scheduled.
- All participants should be prepared for outdoor learning activities (close-toed shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.)



The New Kent Forestry Center features:

- 428 acres of fields, forest, and wetlands
- 429 acres of blackwater cypress swamp and marsh along the Chickahominy River (adjacent Game Farm Marsh Wildlife Management Area owned by the VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries)
- Large parking area for school buses
- Restroom facilities
- Hiking trails with boardwalks over water
- Fishing dock on the Chickahominy River
- Explore & Learn Area for young children
- Loblolly and longleaf pine seed orchards
- American chestnut research plots
- Plentiful wildlife

School Programs at the New Kent Forestry Center



Outdoor Educational
Experiences for Students
of All Ages

Tree Biology, Growth, and Conservation

How Trees Grow

Grades: 3 - 7 (extensions for older grades available)
SOLs supported: 3.1, 3.8, 4.1, 4.4, 6.1, LS.3, LS.5
Students will learn how trees grow and practice aging trees through growth rings.

Tree Reproduction

Grades: 7 -12
SOLs supported: LS.12, BIO.5, BIO.8
Students will investigate the different ways trees reproduce.

How Big Is That Tree?

Grades: 6 -12
SOLs supported: 6.1, LS.1, PS.1, BIO.1
Students will learn and use different methods of measuring tree diameter and height.

Tree Planting

Grades: K-12
SOLs supported: K.6, K.7, 1.4, 1.7, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.6, 3.10, 4.4, 4.5, 4.9, 6.9, LS.9, LS.10, LS.11, BIO.8
Students will help plant tree seedlings that will conserve forest land, provide wildlife habitat, and protect our soil and water.



Watersheds and Water Quality

Water Sampling

Grades: 6 -12
SOLs supported: 6.1, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, LS.1, LS.6, LS.8, LS.9, LS.11, LS.13, ES.8, BIO.1, BIO.2, BIO.6, BIO.8, CH.1
Students will test water quality chemically, and also capture and identify macroinvertebrates in creeks and ponds.

Watershed Siesta

Grades: 3 - 8
SOLs supported: 3.6, 3.9, 3.10, 4.5, 4.9, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, LS.11, ES.8
Students will investigate and identify the characteristics of watersheds, beginning as a water droplet in a hammock.

Forest Ecology and Management

Forest Plot Sampling

Grades: 7 - 12
SOLs supported: LS.1, LS.9, BIO.1, BIO.8
Students will set up a sample plot in which they will measure and record data. (This program can be directed toward timber volumes or biological diversity.)

Soil Sampling

Grades: 3 - 8
SOLs supported: 3.1, 3.7, 4.1, 4.9, 5.1, 5.7, LS.1, ES.1
Students will learn the importance of soils, and examine soil profiles, texture, and other properties.

Success(ion) Stories

Grades: 4 - 12
SOLs supported: 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.9, 5.1, 5.5, 6.1, LS.1, LS.4, LS.8, LS.9, LS.10, LS.11, LS.13, BIO.8
Students will learn how plant communities change over time, and compare and contrast areas in different stages of succession.

Threats to Our Forests

Grades: 10 - 12
SOLs supported: LS.10, LS.11, BIO.8
Students will learn about problematic insects and diseases that have affected our forests for generations, and recent introductions that threaten entire ecosystems.

The American Chestnut: an Ecological Disaster, an Epic Hope

Grades: 10 -12
SOLs supported: LS.10, LS.11, LS.12, LS.13, BIO.5, BIO.7, BIO.8
Student will learn about one of the biggest ecological tragedies in recent history, and will see current scientific efforts to restore this important species.

Fire Ecology

Grades: 8 -12
SOLs supported: LS.10, LS.11, BIO.8
Students will learn how fire affects forest ecosystems and will compare burned with unburned areas.

How Much Wood is in that Tree?

Grades: 6-12
SOLs supported: 6.1, LS.1, PS.1, BIO.1
Students will learn to measure trees and estimate the volume of forest product that could be derived.

Forest Careers

Forestry Careers

Grades: 8 - 12
Students will learn about different forestry careers, and the tools and equipment used in these careers
SOLs supported: NA

Ecosystems and Diversity

Invasive Investigators

Grades: 8 -12
SOLs supported: LS.10, LS.11, BIO.8
Students will research, find, and identify problematic invasive plant species on the State Forest

Tree Identification

Grades: K - 12
SOLs supported: K.1, K.9, 1.1, 1.4, 1.8, 2.1, 2.8, 3.1, 4.1, 4.4, 4.9, 5.1, 5.5, 6.1, LS.1, LS.4, BIO.1, BIO.6, BIO.8
Students will learn to distinguish different native tree species. (Variations in this activity can be suited from pre-K to adult.)

Forest Scavenger Hunt

Grades: K - 7
SOLs supported: K.1, K.4, K.6, K.9, 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.5, 3.1, 3.6, 4.1, 4.5, 4.9, 5.1, 5.5, 6.1, LS.1, LS.4, LS.9
Students will participate in a scavenger hunt for living and nonliving things in a forested setting using digital cameras to record their findings. Students will make observations of what they find.

Wildlife

Mammals, Turtles, Turkeys, & Owls

Grades: K - 12
SOLs supported: K.1, K.6, K.7, 1.1, 1.5, 2.1, 2.5, 3.1, 3.4, 4.1, 4.5, 4.9, 5.1, 5.5, 6.1, LS.1, LS.4
Students will examine furs, feathers, bones, and shells from wildlife that are native to Virginia and learn about their habitats and characteristics. Afterwards, students will look for signs of these creatures in the forest.

Fish of the Chickahominy River

Grades: K - 12
SOLs supported: 3.5, 3.6, 3.10, 4.5, LS.6, LS.7, LS.8, LS.9, LS.10, LS.11
Students will see over a dozen live fish and learn how each fish's body is adapted for its particular lifestyle. This lesson is provided by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

