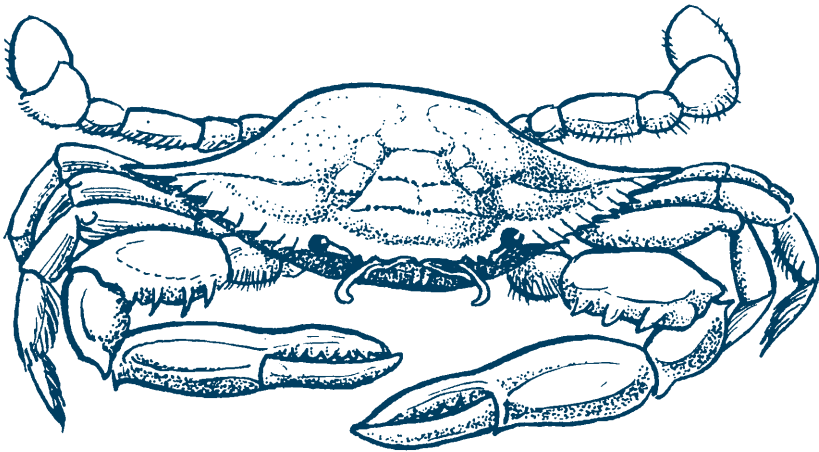




Have an
out of classroom
experience.



Education Guide for Schools and Groups
Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education



Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS

The Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education offers your group a place to explore the natural world. Nestled on the Outer Banks between Currituck Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, the Center provides a variety of hands-on experiences for schools and other groups. Participate in outdoor classes, tour the Currituck heritage exhibits or view the award-winning film, “Life by Water’s Rhythms.”

All of our programs, as well as admission to the Center, are free of charge. Programs of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are funded in part by the sportsmen and women of North Carolina. Donations are accepted.

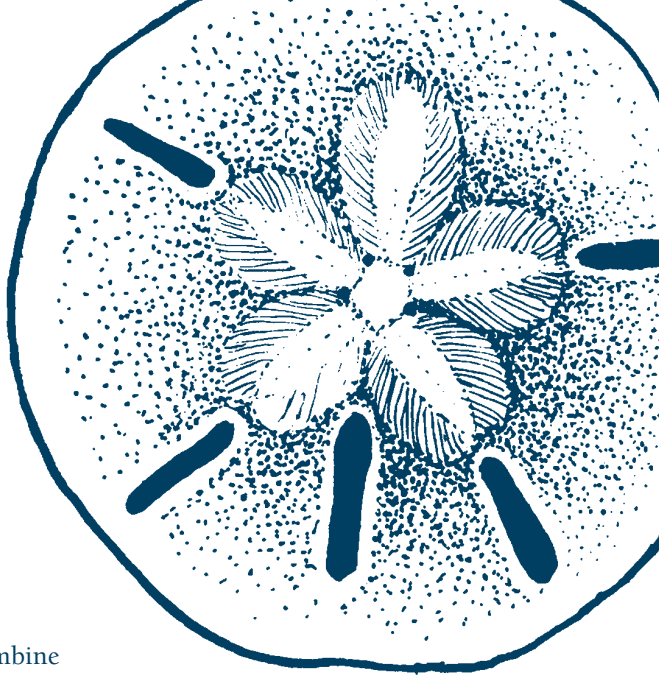
RESERVING A PROGRAM

Programs are reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Please contact us early for your choice of dates. Reservations are made by phone only. Please contact the Program Coordinator at (252) 453-0221 or (919) 707-0233.

Please have this information available when making a reservation:

- Name of school and grade level
- Contact information for group leader
- Number of students
- Number of chaperones
- Name(s) of programs or topics of interest
- Arrival and departure time
- Do you plan to visit the Currituck Beach Lighthouse or the Whalehead Club during your visit (separate reservations required at each of these sites)?





Many groups choose to combine their visit to the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education with tours of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse and the Whalehead Club. All three facilities are located within walking distance inside Currituck Heritage Park. Large groups often choose to divide into smaller groups and visit each site in rotation. Group leaders must arrange visits separately with each facility.

WILD STORE

The Wild Store carries a variety of educational items. Students enjoy a visit to the Wild Store after their programs. Students must be supervised by an adult while in the store, and no more than 10 students may visit at a time.

LUNCH

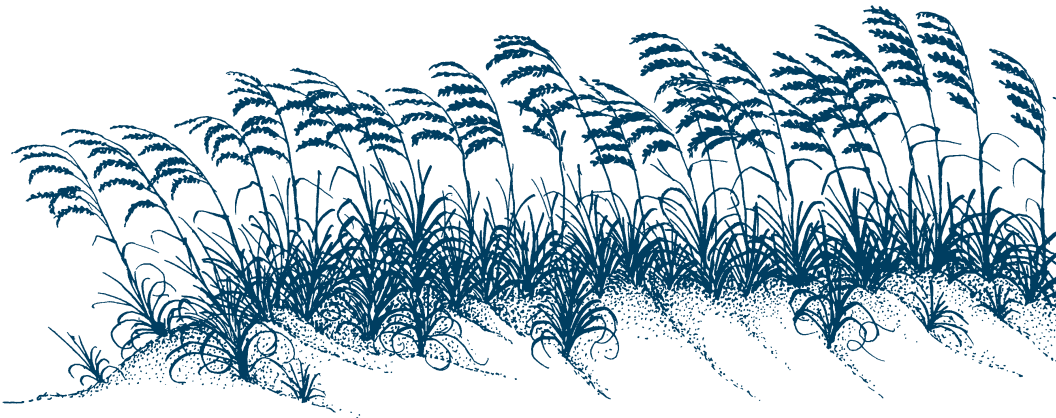
Groups that visit the Center at the lunch hour are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. Food service is not available within Currituck Heritage Park. Several local food services provide groups with box lunches. Contact the Center for a list of providers; group leaders will need to arrange directly with a food service provider. A picnic shelter is available as well as plenty of open and shady spaces.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Self-guided tours are available daily with advance reservations.

During your visit, your group may:

- Enjoy exhibits at your own pace.
- Participate in a scavenger hunt.
- Watch native species of fish in the 8500-gallon Currituck Sound aquarium.
- Take in a wildlife heritage film in the auditorium theater.
- Look for wildlife on the boardwalk trail through the maritime forest, marsh and into the sound.
- Shop for wildlife games, books and gifts at the Wild Store.
- Stroll through Currituck Heritage Park and visit the Whalehead Club and Currituck Beach Lighthouse.
- Enjoy a picnic lunch under the oaks on the beautiful park grounds.
- Explore nature up close at a Discovery Station.



WILDLIFE CLASSES FOR FIELD TRIPS

Most programs are conducted outdoors, so please dress accordingly. All programs are correlated to the N.C. Standard Course of Study. Programs usually last 45–60 minutes.

ADAPTATION SENSATION

Grades: K-4 Group Size Limit: 60

From fish lips to turtle toes, animals have adapted many interesting features that help them to survive. Come hear the folk tales behind some of these adaptations and then learn their real story of survival. But be prepared, participants need to be ready for some quick adaptation themselves!

ANIMAL OLYMPICS

Grades: 1-4 Group size limit: 25

Join us for this Olympic event and go for the gold against some of the Animal Kingdom's finest athletes in events like Turtle Hurdles, Whack-a-Fish, and the Decapod-athalon. Please bring sneakers.

BEACH EXPLORATION

Grades: 1-12 Group size limit: 60

Walk with us on the shore. Shells, shore birds, sand and dolphins; we'll talk about whatever we find along the way.

FISHING THE SOUND

Grades: 4-8 Group Size limit: 25

Come fish with us! We have the bait, poles, and information on the kinds of fish you can catch in Currituck Sound. Learn how to cast, identify and safely release fish.

MARINE MAMMALS OF N.C.

Grades: 9-12 Group size limit: 60

Learn about marine mammals hanging off our coast. Is it a dolphin or a porpoise? If you've ever wondered, this lecture-style class is your chance to find out.

MARITIME FOREST WALK

Grades: 1-12 Group size limit: 25

Hike through the maritime forest at Currituck Banks National Estuarine Research Reserve to see the plants and wildlife that call the Outer Banks home. *Please note: This class meets in the parking lot of the reserve.*



NATURE EXPLORATIONS

Grades: 1-12 Group size limit: 60

The outdoors is a busy place! Animals are moving, plants are growing, and weather is changing. Learn how to track these changes using writing, drawing, collecting, and crafting skills.

SEA TURTLE NATURAL HISTORY

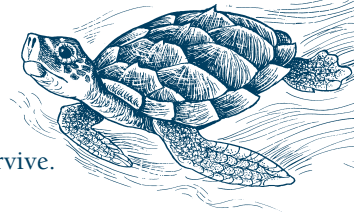
Grades: 9-12 Group size limit: 60

This program presents the various life strategies of sea turtles who visit North Carolina coastal waters. Discover the kinds of turtles that nest on our beaches and the efforts by local volunteers to help conserve these threatened and endangered reptiles.

SEA TURTLE SAFARI

Grades: 5-12 Group size limit: 25 Length: 1½ hrs

Come on safari in search of pretend turtle nests on our beach and learn what you can do to help sea turtles survive.



SOUND DISCOVERIES, SOUND DECISIONS

Grades: 5-12 Group size limit: 25 Length: 1½ hrs

Discover what makes the Currituck Sound such a unique ecological niche. We will use different techniques to sample the sound and learn how to make sound decisions for a healthier habitat. Please bring water shoes for wading.

THE SOUND SAMPLER

Grades: K-5 Group size limit: 25

Find out what lurks below the surface of the sound using different nets and traps. Be prepared to get wet and dirty discovering the diversity of Currituck Sound. Please bring water shoes for wading.

TRACKS AND TRACES

Grades: 1-5 Group size limit: 50

How many ways can you track an animal? Join our educators and learn the techniques used to track and identify local wildlife. Track animals around the center, make a plaster cast, and learn to identify the common traces of our animals that often get overlooked.

YUCK!

Grades: 1-8 Group size limit: 60 Length: 1-1½ hrs

Vomiting vultures, spitting insects, burping frogs, and more stomach-churning fun will be uncovered during this hour-long adventure. Participants will discover the dirty truth about surviving in the wild while joining staff on the “scat walk.”

OUTREACH

For Students

- **In-School Programs** Let us come to you! We offer a limited number of winter programs for schools and groups at your site.
- **Wildlife Projects** Center staff can assist students interested in pursuing wildlife-related subjects for high school graduation projects.

Contact OBCWE at (252) 453-0221.

For Educators

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission offers many wildlife workshops for educators and youth leaders.

- **Project WILD** helps K–12 educators enliven their curriculum with hands-on activities on conservation and environmental topics for the classroom and school grounds.
- **Project WILD Aquatic** provides similar instruction on aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecosystems.
- **CATCH (Caring for Aquatics Through Conservation Habits)** brings the excitement of fish and fishing to the classroom, through fish adaptations and biology, habitat requirements, fishing skills, water safety and conservation ethics.
- **Advanced WILD** provides in-depth instruction on a particular wildlife species, group or topic.

Contact Mike Campbell at (252)514-6663, mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org

The Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education is open Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The Center is closed on most state holidays. The Center and its activities are programs of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Admission is free, and all exhibits are universally accessible. The Center is supported in part by North Carolina anglers and hunters and by the Sport Fish Restoration Program of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Hearing assistance devices are available for video presentations.

Visit the Commission and the Outer Banks Center Web pages at www.ncwildlife.org.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and all wildlife programs are administered for the benefit of all North Carolina citizens without prejudice toward age, sex, race, religion or national origin. Violations of this pledge may be reported to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Equal Employment Officer, Personnel Office, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Telephone (919) 707-0101.