



## Education Programs and Resources - Tupelo, MS Area



The Natchez Trace Parkway works actively with area schools to provide curriculum-based, hands-on learning opportunities through ranger-led programs. Our rangers provide off-site programming at area schools and a variety of on-site field trip programs that provide quality place-based, educational opportunities.

Programs are targeted for specific grade levels, but often can be adapted for other grades. Programs can include grade-level appropriate information about citizen responsibilities relevant to the National Park Service and the Natchez Trace Parkway.

### Basic Visit Information

All programs and resources are free of charge.

In most cases, programs should be scheduled at least three weeks in advance.

The Parkway Visitor Center is located at milepost 266, two miles north of Highway 78. It contains rest rooms, water fountains, and open areas for picnicking. Groups must bring their own bag lunches and drinks. It is helpful if teachers bring large plastic bags for their trash. Bus parking is available at the Parkway Visitor Center.

Many teacher resources and lesson plans are available for download at the Natchez Trace Parkway web site, [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr). Look under "For Teachers."

Contact information:  
Natchez Trace Parkway  
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
Amy Genke 662-680-4053 or  
Jane Farmer 662-680-4015 & FAX 662-680-4041

### Life Sciences

Field trips or classroom programs are available for habitat, classification, adaptations, and predator/prey relationships. Ranger-led programs about the animals of the Natchez Trace Parkway use natural history props for hands-on lessons. Some programs such as plant diversity and stream studies are field trips only.

Teacher-led classroom and field trip lessons are posted at [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr). These include Spotted Salamander lessons for all grade levels, and many other life sciences and environmental lessons plans. Traveling trunks are available for some subjects.

- Target grades:  
Adaptations: 3, 4, 5, 8      Diversity: 1, 4, 5, 6  
Predator/Prey: 2, 3, 6      Classification: 1, 5  
Habitat: 1, 2      Environmental Study: 5, 6, 7  
Middle/High School: The same subject areas are covered in more complex life science studies.

- Field trips:  
Type: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 1- 3 hours
- Classroom: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 45-60 minutes

### Senses & Observation Skills

Sensory and nature appreciation programs are available for all grades. Kindergartners experience hands-on activities, smelling scents, feeling objects, making observations, and sound mapping on a trail. Higher grade level programs increase activity complexity and duration. Students may be asked to sketch, record observations, and tally information. Older students are encouraged to learn to enjoy the outdoors through using their senses and observational skills.

- Target grades: K-12
- Field trips:  
Type: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 1- 3 hours
- Classroom:  
Grades: Lower Elementary  
Type: Ranger-led  
Program length: 30-60 minutes

---

**Cultural History:  
American Indian**

A favorite fourth grade field trip rotates around three locations, the Chickasaw Village site, a burial mound site, and the Parkway Visitor Center. Other grades will also enjoy and learn from this unique educational experience.

Classroom programs are available and offer the same basic information, but we highly recommend the place-based educational experience.

Ranger-led classroom programs are available, or teachers may borrow educational kits to use at their convenience. Classroom programs may include Chickasaw and Choctaw languages and cultures.

- Target grades: 3, 4, 9-12
- Field trips:  
Type: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 1- 3 hours
- Classroom:  
Type: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 45-60 minutes

---

**Cultural History:  
Travelers of the Trace**

Boatmen who traveled the Trace were important to white settler migration into the southeast. Our programs involve the clothing and equipment of the boatmen, as well as survival on the Trace. A field trip walk in the woods provides a connection with the travelers of the past. Ranger-led classroom programs are also available and offer the same basic information, but we recommend the place-based educational experience. Teachers may borrow Travelers of the Old Trace traveling kits.

- Target grades: 3, 4, 9-12
- Field trips:  
Type: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 1- 3 hours
- Classroom:  
Type: Ranger-led and/or teacher-led  
Program length: 45-60 minutes

---

**Other Programs**

Other classroom and field trip programs are available, some are ranger-led and some are teacher led. Please contact a Parkway Visitor Center for more information or look on our web site under “For Teachers”. [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr)

Other programs include but are not limited to:

Physical Education or Health: on National Scenic Trail hikes students will learn about healthy lifestyle options. Trail hikes provide outdoor recreation opportunities which promote enjoyment, appreciation, and the preservation of natural and historic resources. Hikes encourage public use and citizen involvement. (K-12)

PE/History games: Target Grades: K-5

Mapping: Basic mappings skills. Target Grade: 4

GPS: Skills and activities: Target Grades: 5-12th

New programs and lessons are under development. If you do not see what you need, please contact us at 662-680-4015

---

**Traveling Trunks,  
Teacher’s Guide,  
Lesson Plans  
& more**

Lesson plans, a teacher information guide, traveling trunk kit contents lists, field trip planning, and other resources are available at [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr), under the “For Teachers” link.

Traveling Trunk kits for classroom use:

Call to reserve: 662-680-4015. Teachers will pick up and return kits to the Parkway Visitor Center. Trunks may be checked out for 2 weeks at a time. All trunks include lesson plans and inventory lists.

GPS Kit: Includes twenty hand-held GPS units, instructions and lesson plans.

Swamp Kit: Includes DVDs, magnifiers, binoculars, amphibian models, displays, and activities.

Life Sciences Kit: Includes animal furs, skins, and reproduction skulls, dichotomous plant key poster, acrylic block skeletons, insect metamorphosis games. Binoculars may be requested.

Travelers of the Old Trace - Boatmen Kit: Includes kid-sized boatmen, and pioneer innkeeper outfits, and travel equipment.

Art Kit: Includes plates and stamps for leaf rubbing and prints

American Indian Kit: Includes “Artifakes” to accompany Mound CSI lesson plan, and replica pottery. Story books with Chickasaw and Choctaw language translations may be requested.

Stream Study Kit:

Elementary: Includes nets, magnification boxes, identification charts and games, dragon fly metamorphosis, insect, and water test kits .

High School: In addition, includes equipment and meters for testing turbidity, pH, and oxygen.

