

Shenandoah National Park Education Program Teacher Checklist for Kindergarten and 1st Grade Programs

Schedule the park field trip

Contact the Education Office at **540-999-3489** beginning the first week of August to schedule your program. Have the following information ready when you call: preferred date of visit, grade level and number of students, preferred program time, and the names of the teachers who will be on the field trip. Have alternate dates in mind in case the date you want is already taken. Obtain the necessary school and parental permission and make transportation arrangements.

Recruit Chaperones

Recruit competent chaperones to assist you on the field trip. The park requires at least 1 adult for every 10 students. Explain your expectations for the adults participating in the program as chaperones.

Do pre-visit activities

The workshop-trained lead teacher should provide Shenandoah Education curriculum materials to all participating teachers. Administer the program pre-test prior to beginning the unit of study. Then conduct pre-visit activities to prepare students for the park visit.

Talk with a ranger

A ranger will contact you approximately 1 week in advance of the field trip to discuss final details of your park visit.

Prepare materials

Have all necessary supplies and equipment arranged ahead of time, including activities to do on the bus if poor weather conditions interrupt the program.

Review appropriate park behavior

Review the mission of the National Park Service and Shenandoah National Park. Remind students of simple things they can do to protect the park during their visit and that they will still be "in school" while on the field trip.

- All plants and animals are protected. Do not pick, harm, or remove resources.
- Animals are all around. By staying quiet, you'll have a better chance to observe them.
- Be aware of safety concerns. Look before you sit or touch. Running, pushing, and horseplay can cause accidents.

Plan lunch

School groups are welcome to picnic in the park after the program. *Note: Picnic areas offer picnic tables and restrooms, but there are no shelters for inclement weather.

Check weather

Check the following web sites for conditions and forecasts

Weather camera at Big Meadows

<http://www.instacam.com/showcam.asp?id=LRAY1&size=S>

Forecast for Shenandoah National Park

<http://www.intellicast.com/Local/Weather.aspx?location=USVA9716>

If your school must cancel because of weather concerns, contact the Education Office. The Education staff will try to reschedule the program.

Organize groups, nametags, clothing, and snacks

Divide students into groups of 10 or less before arriving at the park. Assign chaperones to the groups. Provide nametags for all participants, including adults. Remind everyone to wear sturdy shoes (no sandals), long pants, and to dress in warm, water-resistant layers. Provide a snack break prior to the program. *Note: You may want to discourage your students from taking cameras or binoculars on the field trip as these items distract students from the lessons.

Meet with chaperones

Review expectation and responsibilities for the field trip.

Field Trip experience

Plan for adequate travel time and arrive 15 minutes before the start of your program to allow time for a restroom break. Pick up backpacks at the visitor center for your self-guided program. After use, please check the backpacks. Make note of any missing items. Return the backpacks to a park ranger at the visitor center.

Do post-visit activities and assessments

Review and share experiences from the park visit. Have students do post-visit activities, discuss what they learned, and review the mission of the National Park Service. Administer the post-test after the unit is completed. Send class assessment results and student work samples to:

Education Office
Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy 211 E
Luray, VA 22835.