Mounds State Park’s trained naturalists offer field trips for students of all grade levels that will immerse them in the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the dynamic property through hands-on learning.
Mounds State Park School Group Offerings

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What’s so special about Mounds State Park?
A: Mounds State Park, in Anderson, has some of the state’s best-preserved prehistoric mounds. Additionally, we have an historic home that dates to the 1840’s and diverse ecosystems including a fen, woodland, and the White River. Our Nature Center features reptiles, amphibians, a bird viewing area, and interactive exhibits.

Q: Who will instruct my students?
A: Naturalists trained in the art of interpreting natural, historical, and cultural resources will lead your students.

Q: Do your field trips meet State Academic Standards?
A: Yes! Our programs meet the standards. In the offerings listed below, we’ve outlined which standards are met in each program.

Q: What’s the charge for a field trip?
A: We charge $1 per person (including teachers and chaperones) for each program offered during a visit, unless noted otherwise. Your entrance fee to the park is waived. Cash or check is accepted upon arrival.

Q: Can we cancel if the weather is bad?
A: Yes, you may cancel within 24 hours of your field trip. You may reschedule based on staff availability only.

Q: How many chaperones do you recommend?
A: A ratio of one chaperone for every five students is recommended.

Q: Is there somewhere we can eat lunch?
A: Yes! The park has numerous picnic tables. Shelters are reservable or first-come, first-served if not occupied.

Q: My class is quite large; how many students can you handle at one time?
A: Large classes are not a problem, we simply break them into groups of 30 or less upon arrival. From there, the groups rotate through different hour-long sessions with naturalist staff. You should choose one program from the information below for every 30 students. You can also build an hour-long lunch or Nature Center exploration, supervised by chaperones, into the rotation for no fee.

Q: How do I book a visit?
A: Call Jessica Rosier, head naturalist, at (765) 649-8128.
MOUNDS STATE PARK SCHOOL GROUP OFFERINGS

MOUNDS HISTORY HIKE

Students will be taken through 2,000 years of history on this hike. Topics covered include Adena-Hopewell use of the land for subsistence and survival and their building of the mounds, pioneer use of the land, and modern-day use of the landscape through the creation of an amusement park and eventually a state park.

Season: Year-round
Grade level: 3rd—12th
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp
Pairs well with: Atl Atl Throwing


ATL ATL THROWING

During this interactive program, students will be able to try their hand at throwing atlats, prehistoric hunting tools used by the Adena-Hopewell peoples. Students will learn how these natives hunted off the land.

Season: Year-round
Grade level: 3rd—12th
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp
Pairs well with: Mounds History Hike


A PIONEER KID’S LIFE

Students will step back in time during this tour of Mounds State Park’s historic Bronnenberg Home. They’ll learn about what life was like for pioneer children in the 1800’s. Weather permitting, students will wash laundry and mow the lawn “the old-fashioned way”. Due to the artifacts’ fragility and size of the rooms, only 15 students will be allowed inside at one time.

Season: Year-round
Grade level: 3rd—6th
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp

FALL LEAF COLLECTION HIKE

Take the guess-work out of leaf collection projects. Your students will learn to use an identification key and be led onto the trail where they can collect 15-20 different leaves.

Season: August-October
Grade level: 3rd—12th
Duration: Two hours
Charge: $2/pp

NATURE JOURNALS

Students will create their own Nature Journal during this indoor program. They will be able to stamp the journals with animal tracks and learn identification skills for use on the trail. Furs and taxidermied mounts may be used.

Season: Year-round
Grade level: K—3rd
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp

Pairs well with: Sensory Hike

Academic Standards Met: SCI.K.1 2010 - Physical Science, SCI.1.1 2010 - Physical Science, SCI.1.3 2010 - Life Science

RIVER EXPLORATION

Bring your students for exploratory time in the White River. Students will wade in the water and search for crayfish, water snakes, and turtles using dip nets and identification guides. Extra chaperones recommended. Life vests not provided.

Season: Late May-early September
Grade level: 3rd—12th
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp

Academic Standards Met: SCI.3.2 2010 - Earth Science, SCI.4.3 2010 - Life Science, SCI.5.3 2010 - Life Science, SCI.6.3 2010 - Life Science
Mounds State Park School Group Offerings

SENSORY HIKE

The littlest of explorers will enjoy learning about nature during a short hike that will engage the senses of sight, touch, smell, and hearing.

Season: Year-round
Grade level: Pre-K—2nd
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp
Pairs well with: Nature Journals

Academic Standards Met: SCI.K.1 2010 - Physical Science, SCI.1.1 2010 - Physical Science, SCI.1.3 2010 - Life Science, SCI.2.3 2010 - Life Science

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATION

Discover the diversity of Mounds State Park during this hike. We will visit woodlands, the fen, and the White River and discuss different ecosystems through an interactive photo-card game.

Season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Grade level: 6th—12th
Duration: One hour
Charge: $1/pp

Academic Standards Met: SCI.6.3 2010 - Life Science