



# Homeschoolers Orientation Packet



## Welcome to Historic Yates Mill County Park!

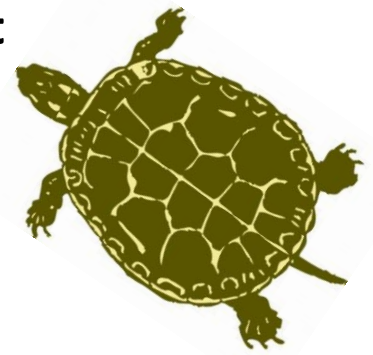
Thank you for choosing our park as your educational destination! Please look through this document before your visit, and share with other parents and child-guardians that will be attending. It contains the following pre-visit materials designed to help you prepare for your field trip:

- Field Trip Checklist
- Essential Information
- Chaperone Information Sheet
- Additional Educational Materials



Please contact the group program coordinator with any  
questions: 919-856-5638  
[jack.singley@wakegov.com](mailto:jack.singley@wakegov.com)

# Homeschoolers Field Trip Checklist



## Prior to Your Visit:

- Review this pre-visit information packet.
- Recruit adult chaperones. Groups must maintain a chaperone to student ratio of 1:10, but if the majority of the group is age 6 or under, the required ratio is 1:8.
- If necessary, divide students into groups and assign an adult leader. The maximum group size allowed per program or mill tour is 30 people, including the required chaperones. The minimum group size allowed is 8 people, including chaperones.
- Review the field trip guidelines and goals with your students.
- Remind the children to wear appropriate clothing and give them information on what to bring for their visit. The park operates rain or shine, so students may need hats, rain gear, and closed toed shoes. Be sure to bring water bottles and sunscreen.
- Arrange the field trip payment so it can be made with check, cash or credit card. Payment for field trips is due two weeks from when the invoice is sent to you by our group program coordinator.
- Please inform us of any children with special needs when you make your reservation, or at least several days in advance of your program so that we may plan accordingly to ensure that every student has a great experience.

## On the Morning of Your Visit:

- Coordinate with other parents/guardians and be sure to allow enough travel time to arrive 15 minutes prior to your planned field trip start time. Programs last the amount of time stated. Please schedule additional time for bathroom breaks, lunch, snacks, etc. If your group is late arriving, your program will end at the scheduled time. Programs may need to be abbreviated in these instances.
- Give park maps, chaperone guides, and information sheets to all chaperones.
- Obtain the final counts of the children and parents/guardians to share with park staff upon arrival.

## Upon Arrival:

- If you intend to arrive by bus or van, pull up to the loop in front of the A.E. Finley Center for Education and Research to unload.
- Instruct everyone to remain on the bus/van. Park staff will greet you and they will review the rules and other pertinent information. You will receive a timed schedule for your visit, plus a field trip feedback form.
- Provide the final counts of children and parents/guardians to park staff. We ask that siblings with an accompanying adult that are not included in the programming to stay in our parks visitors center.
- Children will then need to be divided by their designated groups (if applicable).
- Once unloaded, buses/vans should park on the far end of the parking lot in the bus parking spaces.

# Essential Information

## Educator's Guide:

- Find details about your selected programs [here](#) including information regarding curriculum correlation.

## Lunch:

- You may bring lunch to eat at the picnic tables in the park. In the event of rain, it may be possible for your group to eat under the Finley Center's covered back porch and/or inside the park center. Lunch items may be temporarily stored in the park's break room, with staff permission. Please note that refrigeration is not available and the park does not have ice, drink or snack machines.

## Invoicing & Payment:

- Invoices will be sent within one week of your contact with the Group Programs Coordinator. Program fees are due within 2 weeks of the invoice date unless an alternate arrangement is agreed upon with the group program coordinator.. We accept cash, paper and electronic check, and credit. Checks should be made out to "Wake County Parks". *All tour fees are forwarded to the non-profit group Yates Mill Associates to cover ongoing maintenance and mill operations.*



## Cancellations:

- All cancellations of organized group programs and mill tours require a written notice no less than one month prior to the date of the scheduled visit to qualify for a refund.

## Weather:

- Rain or shine, the weather is fine! Please come prepared to be outdoors regardless. Trip cancellation for weather and related refunds will be authorized by park staff only. In the case of school delays, early releases or school closures, we will work with you to reschedule your group's visit.

## Parking:

- Parking for cars is located outside the park center and there are bus parking spaces available. Students should be dropped off in front of the Finley Center before parking.



## Essential Information Continued

### Maps:

- Take a look at the [Historic Yates Mill County Park trail map](#). All programs and tours meet at the park center.

 = Picnic Areas

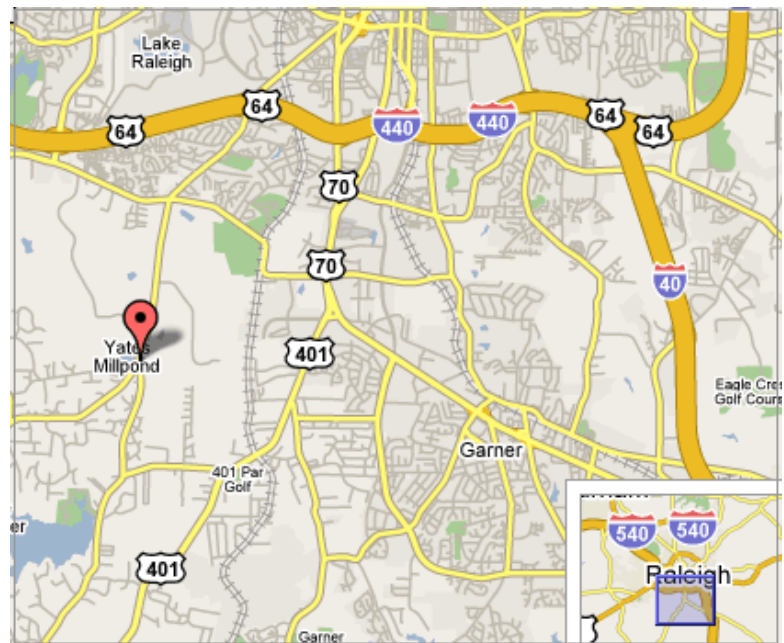
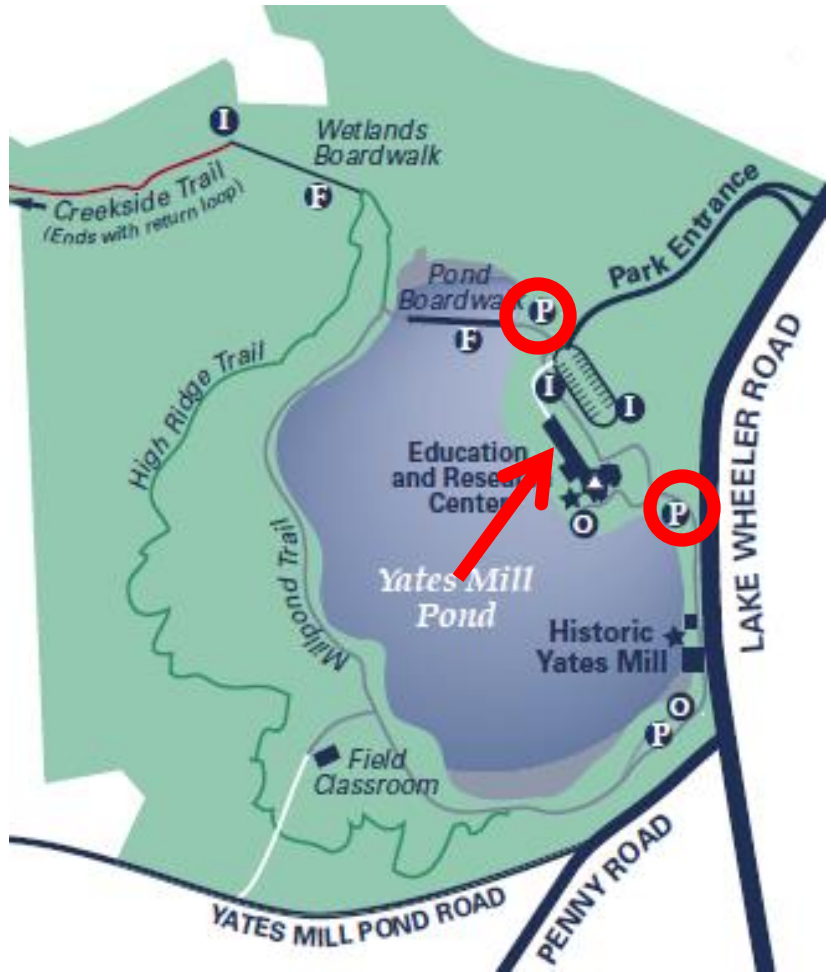
 = Meeting Area

### Directions & Hours:

The park is open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. until Sunset. Closing times are posted near the park entrance and online. The park's visitor center is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

- IMPORTANT:** Do not rely on Google Maps, Garmin, or a Navigator App to get you to the park! If you search for "Yates Mill", it may lead you to the mill yard which is located at 4630 Lake Wheeler Road. The park entrance is located at **4620 Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh**.

Get [directions](#) here.



All links in this publication may be found on our website:  
[www.wakegov.com/parks/yatesmill](http://www.wakegov.com/parks/yatesmill)



# Chaperone Information Sheet



## Welcome to Historic Yates Mill County Park!

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for choosing to be a chaperone for your group's field trip to Historic Yates Mill County Park! We are very excited for your visit. While chaperoning, we do ask for group leaders and chaperones to assist programmers and tour guides with their designated groups. Your role as a leader in the group is very important. The information outlined here is to help you in that role:

- **We need your active participation to ensure children are acting in a respectful and safe manner and to enhance student learning during your visit. It is very important that you remain with your assigned children at all times and not let them run ahead or go exploring on their own.**
- **Please make sure to silence cell phones. Phone calls and texting should be avoided except in the case of emergencies.**
- **Please let children know you expect attentive listening during your visit. When appropriate, encourage them to ask questions. Reinforce good behavior with praise. Ask them for their opinions, thoughts, and feelings as you go along.**
- **Be sure to dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Remember sun protection such as sunscreen and a hat.**

*Again, thank you for being a group leader. Together we can bring children closer to history and nature.*

Please contact the group program coordinator with any  
questions: 919-856-5638  
Bianca.garner@wakegov.com

## Additional Educational Materials

### Other opportunities we provide for your homeschoolers!

- Spread the word to your fellow homeschoolers about our public programs! Every quarter we offer a wide array of programs that could fit your educational needs which includes but not limited to:

**-Field School Days  
-A Side of History  
-Natural Explorations**



**Take a look at our Quarter Year Programs  
here at Yates Mill:**

<http://www.wakegov.com/parks/yatesmill/pages/programs.aspx>





# Additional Educational Materials

## Pre-and Post-Visit Activities:

- We have created pre and post visit activities to correspond with your programs. These activities are important because they help introduce children to concepts they will learn at the park and reinforces what they learn after their field trip.
- Find the Pre-and Post-Visit Activities here:
  - [Elementary School Pre & Post](#)
  - [Middle School Pre & Post](#)

## Wildlife Identification

- We also have an online Natural Resources Inventory Database for the park where your students could look up the types of wildlife that are seen here in the park:  
<http://wcnrid.wakegov.com/public.php>.



*A Yellow-Bellied Slider basks in the sunlight  
down by the old mill stream.*

**Thanks for choosing Historic Yates Mill County Park!**