



## Recommended Kindergarten Programs

*Blue Jay's education staff loves working with Kindergarteners! Our one-hour programs are free and available for groups of 10-25 students plus chaperones. While our group programs are free, please be mindful that we are reserving this spot especially for your group—any cancellations must take place in writing at least 30 days in advance of your program date. **Programs go on rain or shine**—we have great indoor resources and activities to use when needed.*

**Call (919) 870-4330 or email [bluejaypoint@wakegov.com](mailto:bluejaypoint@wakegov.com) to make a reservation.**

### FALL SEMESTER PROGRAMS—

**July—Colors in Nature** Flowers in the field, butterflies on the wing, blue skies and green leaves. Practice color matching while we learn how plants and animals use colors and patterns to survive.

**Essential Standards** K.L.1.1, K.L.1.2

**August—Pond Pals** Explore the Blue Jay mini-pond as a special kind of habitat. Become “scum chums” as we practice observation techniques, investigate pans of pond critters, and learn about the diverse life in the pond.

**Essential Standards** K.P.1.1, K.P.1.2, K.L.1.1, K.L.1.2, K.G.1.3, K.C&G.1.2

**September—Floaters and Hitchhikers** Some seeds fall to the ground, some are carried by animals, and some catch the wind and soar across field and stream. Find "floaters" and “hitchhikers” as we ramble through the park discovering how seeds are dispersed. Learn about the many different connections between seeds and animals. Listen to a seed story! **Essential Standards** K.P.1.1, K.P.1.2, K.L.1.2

**October—Trees for Me** Discover the world of trees! Learn new tree vocabulary, play a game about what trees need to live, and then take a short hike to identify trees using shape words you already know.

**Essential Standards** K.L.1.2, K.G.2.2

**November—Nuts About Squirrels** Would you like to be a squirrel? Come to Blue Jay and pretend you are one of these bushy-tailed animals looking for nuts and hiding them for winter. Learn about the adaptations these mammals have that help them be so successful in their environment. **Essential Standards**

K.L.1.2, K.H.1.2

**December—Getting Ready for Winter** Cold weather makes **you** want to wear a coat, but what do the animals do to get ready for winter? Some fly south. Some go to sleep. And some get fat and grow extra warm fur or feathers. Play a game to help you remember who does what and then put on your coat and go for a short winter hike to look for winter-active animals. **Essential Standards** K.E.1.1, K.E.1.2, K.E.1.3, K.H.1.2, K.C&G.1.2

### SPRING SEMESTER PROGRAMS—

● **Nature's Puzzle** Learn a potpourri of subjects from plant ID to habitat concepts to bird watching and more. Help students feel comfortable in an outdoor setting and give them a chance to use their observation skills while they learn how all the pieces of Nature's puzzle fit together.

**Essential Standards** K.L.1.1, K.L.1.2, K.P.1.1, K.P.1.2

● **Incredible Insects** Through a variety of activities and a garden walk, learn what makes an insect an insect, how they grow and where we can find them. (January–April) **Essential Standards** K.L.1.1, K.L.1.2, K.P.1.1, K.P.1.2 **OR** ● **Field Follies** Search grassy edges of the park with a sweep net looking for the amazing variety of insects that live there. (May–June) (1 chaperone per 5 students) **Essential Standards** K.L.1.1, K.L.1.2, K.P.1.1, K.P.1.2

## SPRING SEMESTER PROGRAMS Cont.

● **Beaver Fever** Learn about beaver habitat, adaptations, and lifestyle through lots of visuals and interactive games. **Essential Standards** K.L.1.1, K.L.1.2, K.P.1.1

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**Note to Group Leader:** The one hour staff-led programs listed above are greatly complemented by using one or more of the following **Jr. Discovery Boxes** (under your direction) immediately before or after the program. Email or call us to reserve these boxes for your group's use.

### MEET A MATE

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** *Naturescope*  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Participants test the accuracy of their sense of hearing and compare themselves with animals that communicate largely by sound rather than sight. Using the sound made by your special sound canister, find a mate and form a family group who sounds like you!

### SOCK IT TO ME

**Length:** 30 – 45 minutes **Source:** Kelley Stanton  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Participants test their sense of touch by reaching into a “mystery sock” and trying to guess what it contains. Students can also work on their descriptive language skills by describing what their mystery object feels like to find their match among fellow participants. *Allergy Note: This activity includes whole and “chewed” tree nuts (pecans acorns and black walnuts).*

### EYE SPY

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** Kat Bukowy  
**Area:** Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education (Mon-Sat 8a.m.-5p.m.)  
**Summary:** Participants will increase their skills of observation in this visual indoor scavenger hunt.

### WOODLAND BINGO

**Length:** 30 minutes – 1 hour **Source:** D’Nise Hefner  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Get everyone out on a hike to enjoy Blue Jay’s trails! (There is a short trail right next to the Education Center perfect for Woodland Bingo) Participants will enjoy a visual scavenger hunt for things in nature. In case of inclement weather, or as a follow up learning session, play the “sit-down” version of Woodland Bingo with age appropriate clues that teach participants about each nature item.

## Tips for planning a field trip to Blue Jay Point County Park

- Call early to schedule your programs and have several dates in mind—Spring fills quickly and Fall is awesome!
- Jr. Discovery Boxes are available at **no charge** for your group to use in the park as an additional activity during your visit. You must reserve these in advance by calling (919) 870-4330.
- Be sure to allow enough time to travel to Blue Jay and **visit the restrooms** if needed before your program is scheduled to begin.
- Field trips go on rain or shine, as we have great indoor resources. Have children dress appropriately for their Blue Jay experience, including closed toe shoes and weather appropriate outerwear. Each program contains indoor and outdoor activities, which will be done weather permitting. We will substitute additional, suitable indoor activities (and Jr. Discovery Boxes) when needed.
- If your schedule permits, you may enjoy snack/lunch in the garden area or picnic area and time on the playground after your staff-led program. While there are no picnic shelters or indoor eating space at Blue Jay, the Education Center has a very large covered porch that can be used for snack/lunch in case of inclement weather.

**Blue Jay Point County Park**  
**3200 Pleasant Union Church Road**  
**Raleigh, NC 27614**  
**[www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay](http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay)**  
**(919) 870-4330**