Kentucky State Parks Field Trip Opportunities

**Barren River Lake State Resort Park**
1149 State Park Road
Lucas, Ky. 42156

Barren River Lake State Resort Park offers history programs about the prairies once located in "The Barrens", nature hikes, environmental education programs that meet the Kentucky Core Content requirements, and recreational field days for grades K-12. We also offer: canoeing for grades 6-12, orienteering classes for grades 4-12 along with two beginner orienteering courses, geocaching and GPS technology, and archery for ages 8 and up and Explore bowhunting activities. The park is open year-round and classes can visit any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Program fees per student vary per activity. Call park interpreter Jamie Avery at 502-564-8110 x2415 for more information.

**Big Bone Lick State Park**
3380 Beaver Road
Union, Ky. 41091

Big Bone Lick State Park Historic Site offers a wide variety of programs for grades K -12 about dealing with pioneers, Native Americans, Ice Age Kentucky fossils environmental education, history, and general nature study in the Northern Kentucky region. The park also offers survival skill classes and demonstrations. As Big Bone Lick is open year-round, so schools or other community groups can may visit any day of the week by appointment. Program fees per student vary per activity. A guide detailing all our programs is available by contacting the park interpreter, Todd Young at todd.young@ky.gov or by dialing (859)384-3522 for more information.

**Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park**
10299 Maysville Rd.
Carlisle, Ky. 40311

Blue Licks Battlefield offers nature hikes, history programs about pioneer life in Kentucky, and tours of Kentucky’s only Revolutionary War battlefield for grades K-12. We also offer geology programs and canoeing for grades 6-12. Tours of a reconstructed pioneer fort are available. We provide tent camping in our overflow area for children's groups (schools, scouts, etc.) at a cost of $2 per person. The park is open any day of the week by appointment. Program fees per student vary per activity. call park interpreter Paul Tierney at 859-289-5507 or email 1782museum@gmail.com for activity information. For booking information contact Dianna Shashina at 800-443-7008 or email dianna.shashina@ky.gov

**Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park**
4441 KY Highway 1833
Buckhorn, Ky. 41721

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park offers a variety of nature activities. We have two hiking trails - one is an interpretative trail -- along with sessions on birds of prey emphasis on owls, song birds and their singing calls, mammals of the area (deer, elk, and bats), the effects of strip mining, water cycle, water shed, orienteering (grades 4-12) and outdoor survival skills (grades 4-12). Other topics that can be covered include Kentucky history (famous Kentuckians, history of the area, and state park history), team building, Kentucky crafts (basket making and corn husk dolls), and dancing (folk, square and line dancing). Program fees per student vary per activity. Other programs are available with advance notice. Call park interpreter Sue Thomas at 1-800-325-0058 for information.

**Carter Caves State Resort Park**
344 Caveland Drive
Olive Hill Ky., 41164

Carter Caves State Resort Park offers commercial cave tours, nature hikes, living history programs and various nature programs for grades K-12. We also offer archery and orienteering programs for grades 5-12. You can book a canoe trip for grades 7-12. Program fees per student vary per activity. The park is open year-round and classes can visit any weekday from Labor Day to Memorial Day. For those wanting an extended stay we offer overnight Reach Camps at our park that packages program, meals and lodging into one reasonable price. Contact park interpreters Coy Ainsley or Sam Plummer at 1-800-325-0059 for information.
Columbus-Belmont State Park

350 Park Road
Columbus, Ky. 42032

Columbus-Belmont State Park is a 156-acre site that played a fascinating role in the War Between the States. This is the site of a fortification build by the Confederates and later occupied by Union forces. The 1861 Battle of Belmont, fought to overtake the Confederate stronghold here, marked the opening of the Union's Western Campaign. It was also Union General Ulysses S. Grant's first active engagement in the Civil War. Some of the artillery, which shelled the Union troops, and the six-ton anchor that held the great chain stretching across the river, are on display in the park. There is a 2.5-mile self-guided hiking trail in the Park. Dramatic images of the Civil War come to mind when walking on the bluffs and massive earthen works that formed the Confederate trenches. Students of all ages can learn about the area and the Civil War in the Civil War Museum. The park has a snack bar, gift shop, miniature golf, a picnic area and playground with shelters that are available for rental up to one year in advance. The museum is open daily May through Labor Day and on weekends through mid October. It is open by appointment throughout the year. Program fees per student vary per activity. The gift shop, snack bar, and mini golf are open daily May through Labor Day and weekends in September. Don’t forget that the second weekend in October is the 150th Anniversary “Civil War Days” event. We have education day on Friday with special rate and activities for students. Call 270-677-2327 for information.

Cumberland Falls State Resort Park

7351 Hwy 90
Corbin, Ky. 40701

Cumberland Falls is the “Niagara of the South” and home to a unique natural phenomenon called a Moonbow. Most education programs focus on geology, native plants and wildlife. Programs on outdoors skills such as canoeing, archery, astronomy, Leave no Trace and others are available for smaller groups. Programs can be tailored to meet classroom needs. Park is open year around. Program fees per student vary per activity. Overnight programs are available. Contact our Group Sales Department regarding our REACH Program. To schedule a day trip, call park interpreters Steve Gilbert or Bret Smitley at 1-800-325-0063.

Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site

4929 KY 459
Barbourville, KY 40906-9603

The Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site offers picnic tables, mini-golf, playground, basketball courts, horseshoe pits and shelters. The shelters can be reserved which will guarantee the use of it, but they also can be used free of charge if they are not reserved by someone else. The Mini-Golf does have a fee of $2 per round with the exception of kids 6 years of age and under get to play for free. Everything else on the park can be used free of charge. The park is 5 miles out of town in a country setting and we have a total of 12 acres. The park is open year-round and classes can visit any weekday between 9 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This park offers the history of Kentucky's first house, which the replica is on site. Dr. Thomas Walker arrived here in the year 1750, seventeen years before Daniel Boone. Gift Shop and Mini-Golf open April 1 through October 31. Park is open to visitors year-round. Call Park Manager Andy Teasley at 606-546-4400 for information.

E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park

3000 Freys Hill Road
Louisville, KY 40241

Are you looking for something different? We have special programming for school groups, corporate/ civic/ and private associations, and scouts. Let us help tailor nature hikes, hands-on science programs, archery parties, gym activities, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, and teambuilding programs to meet the needs of your group.

Teachers, this is not your ordinary field trip! We can offer activities focused on what you are learning in class, so that each trip is a fun lesson learned! Need to learn about water quality? Take a Stream Stroll or a Pond Prowl with our Park Naturalist. Learning about habitats? Let’s walk through our beautifully, natural park to discover the variety of habitats that are found here and what critters call them home. What about a local history lesson? We’ll venture into the woods looking for clues of the parkland’s past uses. Get the kids out of the classroom and let us take over the teaching. We have created programs that consist of science, history, and math for all age groups. Let our Recreation staff, trained in Project WILD and Project Learning Tree, amuse and educate your students through a variety of curriculum aligned activities. Program fees per student vary per activity. Contact the park’s interpretive staff for more information. Call Nick, Lora, or Andy at (502) 429-7270.
At Fort Boonesborough, we seek to engage students in the daily lives of early settlers on the Kentucky frontier. Through presentations of the daily chores and life skills necessary for survival, interpreters in 18th century clothing assist students in learning about and understanding frontier life. The park also hosts special “school days” throughout the year at the Fort. In November of each year, we present a week of intense, hands-on Living History programs, involving students physically as well as mentally in six stations where they are engaged for 20 minutes at each. The smell of wood smoke or a fresh split of cedar wood, the sounds of a spinning wheel, a loom, or the blacksmith’s hammer, the texture of different tree barks, wool, linen, or leather, all help to bring the history to life today.

A new Teacher Resource CD is available at no charge to teachers when they schedule a field trip to the Fort. This includes a map and directions to the Fort, a guide for touring, pre- and post-visit suggestions, and a short list of Social Studies and other links to KDE Core Content For Assessment. There are also photos, video clips, and audio to present more detailed information about a field trip to Fort Boonesborough. Field trips may be scheduled for April 1 through October 31 by calling 859-527-3131 x216. Group rates for 10 or more are $3 for students, with one teacher or chaperone free for every 20 10 students. Bus drivers are admitted free, and any additional adults in the group are $4 each. In an effort to continue our mission as an educational resource for Kentucky schools, Fort Boonesborough State Park also has an outreach program designed to make frontier Kentucky Living History available on-site to schools. The program allows for a variety of topics relative to the grade level, group size, location, indoor/outdoor, and other factors. Topics and activities will be concentrated on Frontier Kentucky in the 1760 - 1790 period. Dressed in clothing of the period, interpreters will discuss and demonstrate implements and skills necessary for daily living and survival on the frontier. Many of the activities will also present the opportunity for students to experience hands-on participation in the program. We seek to present material that is useful in relation to the Core Content for Assessment for several academic subjects. The program lasts approximately 2 hours. For more information call Fort Boonesborough at 859-527-3131 ext. 216 or email Bill Farmer at ftboone@bellsouth.net

General Butler State Resort Park
1608 Highway 227
Carrollton, Ky. 41008-0325

A fitting tribute to one of Kentucky’s foremost military families; named in honor of General William Orlando Butler, the family’s military fame spans from colonial time through the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War. General Butler State Resort Park is a full-service resort, that’s ready to meet your educational and recreational needs. We accomplish this by clearly establishing a personal classroom activity schedule based on your school’s core content needs. A visit to General Butler could be either day, or an overnight stay. An example of a day visit may include activities such as: nature based arts & crafts, nature hikes, archery, touring Butler-Turpin State Historic House, educational performers presenting programs on wildlife, Kentucky history & people, playing a round of mini golf, or learning how to become a team player by participating in teambuilding activities. Your overnight stay would center on the concept of LEAVE NO TRACE. Activities are educationally based and dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors, and one’s personal impact. Many other outdoor programming opportunities can play suit to the theme of LEAVE NO TRACE; such as: astrology, astronomy, teaching outdoor sportsman skills- make a request we’ll accommodate by providing quality programming that meets your needs. To plan your visit, call Tanya Supplee, Parks Program Service Supervisor, to book a visit call Andrea Johnson, Group Sales Coordinator, both can be reached at General Butler State Resort Park direct line #1-502-732-4384.

The Butler-Turpin State Historic House located at General Butler State Resort Park is steeped in military heritage from Colonial times through the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War. The field trip experience will also give students an understanding of the contributions of the Butler slaves and their connection to the Underground Railroad. Along with the historic house and summer kitchen built in 1859, is the archaeology display from the first generation log house and Butler-Turpin slave quarters, the Butler Family Cemetery and the farm known as Butler Hill.
Jefferson Davis State Historic Site
258 Pembroke Fairview Road
Fairview, Ky. 42221

Jefferson Davis State Historic Site marks the birthplace of this famous Kentuckian, a West Point graduate, U.S. Senator, Secretary of War and President of the Confederate States of America. A 351-foot tall obelisk marks this spot in Fairview. An interpretive museum outlines Davis’ prominent career and tells the story of the Kentucky Orphan’s Brigade. The museum is self-guided with a short DVD presentation on the park and monument. Guided elevator tours of the monument are available daily. A picnic area, two shelters and a playground are available for use. Cost for the elevator ride and museum tour is $5 for adults, $3.00 for children 12 and under and $4.00 for Seniors/Military. Contact the park for special field trip rates. Call 270-889-6100.

Jenny Wiley State Resort Park
75 Theatre Court
Prestonsburg, Ky. 41640

Jenny Wiley State Resort Park offers a variety of activities for young and the young at heart. We have many nature activities that will allow you to learn about snakes, birds of prey, elk, mammals, salamanders, and frogs. We provide many recreational activities and arts and crafts. Jenny Wiley State Resort Park offers 13.5 miles of trails with different levels of difficulty that would allow for a bird walk, wildflower walk, or tree identification walk. Elk viewing tours, that allow students to learn about the elk restoration project and get up close to these wonderful animals, provide a unique field trip opportunity. All activities offered are for K-12. Program fees per student vary per activity. If you would like more information on all the activities we have to offer, please contact the Park Interpreter Trinity Shepherd at 606-889-1790 or 1-800-325-0142 or email at trinity.shepherd@ky.gov.

John James Audubon State Park
3100 U.S. Highway 41 North
Henderson, Ky. 42419

John James Audubon State Park offers a wide variety of programs designed to meet the core curriculum requirements for your classroom. We offer a unique variety of art and nature programs for schools and groups. Our classroom extends to the surrounding woodlands as we interpret nature and art using the background theme of America’s premier artist and naturalist, John James Audubon. Special programs may include art reviews, teacher workshops, outreach programs and a low-ropes challenge course (contact staff for challenge course fee). Special museum tours are geared to the interest and age of the group. Picnic shelters and playgrounds are available for lunch breaks. The museum is open daily from March through November. Program fees per student vary per activity. Contact park interpreter Julie McDonald at 270-826-4424.

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park
166 Upper Village Drive
Gilbertsville, Ky. 42044

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park offers Field Day Packages that provide core curriculum based activities for multiple age groups. We offer historical walking tours of KY Dam, amphibian pond investigations, tree identification strolls, physics/team building through archery, science and history themed “amazing races”, biology through fishing and much more. Program fees per student vary per activity. Call our park interpreter, Laura Jackson, at 270-362-4276 x412 to create an adventure to suit your group’s individual needs.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park
3500 State Park Road
Cadiz, Ky. 42211

Lake Barkley offers year-round programs for school groups, through REACH packages (Labor Day to Memorial Day) or individually arranged visits. Our park naturalist and recreation staff can provide interdisciplinary, core content-based activities for multiple learning styles and across the curriculum! Stream strolls, owl prowling, teambuilding, archery, fishing, orienteering, nature hikes, scavenger hunts, historical tours, environmental education activities...the list is exhaustive! - call us; we'll suit your educational needs! Program fees per student vary per activity. Call park interpreter Nick Edmonds at 800-325-1708 for information.
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park
5465 State Park Road
Jamestown, Ky. 42629

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park offers archery lessons, Wolf Creek Dam fish hatchery trips, guided nature walks, GPS 101 and a bird walk for K-12 students. Program fees per student vary per activity. Call park interpreter Robert Myers at 1-800-325-1709 for more information.

Levi Jackson State Park
998 Levi Jackson Mill Road
London, Ky. 40744

Levi Jackson State Park marks part of the Wilderness Road that brought 200,000 pioneers through Kentucky between 1774 and 1796. Visitors can retrace the footsteps of the early pioneers on hiking trails that include original portions of these historic throughways. The Mountain Life Museum, open April 1-Oct. 31, has relics and tools from pioneer life, including a wagon. Tours by guides dressed in period clothing are available. Fee is $2.50 per child. A shelter is available for lunch. Mini-golf is also offered for $2 each for groups of 50 or more. For information, call 606-330-2130.

Lincoln Homestead State Park
5079 Lincoln Park Rd.
Springfield, Ky. 40069

The same spirit of adventure that brought other pioneers to Kentucky led Abraham Lincoln's grandparents to the knolls of Kentucky near the Beech Fork River. Lincoln Homestead State Park features the original home of Lincoln's mother, as well as replicas of the 1782 cabin and blacksmith shop where his father was reared and learned his trade. The president's parents were married here. You'll also find the home of Mordecai Lincoln, the favorite uncle of the President, along with split-rail fences and pioneer furniture that portray the rugged pioneer life. Price is $1.50 per student. Lincoln Homestead also has a shelter house and playground within walking distance of the cabins.

The Mordecai Lincoln House was renovated in 2008. The hours of operation are 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The Museum area is closed from Nov 1st thru April 30th. Tours can also be arranged anytime. Contact Bobby Bartholomai at 859-336-7461 to arrange a time to bring your class out.

My Old Kentucky Home State Park
501 E. Stephen Foster Ave.
Bardstown, Ky. 40004

My Old Kentucky Home State Park offers guided tours of the most famous home in Kentucky -- Federal Hill -- better known around the world as My Old Kentucky Home. A field trip allows students to step back in time to the 1850's when Stephen Foster visited and penned the state song "My Old Kentucky Home Goodnight." Docents dressed in period attire give guided tours of the museum sharing information about the home, the family that lived there and about the famous composer Stephen Collins Foster. The park also has a gift shop, picnic area and playground. An outdoor drama based on Stephen Foster’s life is performed June-August. School tours are $3 for students with one free adult for every 10 students. Additional adults are $5 and the bus driver is free. Tour times are seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Museum is closed Monday and Tuesday in January-February; open for groups with appointments. Please call (502) 348-3502.

Natural Bridge State Resort Park
2135 Natural Bridge Road
Slade, Ky. 40376

Natural Bridge State Resort Park offers a variety of guided group hikes that will certainly capture the interest of students and teachers alike. Our most popular hike is the Guided Hike to Kentucky’s Natural Bridge, which covers many topics such as history, geology, plants, and animals. Other popular programs include: Reptiles and Amphibians, Kentucky Creatures, the Beginner’s Cave Walk, and Paddling on Mill Creek Lake. The rugged sandstone cliffs and the plant and animal diversity at the park will leave lasting memories and a valuable natural experience for students. Program fees per student vary per activity. Call Park Interpreter Brian Gasdorf at 606-663-2214 for more information, or email brian.gasdorf@ky.gov.
Old Fort Harrod State Park
100 South College St.
Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330

The year 1774 comes to life as you enjoy a living history experience presented in historic Harrodsburg - Kentucky’s first permanent settlement. Interact and get hands-on experience with costumed interpreters in period dress performing frontier tasks such as blacksmithing, weaving, broom making, woodworking, tin smithing, spinning, and doll making. Enjoy the animal corral and visit Kentucky’s first schoolhouse, where students sat on wooden benches and used hornbooks for lessons.

Tour the oldest cemetery in the state. The Lincoln Marriage Temple is something you will not want to miss; this temple houses the log cabin in which the parents of President Abraham Lincoln were married. Visit the Mansion Museum, home to a fine collection of Civil War displays, Lincoln memorabilia, Native American artifacts, frontier paintings, historic documents, McIntosh gun collection, music collection and much more. We also have a large picnic and playground area.

Old Fort Harrod State Park schedules school field trips year-round. Interpreters dressed in period correct clothing are at the park from April 16 through October 31. The museum and gift shop are open Wednesday - Sunday from April 1 through Oct. 31. Admission to Old Fort Harrod State Park and the Mansion Museum is $3 per student and $4 for adults in groups of 20 or more - and school personnel and bus drivers are admitted free. For more information call 859/734-3314 Monday – Friday.

Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site
38 Old Mulkey Park Road
Tompkinsville, KY 42167

Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site can provide a variety of educational programs for visitors of all ages. Popular activities include the park led history of the Meetinghouse and the Observation Hike. Self-guided tours of the Meetinghouse, as well as the Activities Trail, the park quest, or cemetery search can be completed at your own pace. A variety of activities can be customized for teen retreats, corporate outings, and extended school visits. Enjoy one of the many picnic areas located throughout the park, the horseshoe pits, basketball and four-square courts and large playground. Corn toss boards can be checked out from the park office. There is also a large shelter available for use. The park is open daily April 1st-Nov. 15th with reduced hours the remainder of the year. Special programs can be scheduled by contacting Sheila Rush at 270-487-8481. Fees vary dependent upon program.

Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park
42071 Pennyrile Lodge Rd.
Dawson Springs, Ky. 42408

Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park offers nature hikes, animal programs, fishing programs, pedal boat cruises, mini-golf tournaments, and arts and crafts for grades k-12. We will also work with you to create a program to fit your needs. The park is open year-round and classes can visit any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Program fees per student vary per activity. The park naturalist is also available to do outreach at your school. Call park interpreter Rebecca Clark at 1-800-325-1711 for information, or email rebecca.clark@ky.gov.

Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site
1825 Battlefield Road
Perryville, Ky. 40468

Perryville is the site of the bloodiest Civil War battle on Kentucky soil. More than 7,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing. The park offers an award-winning educational program called the School of the Soldier program. Elementary school students can learn what it was like to be a civil war soldier while learning about the largest Civil War Battle fought in the Commonwealth. The program is 4 hours long and can be tailored to accommodate individual groups. There must be a minimum of 20 students to do the program. The cost is $4 per student, which includes the museum. The park has Civil War monuments, picnic areas, a playground, museum and museum store. For more information, call Joni House at 859-332-8631.
Pine Mountain State Resort Park
1050 State Park Road
Pineville, Ky. 40977

Pine Mountain State Resort Park offers guided group hikes for grades 4-12 along park trails that are sure to provide many memorable personal experiences in the outdoors. Whether your interest is wilderness history, mountain geology, plant biology, forest ecosystems, wildlife/habitat, or preservation/conservation, Pine Mountain can provide the quality programs you seek. Such planned outings enhance student learning and encourage the appreciation of Kentucky's celebrated wilderness areas. Program fees per student vary per activity. Contact park interpreter, Beth Byrnes, well in advance to confirm date and interpreter availability at 1-800-325-1712 or 606-337-3066. When you call, be sure to request a copy of our "Field Trip Hints" brochure that outlines useful information for planning a visit to the park.

Waveland State Historic Site
225 Waveland Museum Lane
Lexington, Ky. 40514

Waveland State Historic Site offers tours of the mansion, and programs about antebellum life on a Kentucky plantation during the 1840s and 1850s for grades K-12. Waveland is open year round, and classes may visit weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Fees are $3 per student. Call park manager Ron Bryant at 859-272-3611. (Note: Waveland is closed on Mondays between December and March.)

White Hall State Historic Site
500 White Hall Shrine Road
Richmond, Ky. 40475

Visitors to White Hall State Historic Site will feel as if they have stepped back in time. A grand Victorian mansion is the dominating feature to this 13-acre park. White Hall offers interactive tours for grades K-12, where the students can experience the Victorian lifestyle and learn the exciting history of the Clay family as they take a tour guided by docents in historic dress. School groups can picnic under shade trees and view White Hall's rose, and flower gardens. White Hall offers a discounted rate of $3.00 each for groups of 10 or more students. Call (859) 623-9178 for specific days and times.

Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site
94 Green Street, P.O. Box 155
Wickliffe, Ky. 42087

Students, teachers and Scouts can explore the excavated mounds, exhibits of Mississippian culture and displays of artifacts dating back to 1100 A.D. Activity stations in the museum provide hands-on experiences. A Teacher's Packet with pre-visit activities, background information and scavenger hunt activity sheets can be downloaded here.

A picnic shelter and chunkey game equipment (an interactive Mississippian Native American game) are available for teachers to use while at the park with their paid admission fees. Tours are teacher-led, self-guided and special guide sheets provided to group leaders. Park is open March to November for school and scout groups and teachers should call to schedule a time for their classes to visit. Program fees per student vary per activity. (Teachers are free admission with their students).

November is Native American Heritage Month and in recognition all school and scout group rates are $1 per person (self-guided tours only) for the month of November. Call 270-335-3681 for information or e-mail carla.hildebrand@ky.gov

William Whitley House State Historic Site
625 William Whitley Road
Stanford, Ky. 40484

William Whitley House State Historic Site is located in one of the original counties in our state -- Lincoln -- and is a must see for students. A guided tour of the historic home takes the students on a journey back to the lifestyle of our founding fathers. Information can be tailored for age appropriateness and classroom curriculum requirements. Student's minds will be challenged to compare and contrast life on the frontier compared to the life that they have grown up to know. Group rates are available. Weather permitting, tours are available by appointment during winter hours November thru April. Group rates are offered. The site has a large picnic shelter and spacious playground area. Several schools choose to bring students here as a rewards day for specific classroom accomplishments and end of school year field trips. Call 606-355-2881 for information.