

Teacher's Planning Guide

For

Kentucky State Parks' R.E.A.C.H. Camps

The Kentucky State Parks system offers a very special opportunity for school groups and other youth organizations looking for a residential education program. R.E.A.C.H. (Recreation, Environment, and Cultural History) education camps are developed to take place in the natural beauty and unique cultural diversity of Kentucky's state parks. These parks offer the perfect setting for an exciting learning experience for your students.

These residential camps are available Monday through Friday, between Labor Day and Memorial Day.

The goals of the Kentucky State Park's R.E.A.C.H. Education Camps are to:

1. Offer students a unique learning opportunity typically unavailable in the classroom setting.
2. Foster an awareness in students so they can understand and gain an appreciation for their natural and cultural resources.
3. Help students understand the purpose and need to set aside and preserve natural areas and historic sites.
4. Foster a sense of stewardship toward Kentucky State Parks.
5. Enable students to experience firsthand by touch, sight, smell and taste their outdoor environment.

Through these programs you can enhance your classroom studies and curricula by introducing your students to the real Kentucky. By participating in hands-on, resource based activities, students gain experience and knowledge that relates to every course of study including natural science, math, language arts, history, and social skills. Students also get the opportunity to learn new outdoor skills which may include anything from canoeing to how to read a compass.

Each state resort park has a naturalist or recreation supervisor that will assist you in developing a program that meets your student's needs. This is available as a resource for you and can provide a specific activity you may request for your program. The program schedule and its coordination is up to you, the teacher.

Scheduling and Planning a Program

Decide what type of activities you would like to offer your students. What are you currently studying? What are your goals? Discuss your ideas and possibilities with the Park Naturalist/Recreation Supervisor. This person can also provide one, or depending on available program staff, two of the activities for the group. The teacher/trip leader must lead or provide leadership for the remaining activities. The number of these activities usually depend upon the size of the class as outlined below.

For example, if a class size is 50 students, they could be divided into 4 groups; therefore, 4 different activities would be offered with the groups rotating to each activity.

	Activity Component 1	Activity Component 2	Activity Component 3	Activity Component 4
<i>1:00 - 2:30 p.m.</i>	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
<i>2:45 - 4:15 p.m.</i>	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group A
<i>Evening</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Program</i>
<i>8:00 - 9:30 a.m.</i>	Group C	Group D	Group A	Group B
<i>9:45 - 11:15 a.m.</i>	Group D	Group A	Group B	Group C
<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Depart</i>	

- 11:30 a.m. - Arrive at Park/Check In/Sack Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. - Welcome and Program/Park Orientation (Park Staff)
- 1:00 p.m. - Groups to Activities (Teachers & Park Staff)
- 5:30 p.m. - Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. - Evening Program (Park Staff)

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- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast
 - 8:00 a.m. - Groups to Final Round of Program (Teachers & Park Staff)
 - 11:30 a.m. - Lunch/Checkout/Depart

The R.E.A.C.H. Education Camps are designed for school grades 5 - 8; however, park staff can offer and adapt programs for all age groups K-College. Programs are geared around the resources which the park offers. For example, at Carter Caves the programs offered can include: Cave Ecology, Canoeing, or Geology. Park staff will work with the teachers in planning a program that meets their students' needs.

Park staff will also provide the evening program: campfires, folk dancing, astronomy, story telling and owl prowls are just some of the possibilities.

Lodging

All reservations shall be made through the park group sales coordinator. Teachers and students stay in lodge rooms at the park. Teachers are responsible for making room assignments with four students, teachers, and/or chaperones to a room. The lodge rooms at the park offer more modern accommodations than what you may be accustomed to in a typical group camp situation. Consideration should be given to this. For example, each lodge room has two double beds, heating, air conditioning, television, phone, bathroom and are carpeted, etc.

Meals

Three meals are included in the program: typically, dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch on the second day, but this is flexible. The group eats their meals in the lodge dining room or, if possible, in a private dining room where the group would be more isolated from other park visitors. Meals are planned by the park chef. All meals are to be coordinated through the group sales coordinator.

Lodging and dining facilities are available for people with disabilities.

Program Costs

Cost for the Environmental Education Camps is \$54 per student, with a three person minimum. The same costs apply to teachers and chaperones. The package includes one night's lodging, three meals, gratuities, and program fees.

Cost does not include tax. If your school or institution has a tax exempt number, please provide this to the park.

Transportation

Teachers are responsible for coordinating all travel arrangements for the trip. Although not always feasible, it is sometimes advantageous to have the bus stay on site to utilize for programming purposes, transporting students from one area of the park to another, etc.

Supervision

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the supervision and conduct of the students at all times. A minimum of one teacher/chaperone per (8) students is required.

Pre-Trip Procedures

1. Select a park and date you wish to bring your class. All reservations should be made through the park group sales coordinator. Their names are listed on pages 5 & 6. R.E.A.C.H. Education Camps are available Monday to Friday, between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Please keep in mind that state parks serve a variety of visitors including tourists, vacationers, senior citizen groups, business groups and conferences. The earlier you make your trip arrangements, the better your chances for park availability. Four to five months' notice is recommended.
2. Contact the Park Naturalist or Recreation Supervisor at the park you have selected to check on park facility and program availability. Discuss program possibilities at this time. Their names are listed on pages 5 & 6.
3. After availability has been confirmed, you will handle all financial, lodging, and meal arrangements through the group sales coordinator at that park. Contact that person immediately to work out details.
4. Make transportation arrangements.
5. Line up other teachers, parents, chaperones.
6. Two to three weeks prior to your visit, finalize the schedule, including all activities, meal times, etc. with the park program staff and group sales coordinator. Structure your program based upon the program chart sample within this guide.
7. One week prior to your visit submit a rooming list, including chaperones, to the group sales coordinator at the park.
8. Two to three days prior to your visit, try to have an orientation meeting about the trip and the park. Include all students and chaperones and discuss program activities, expectations of chaperones and students, briefly discuss park regulations and group activity assignments.

Post Trip Procedures

1. Fill out the attached evaluation form and submit it to the address indicated.
2. Follow up with some type of class activity or discussion to determine what was learned and if your goals of the program were met.

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
RECREATION SUPERVISORS, NATURALISTS
AND GROUP SALES COORDINATORS**

BARREN RIVER STATE RESORT PARK

1149 State Park Road
Lucas, KY 42156-9709
Phone: 270/646-2151
Recreation Supervisor: Jamie Avery
Jamie.Avery@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Jovan Wells

BUCKHORN LAKE STATE RESORT PARK

1441 KY Highway 1833
Buckhorn, KY 41721
Phone: 606/398-7510
Recreation Supervisor: Sue Thomas
Sue.thomas@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Tessa Turner

CARTER CAVES STATE RESORT PARK

344 Caveland Drive
Olive Hill, KY 41164
Phone: 606/286-4411
Park Naturalist: Coy Ainsley
Coy.ainsley@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Denise Scheibly

CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE RESORT PARK

7351 Highway 90
Corbin, KY 40701
Phone: 606/528-4121
Park Naturalist: Bret Smitley
Breta.smitley@ky.gov
Recreation Supervisor: Steve Gilbert
Steve.gilbert@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Patricia Honberger

GENERAL BUTLER STATE RESORT PARK

Box 325
Carrollton, KY 41008
Phone: 502/732-4384
Recreation Supervisor: Tanya Supplee
Tanya.supplee@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Vacant

GREENBO LAKE STATE RESORT PARK

HC 60 Box 562
Greenup, KY 41144
Phone: 606/473-7324
Recreation Supervisor: Paul Verespy
paul.verespy@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Stephanie Poplin

JENNY WILEY STATE RESORT PARK

39 Jenny Wiley Road
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
Phone: 606/886-2711
Park Naturalist: Trinity Shepherd
tshepherd@suddenlinkmail.com
Group Sales Coordinator: Ginger Steele

KENLAKE STATE RESORT PARK

542 Kenlake Road
Hardin, KY 42048
Phone: 270/474-2211
Recreation Supervisor: Cathy Clark
cathyj.clark@ky.gov
Group Sales Coordinator: Tammie Nanney

DALE HOLLOW LAKE STATE RESORT PARK

6371 State Park Road
Burkesville, KY 42717
Phone: 270/433-7431
Recreation Supervisor: Vacant

Group Sales Coordinator: Jenny Moon

LAKE BARKLEY STATE RESORT PARK

Box 790
Cadiz, KY 42211
Phone: 270/924-1131
Park Naturalist: Mary Schmidt

Mary.schmidt@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Kerry Allen

LAKE CUMBERLAND STATE RESORT PARK

5465 State Park Road
Jamestown, KY 42629
Phone: 502/343-3111
Recreation Supervisor: Robert Myers

Roberta.myers@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Deron Polston

NATURAL BRIDGE STATE RESORT PARK

2135 Natural Bridge Road
Slade, KY 40376
Phone: 606/633-2214
Park Naturalist: Brian Gasdorf

Brian.gasdorf@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Troy Gross

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE RESORT PARK

20781 Pennyrile Lodge Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408
Phone: 270/797-3421
Park Naturalist: Becky Clark

Rebecca.clark@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Sharon Messamore

KY DAM VILLAGE STATE RESORT PARK

P.O. Box 69
Gilbertsville, KY 42044
Phone: 270/362-4271
Recreation Supervisor: Laura Jackson

Laura.jackson@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Karen Faughn

PINE MOUNTAIN STATE RESORT PARK

1050 State Park Rd
Pineville, KY 40977
Phone: 606/337-3066
Park Naturalist: Dean Henson

dean.henson@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Jaime Hensley

ROUGH RIVER STATE RESORT PARK

450 Lodge Road
Falls of Rough, KY 40119
Phone: 270/257-2311
Recreation Supervisor: Geoff Roberts

geoffrey.roberts@ky.gov

Group Sales Coordinator: Donna Clark

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON STATE PARK

P.O. Box 576
Henderson, KY 42420
Phone: 270/826-2247
Park Naturalist: Julie McDonald

juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov

BLUELICKS BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

PO Box 66
Mt. Olivet, KY 41064
Phone: 606/289-5507
Park Naturalist: Paul Tierney

1782museum@gmail.com

Group Sales Coordinator: Jessica Mack

SUGGESTED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST FOR CAMP PARTICIPANTS

- Bedding:** All linens, including sheets, pillows and blankets are provided at the park.
- Clothing:** Old but clean clothing. Students will be spending the majority of the time outside, possibly crawling through a cave, searching for aquatic critters in a creek, or canoeing. The following list is recommended:
- One pair of pajamas
 - Two pairs of old tennis shoes (one pair for getting wet)
 - Warm jacket and sweater
 - Rain gear
 - Extra change of clothes, socks, underwear (for getting wet or muddy)
 - Gloves and cap in cold weather
- Toilet Articles:** Toothpaste and toothbrush
Shampoo
Combs/Brushes
Soap, bath towels and wash clothes are provided by the park
- Other:** Flashlight
Camera (optional)
A small amount (\$10.00) of extra spending money for a snack, soda, etc.
- DO NOT BRING:** Portable music/game players
Knives
Axes/Saws
Matches
- Souvenirs:** Each park has a gift shop, which sells a variety of items and souvenirs which students may wish to purchase. We highly recommend that teachers do not allow their students into the gift shops until the last day, shortly prior to departure. This will help reduce the possibility of lost items and distractions during the programs.
- Park Regulations:** The following activities are prohibited by state law and/or park regulations to preserve the park's natural resources:
- Picking, collecting, or harming plants
 - Hunting or disturbing wildlife
 - Carving or damaging rock formations
 - Collecting or digging for artifacts
 - Camping or firebuilding in undesignated areas
 - Getting off designated trails
 - Unleashed pets
 - Littering

SUGGESTED PARENTAL/ADULT ROLES

These responsibilities are carried out by parental volunteers. Responsibilities include:

1. **Supervising Students.** Supervise students in sleeping quarters and dining room -- help them to establish standards of respect for others, cooperating in the use of facilities, and proper care of buildings and grounds.
2. **Punctuality.** Ensure students will be punctual for all activities.
3. **Assisting Teachers.** Accompany and assist teachers with all activities and the program schedule.
4. **Accidents or Illnesses.** Report to park official and group leader any accidents or illnesses.
5. **Meals.** Supervise students at meals.
6. **Presence Requirement.** Do not leave park during R.E.A.C.H. Education Program.
7. **Language.** Do not use abusive language or do anything to students that could be interpreted as corporal punishment.
8. **Nighttime Supervision.** Stay near students in quarters at night, never leaving them unsupervised. Room assignments should be made so that teachers & chaperones are in rooms immediately adjacent, or in between, students rooms.
9. **Clothing.** Assist students in selecting appropriate clothing for scheduled activities.
10. **Final Inspection.** Help make final inspection at the end of stay, with special attention to lost articles.
11. **Property Damage.** Report to a park official and the group leader any damage to property.
12. **Lead or Assist in Program Activities or Hikes.** Your individual responsibility will vary depending upon which activity you are assigned and how willing you are to take control of a group.
13. **Participate in All Camp Activities.** It is very supportive to students if teachers and parents participate in the camp activities. The range of participation is from just being present to participating actively.

**KENTUCKY STATE PARKS
R.E.A.C.H. EDUCATION CAMPS
EVALUATION FORM**

The Kentucky State Park system would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in the R.E.A.C.H. Education Camp and visiting your State Parks. So that we can continue to offer quality programs and services please take a few minutes to evaluate your experiences with us. Please be honest, objective, and as descriptive as possible. Upon completing the form return it to Lisa Deavers, Kentucky State Parks, 500 Mero Street, 10th Floor Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, KY 40601. Thank you for your cooperation!

Group/School Name _____

Address _____

Teacher/Coordinator _____

Park Visited _____

Grade Level _____ Date of Visit _____

1. Do you feel that the program content was educational and appropriate to the grade level of students?

2. Did you go away with a better understanding of the park and its natural resources?

3. Did the Naturalists/Recreation Staff seem knowledgeable and enthusiastic with the programs they presented?

4. Was the Group Sales Coordinator helpful and courteous?

5. Were your expectations and goals of the program met? Explain.
6. Did you find the accommodations satisfactory?
7. Were the meals and food services satisfactory?
8. Do you feel that the cost of the program was reasonable compared to the services provided?
9. How would you rate this program compared to similar programs or other places you visited?
10. Are there any changes we can make to improve the camps?
11. Did teachers and students have fun?
12. Please add any other comments or constructive criticism you may have.