



ERNA NIXON PARK NATURE ADVENTURES 2010-2011



NATURE ADVENTURES at ERNA NIXON PARK is sponsored by **BREVARD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION**. In addition to programs offered at ERNA NIXON PARK, Howard E. Futch, Ponce De Leon and Long Point parks are utilized for the Seining program and Oceans/Sea Turtles program.

All programs provide the students with chances to learn about the environment, flora and fauna, participate in discussions and activities, as well as experience first hand what Florida was like hundreds of years ago. All programs are designed to include multiple disciplines that are correlated to the Sunshine State Standards. Programs are designed for K-6th grade but can be modified for higher grades or groups other than those listed or to suit your needs.

Programs include, but are not limited to:

- Sensing nature (\$4.00 per child)
- Habitats (\$4.00 per child)
- Oceans/ Sea Turtles (\$4.00 per child)
- Fossils (\$4.00 per child)
- Florida History (\$4.00 per child)
- Estuaries (\$4.00 per child)

Please look out for new educational programs.

DUE TO A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACE, THERE IS A LIMIT OF 50 STUDENTS PER PROGRAM AT ERNA NIXON PARK AND LONGPOINT PARK, 30 STUDENTS AT PONCE DE LEON LANDING, AND 50 STUDENTS AT HOWARD FUTCH MEMORIAL PARK. Please provide one chaperone for every 10 to 15 children. There is no charge for chaperones. Please do not bring younger siblings.

Our calendar fills up fast, so please call as far in advance as possible. We will be limiting our programs this year due to staffing constraints. To schedule any field trips, please call **ERNA NIXON PARK** staff at **952-4525**, Monday- Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

NEW PROGRAMS

Be on the look out for new educational programs. We can also fashion a program after your student's specifics needs.



MAKE TRACKS TO THE PARKS!



PROGRAM SYNOPSES

SENSING NATURE

This program at Erna Nixon Park begins in the pavilion with an introduction to the park and a presentation relating to the environment and the five senses: what they are, how they are used, sense impairment, and how to protect our senses. There is a \$4.00 charge per student for this program.

NATURE WALK

This guided tour will emphasize skills using our five senses, how living things can help and hurt, animals and their habitats, and the need to respect nature.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Interactive games will be played in the pavilion and on the boardwalk tour to demonstrate and highlight the usage of each of the senses in relation to the surrounding environments.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

The students are taken into the nature room and introduced to the animals that make their homes here, they are also given an opportunity to touch and view one of our critters.

HABITATS

This program begins at Erna Nixon Park in the pavilion with a presentation regarding basic habitat types and what makes up a healthy habitat. There is a \$4.00 charge per student for this program.

NATURE WALK

This guided tour emphasizes different habitats and the organisms that utilize each unique habitat.

HANDS ON ACTIVITIES

Students are given the choice between numerous natural and artificial substances and are encouraged to build a habitat with the resources they have. Next, they give an interpretive story about their habitat and what each item represents.

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OCEANS & SEA TURTLES

This is a program that meets at the main pavilion at Juan Ponce de Leon Landing (or Howard E. Futch Memorial depending on group size) in Melbourne Beach. Topics presented and discussed include the four oceans, how oceans affect life on earth, ways in which we use the ocean, and the ocean realm: waves, currents, tides, dunes, plant and animal life, and the ocean floor. This program also includes an in-depth discussion of sea turtles. There is a \$4.00 charge per student for this program. **The students do not go into the water for this program.**

BEACH WALK

A ranger-led walk along the beach includes observation and discussion of plant and animal adaptations to the salt environment, the importance of dune habitats, as well what may be found on the beach; each student must bring 2 a plastic bags one to collect shells, sea beans, etc. for identification and the other for picking up trash.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Dunes vs. waves: Students play a tug of war to see how plants protect the dunes. Next the students are given cards representing factors of dune ecology and role play different environmental scenarios. Turtle Hurdles: In this active, role-playing game, students "become" baby sea turtles and predators to learn about life cycles, food webs, and limiting factors.

FLORIDA HISTORY

This field trip at Erna Nixon Park begins in the pavilion with a discussion of prehistory, timelines, its earliest inhabitants, and its present-day tribes. The emphasis is on the Native American peoples that inhabited this particular area and Florida as a whole. We will discuss the Native Americans and their food, homes, games and other important aspects of their cultures.

There is a \$4.00 charge per student for this program

NATURE WALK

This guided tour focuses on Florida history, describing historical uses of some of the park's native plants, in addition to describing plant and animal communities and the changes occurring within them over time.

HANDS ON ACTIVITIES

Bark Ball: Students play a game fashioned from bark and a wooden ball similar to the games which early Americans played. This game was originally developed to promote hand-eye coordination which helped in the youths hunting abilities.

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FLORIDA FOSSILS

This field trip at Erna Nixon Park begins in the pavilion with a presentation about prehistoric Florida, timelines, geology and wildlife. **There is a \$4.00 charge per student charge to cover the cost of fossil ore.**

NATURE WALK

This guided tour will talk about the flora and fauna that has inhabited Florida for hundreds of years.

HANDS ON ACTIVITIES

This is a paleontology course in a bag: each student is given a Ziploc bag containing Florida substrate and archaeological "finds"; students are shown how to use tools such as screens and brushes to sift and clean the fossils. Using handouts, students are encouraged to attempt to identify their finds, which may include sharks' teeth, bone fragments, shells, etc.

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