



Winnie Palmer
Nature Reserve
At Saint Vincent College

Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at Saint Vincent College

Field Trip and Program Frequently Asked Questions:

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding field trips to
Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at Saint Vincent College.

If you have any additional questions, please call 724-537-5284.

No phone or email requests will be accepted.

Cost and Payment:

When does payment need to be received?

Full payment and signed contract are due 2 weeks before scheduled program.

What is the cost per student for your programs?

Half day programs (one WPNR staff led program) are \$6.00 per student and full day programs (2 WPNR staff led programs and a live animal show) are \$12.00 per student. Add a live animal show with WPNR educational animals for \$2.00 extra.

Is there a charge for adult chaperones?

No, unlimited adult chaperones can attend for free. For school age programs, we require a 1:6 chaperone student ratio. For early childhood programs, the class is split into 4 groups of students and we require at least 1 adult per group.

Facilities:

Can my class eat their lunch or a snack before or after the program?

Yes, classes are welcome to use the Lower Level Learning Classroom and/or the back patio for lunches or snacks before or after the scheduled program as long as garbage is properly disposed of (we require composting and recycling). We have no refrigeration for student lunches.

What is WPNR and MRIP?

WPNR is the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at Saint Vincent College. Programs that take place here may include components that take place inside of the Environmental Learning Barn or around our extensive grounds. MRIP is the Monastery Run Improvement Project. This is an abandoned mine drainage treatment system wetland located behind the Saint Vincent College Gristmill. Programs that take place here may include components inside the Gristmill classroom and in the extensive habitats around the wetland ponds. Both locations have bus parking and restrooms.



Are we able to explore the barn and grounds independently before or after our scheduled program?

Yes. We encourage classes to stay and explore the different nature play and explore areas around the Reserve including the Learning Center Barn, the Nature Explore Play Area, the pond, the bird observation deck, and the Historic Lochry Blockhouse.

Class Requirements:

What is the minimum and maximum number of students for a program?

We require a minimum of 15 students and a maximum of 50 students for all programs.

Do I have to be a formal classroom teacher to request a program?

No! As long as your group meets the size and age restrictions, we welcome scout groups, home school groups, preschools, etc.

Scheduling:

What time are your programs scheduled?

AM programs are scheduled to begin at 10 am and last 1-2 hours depending on the program and PM program are scheduled to start at 1 PM and last 1-2 hours.

When are programs and field trips scheduled?

Programs and field trips are scheduled April-October, Tuesday-Friday, and the first Saturday of the month. Programs are scheduled on first come first serve basis.

How far in advance can I schedule a program?

You can request a program up to one year in advance of your primary requested date.



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Programs:

What is the difference between a half day program and a full day program?

Half day program can be scheduled in the morning or the afternoon. It includes one program led by WPNR staff and use of the classroom and grounds for lunch or snack. Full day programs include 2 WPNR staff led programs. One in the morning at the MRIP and one in the afternoon at WPNR. Use of the WPNR classroom and grounds for lunch is also included in the full day program option. A live animal show can be added onto both half day and full day programs.

What do your programs consist of?

A Program and Field Trip option sheet is available on our website with full description of all programs. Early Childhood programs include a 4 station rotation that includes a craft, a story, an outside activity (weather permitting) and a wildcard activity. School age programs also include a station rotation through a variety of activities.

What grade are your programs designed for?

Our Early Childhood programs are designed for students in PreK-2nd grade and our school age programs are designed for students in 3rd-9th grade (not all programs are for all grades, please see detailed program sheet for which grades certain programs are designed for.)

Other:

Are siblings allowed to attend field trips?

If a sibling is going to participate in the program, they must be included in your final number and paid for with the full payment.

Do you offer rain dates for field trip days that the weather does not cooperate?

Most of our programs are able to be adapted for indoors. Rescheduling due to weather is dependent on date and staff availability. We do not preschedule built in rain dates.