



Wetland Explorers is a hands-on outdoor adventure where students explore the diverse ecosystems of southern Alabama's wetlands, lakes, and shorelines. The program includes a short guided walk along the lake shore, close-up encounters with native reptile ambassadors, and seining in the lake to observe aquatic life and learn about salinity and shoreline ecology. The experience also includes free time on the playground, combining science, discovery, and play into one memorable day.

Grades: 3rd – 6th grade

Group Size Limit: 30 students

Length of Field Trip: 3 hours with 30 minute break for lunch

Standards covered: SC23.3.FMO, SC23.3.H, SC23.3.UD, SC23.3.EHA, SS24.3IAE, SC23.4.FMO, SC23.4.EHA, SC23.5.E, SC23.5.ES

Activities:

- Guided walk along Lake Shelby
- Meet & Greet with native reptiles
- Seine Netting in Lake Shelby
- Fish ID
- Free time on Playground

Additional Information:

Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen and protective clothing. They should bring a water bottle and wear shoes they are okay with getting wet, as they will walk in shallow water during seining experience.

Sample Itinerary

This is a sample itinerary. A customized itinerary will be created for your group based on your length of stay, students' ages, and your arrival and departure times.

Title: **Wetland Explorers**

Location: Lake Shelby Picnic Area

Time: 9 am -12 pm

Maximum Group Size: 30

9:00 – 9:15 AM: Lake Shelby / Unload Lunch / Bathroom Break

9:15 – 10:00 AM: Guided walk across Lake Shelby

- Break into two groups

10:00 – 10:45 AM: Reptile Animal Encounters (in grass or under pavilion)

10:45 – 12:00 PM: Seining / Fish ID / Free Time

- Break into groups of 5 and rotate through seining and fish ID
- Before and after they sein, they can play at the playground and use the restroom.
- Have teacher send over 5 students at a time, so they aren't splashing around in the seining area while they wait.

12:00 – 12:30 PM: Lunch (*can do before seining for younger groups*)

12:30 – 12:45 PM: Bathroom Break / Load Bus

Optional Self-led Activity

12:45 – 1:00 PM: Drive to Nature Center

1:00 – 1:30 PM: Explore the Nature Center / Teacher- led Scavenger Hunt