

Tentative Workshop Schedule

Time frames for workshops are recommended below. Specific workshop dates will be scheduled with each school's project team (principal, lead teachers, and supporters such as PTA or other community members). Some sessions need not be completed in numerical order.

- Session 1** *Initial site visit* (2 hours) Late July–early August: Meet with administrators, lead teachers and community representatives to explain program, discuss plans and schedule, examine options for habitat project, and assess grounds.
- Session 2** *Using Your School Grounds as a Learning Environment* (6 hours) August – October:
Divide participants into cooperative-learning teams. Conduct activities focusing on plants and animals found on or around school buildings and grounds (i.e., mud daubers, spiders and their webs, butterflies and their caterpillars, native trees). Introduce nature journaling as a thread for the entire program and explore literacy connections appropriate to the school grounds environment. Discuss options for a wildlife habitat feature and set schedule for planning and installing the selected project.
- Session 3** *Nature in Winter* (2 hours) November–early March:
Focus on seasonal changes since the previous workshop and where to look for signs of nature in winter. Activities include identifying and observing birds, locating and identifying animal tracks and signs, and creating indoor lessons designed around natural objects.
- Session 4** *The Magic of Spring* (2 hours) March–May:
Observe the emergence of spring by learning about bird nests, amphibian life cycles, wildflower identification, pollination, and sounds of nature (bird songs, etc.). Program evaluation takes place at this session or Session 5, whichever is completed last.
- Session 5** *Create a Place for Wildlife and Learning* (4 hours) Anytime after Session 2:
Install habitat feature selected in Session 2 (Museum instructor, school staff, and students). Discuss maintenance tips and curriculum-correlated activities. Program evaluation takes place at this session or Session 4, whichever is completed last.
- Session 6** *The Museum* (or local natural area) *as a Resource for Educators* (3–4 hours) October–May:
Visit the NC Museum of Natural Sciences OR a natural area near your school. The Museum trip offers a behind the scenes look at the largest natural history museum in the Southeast and a chance to learn about Museum exhibits and programs. A field experience at a natural area near you could highlight potential field trip locations and provide sample activities for use at your school.