

Tentative Workshop Schedule

Time frames for workshops are recommended below. Specific workshop dates will be scheduled with each school's project team. Some sessions need not be completed in numerical order.

Session 1: *Initial site visit*

Duration: 2 hours

Timeframe: Late July–early August

Participants: Lead team – administrators, lead teachers, community and/ or PTA representatives

Meet with administrators, lead teachers and community representatives to explain program, discuss plans and schedule, examine options for habitat project, and assess grounds. Discuss scheduling of remaining workshops.

Session 2: *Using Your School Grounds as a Learning Environment*

Duration: 5 - 6 hours (best times are usually work days or early release days)

Timeframe: August - October

Participants: All participating teachers/ administrators/ parents (16-24 participants)

Divide participants into cooperative-learning teams. Discuss the importance of connecting children with nature. Participate in 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). Discuss options for a wildlife habitat feature.

NC Essential Standards may include: K.L.1, K.E.1, 1.L.1, 1.L.2, 2.L.1, 2.L.2, 3.L.2, 4.L.1, 5.L.2

Session 3: *Nature in Winter*

Duration: 2 hours (best times are early release days or after school)

Timeframe: November – early March

Participants: All participating teachers/ administrators/ parents (16-24 participants)

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.

NC Essential Standards may include: K.L.1, K.E.1, 1.L.2, 2.L.1, 2.L.2, 3.L.2, 4.L.1, 5.L.2

Session 4: *The Magic of Spring*

Duration: 2 hours (best times are early release days or after school)

Timeframe: mid March – May

Participants: All participating teachers/ administrators/ parents (16-24 participants)

Observe the emergence of spring by learning about amphibian life cycles, wildflower identification, pollination, and aquatic ecosystems (if present on your school grounds). Program evaluation takes place at this session or Session 6, whichever is completed last.

NC Essential Standards may include: K.L.1, K.E.1, 1.L.1, 1.L.2, 2.L.1, 2.L.2, 2.E.1, 3.L.2, 3.E.1, 3.E.2, 4.L.1, 5.L.2, 5.E.2

Session 5: *Create a Place for Wildlife and Learning*

Duration: 3-4 hours (during the school day)

Timeframe: Any time after Session 2

Participants: Small groups of students, rotation of involved teachers/ administrators/ parents

Install habitat feature selected in Session 2. Museum educators will work with small group of students (10-15) for 20-30 minutes each to install habitat feature and give students ownership of the project. The school sets a schedule for student involvement; we cannot always accommodate involvement of all students. Each staff person involved in the program should plan to chaperone/help with one group of students to observe the progress of the project.

NC Essential Standards may include (depends on habitat type): 1.L.1, 1.L.2, 1.E.2, 2.L.1, 2.L.2, 3.L.2, 4.L.1, 5.L.2

Session 6: *The Museum (or local natural area) as a Resource for Educators*

Duration: 3-4 hours (best times are work days or early release days, especially if traveling)

Timeframe: Any time after Session 2

Participants: All participating teachers/ administrators/ parents (16-24 participants)

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. Program evaluation takes place at this session or Session 4, whichever is completed last.

NC Essential Standards may include: depends on site