

Governor's Conservation Classroom Challenge

Challenge # ES 10

Title: Explore a Nearby Park or Natural Area

Grade Level: 3-5

Special opportunity for 4th graders through National Park Service Every Kid in the Park Initiative

Subjects:

Science, Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Health & Physical Education, Art & Music

Abstract:

Every Kid in a Park initiative provides the opportunity for each fourth grade student across the country to experience federal lands and waters first hand throughout the 2015-2016 school year. Educators, parents and 4th grade students can log onto the Every Kid in a Park website where students complete an interactive activity. At the conclusion, the students are able to print out a paper voucher that can be used for free admission for themselves and their family to any federal lands or waters that charge an entrance fee. Students can experience public lands to learn about their natural and cultural heritage.

Objectives:

Students will: discover the importance of parks and natural areas; conduct short research projects to identify and describe public land or waters located in their state; write, edit, and publish an informational brochure; and plan a visit to nearby park or natural area to participate in recreational and education activities.

Materials:

Internet access

Printer

Transportation for field trip to public land area

Safety:

If your class or group has registered for an interpretative program, safety information will typically be provided to you by park staff. Adequate water, and clothing and footwear suitable for the weather and terrain enhances the experience. There are several tip sheets and publications on exploring the outdoors with children at public libraries, on-line and in outdoor equipment stores. School health/medical personnel need to be consulted in regards to first aid and other procedures in advance of field trips.

Background: Additional teacher background for this challenge can be found in the [Virginia's Natural Resources Education Guide](#) chapter on *Open Space and Public Lands*

Procedure:

Log on to Every Kid in A Park Website <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>

Have students complete the provided activities.

Print out a paper voucher for each student that completes the activities. Voucher can be used for free admission for student and their family to visit any federal lands and waters that charge an entrance fee.

Research and select a public park or forest that you would like to visit. Plan and arrange a field trip to participate in an education program or self-guided outdoor investigation.

Conduct post-visit activities to challenge students to apply what was learned during the outdoor

experience and encourage learning about the environment through investigations. If possible, help the students plan a trip to a public park or forest for their families

Stewardship:

Several national parks and historic sites participate in National Public Lands Days when organized volunteer groups work on specific conservation projects. Park Foundations and Friends group may also sponsor volunteer events in which schools and families can participate.

Additional Resources:

Exploring Federal Lands and Waters activity

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/ekip-prod/activities/scholastic-one.pdf>

National Park Service webpages

<http://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/state/va/index.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm>