



## PVAS Cool Spring Preserve Field Trip Information

### Location:

[Cool Spring Preserve](#)

1469 Lloyd Road

### Site Characteristics

- Cool Spring Preserve sits on 63 acres of forest, meadow and marsh in southern Jefferson County.
- The Case Nature Center has natural history exhibits upstairs and classroom space large enough for 30 people downstairs
- There is a Nature Playground, and over 1 mile of walking trails. The trails are relatively flat. They may be a bit muddy after rain.
- There is a gravel parking lot that is big enough for school buses to pull in and turn around.
- There are two portable restrooms available on site that are cleaned weekly.

### Field Trip Structure

- A PVAS staff member will email the field trip schedule to the contact teacher at least 1 week in advance.
- Classes will rotate between 3-4 stations led by PVAS educators/and or volunteer educators.
- Depending on the number of classes and field trip length, each station will be between 20 – 40 minutes.
- Lunch will be 30 minutes in length

### Teacher and Chaperone Role

- It is helpful to have 1 chaperone for every 5-6 students or at the very minimum 1 per class. We ask that you divide your students evenly into groups so that there is one adult per group. Teachers and chaperones will be in charge of their group of students all day and should be with them during all activities.
- We will schedule bathroom breaks, however; if a student needs to use the restroom during an activity, a teacher or chaperone may choose to take them back to do so. We recommend “the buddy system” where there is always at least two children with a chaperone.
- To make the most out of the students’ experience, teachers and chaperones are expected to engage with the students while at the stations, support student learning and enforce good behavior. Teachers or chaperones that spend their time chatting with other adults and looking at their phones are distracting and unsupportive of the students’ learning.
- PVAS educators/volunteers role is to lead the activities, not discipline students. It is the teachers’ discretion to discipline or remove any students from an activity.

## **Lunch**

- If your school has requested to have lunch on the field trip, lunch will be held outside of the Case Nature Center under our covered patio. There are picnic tables and benches on and beside our patio.
- You are welcome to bring picnic blankets for students to sit on during lunch.
- We ask schools to bring their own trash bags and pack out trash created by student lunches to dispose of at school. Please help us make sure students pick up the trash carefully.

## **What students should wear**

- Closed-toed shoes comfortable for walking (i.e. tennis shoes)
- Old clothes that can get muddy
- Coat, jacket or rain gear as appropriate. Dress warm and in layers!

## **What students should bring:**

- If it has been rainy in the last 48 hours or will be raining on the day of the field trip, we recommend that students bring an extra pair of shoes for the bus. A plastic grocery bag will help keep muddy shoes from getting the bus too dirty.
- Lunch- Some schools arrange for “pack outs” from the school cafeteria or students can bring their own.
- Filled water bottles. We will provide a water cooler for refills.

## **What teachers and chaperones should bring:**

- Lunch
- Filled water bottle
- Cameras (optional)
- Antibacterial hand wipes or hand sanitizer
- First-Aid Kits (our staff is CPR & First Aid certified and we will have supplies too)
- Trash bags to pack out trash from lunch

## **Questions**

Contact Amy Thomas, Lead teacher and Naturalist

[youthprograms@potomacaudubon.org](mailto:youthprograms@potomacaudubon.org)

