



## PVAS Stauffer's Marsh Field Trip Information

### Location:

[Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve](#)

Directly across the road from  
4069 Back Creek Valley Road  
Hedgesville, WV

### Site Characteristics

- Stauffer's Marsh consists of 46-acres of primarily wetland in Back Creek Valley
- There is a gravel parking area that can accommodate buses
- A port-o-pot will be available on site

### 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 in a large clearing. If the temperature is hot, or rain is in the forecast, tents will be set up to provide shelter.
- We recommend bringing picnic blankets for students to sit on, as there are no picnic tables on site.
- 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  
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