



## KPNC CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

(These classes are altered slightly when used for large rotating school groups.)

### ZOOLOGY CLASSES:

#### **AWESOME AMPHIBIANS** (90 minutes)

Did you know that almost 75 different kinds of amphibian call Alabama home? Or that Alabama is home to 7 of the 10 families of salamanders found worldwide? Learn all about frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts in this exciting introduction to the world of amphibians! Discover our state amphibian, the Red Hills Salamander, found in Alabama and nowhere else in the world! Learn some of the enchanting calls of our frogs! Hike out to the pond to look for and identify amphibians in the wild!

#### **BIRDS OF A FEATHER** (90 minutes)

Alabama is bird crazy! Did you know that throughout the year, Alabama has over 400 species of bird that pass through our state? Or that Alabama has birds that range in size from tiny hummingbirds and gnatcatchers that are smaller than mice to birds that have wingspans of eight feet? Did you know that Alabama's state bird is a type of woodpecker? Learn this and more as we explore the world of birds! Observe birds in the wild as we hike the trails of the Preserve! Learn how to use binoculars and field guides and start your very own personal bird list! Listen to the beautiful, funny, and scary sounds birds make and discover how to tell birds apart just by listening to their song! After this class, you'll be proud to be called a bird-brain!

#### **INCREDIBLE INSECTS** (90 Minutes)

We live surrounded by insects! There are more insect species than all other animal species put together. Scientist estimate there may be 10 million! Come see why insects are so numerous and what awesome adaptations they have evolved in order to become so successful! Go on a scavenger hunt and find cool insects of all kinds throughout the Kreher Preserve. See the world through the eyes of an insect. Discover how incredible insects really are!

#### **MARVELOUS MAMMALS** (90 minutes)

The world of mammals is full of wonder! From tiny shrews and bats that only weigh as much as a dime to whales that weigh 200 tons, the world of mammals is truly marvelous! Learn about all of these mammals and the fascinating ones found in the preserve and in your own backyard! Observe the skins and skulls of various native mammals! Hike out to identify species that have been in the area by learning tracks and scat identification!

#### **RADICAL REPTILES** (90 minutes)

Learn all about these often feared and misunderstood animals. Did you know that there are more than 115 types of reptiles found in Alabama? Did you know that Alabama is home to both the biggest species of turtle and biggest species of snake in North America? Take a romp with the reptiles and get to see and touch live turtles, snakes, and lizards! Go on a reptile safari to look for box turtles in our turtle enclosure, lizards and snakes at Reptile Rest and turtles in the pond! Come appreciate Alabama's Radical Reptiles with us!

## **FOCUS SPECIES GROUP CLASSES:**

### **THE BUSY BEAVER** (90 minutes)

Did you know the beaver is the biggest rodent in North America, and the second largest rodent in the world? Learn about this fascinating aquatic rodent and their interesting behaviors! Discover what it takes to be a beaver in our build a beaver demonstration! Climb inside our mammoth Beaver Lodge and help make a dam at the Nature Playground! Observe and touch a beaver pelt and see how cool their teeth and tails are! Become a beaver detective to find out if there are beavers in your area where you live! Come enjoy the incredible world of the busy beaver!

### **CREATURES OF THE NIGHT** (90 minutes)

Have you ever heard things that go bump in the night? Have you ever been camping and thought something was watching you or outside your tent? Surprise! There probably were things watching you or lurking outside your tent. Were they monsters? Of course not! They were creatures of the night! In this special class, students will get to learn all about nocturnal animals, reptiles, arachnids and insects. Students will study the cool, unique adaptations that owls, bats, spiders and snakes take to be a creature of the night. This class is a great way to help kids overcome fears about the night through education and fun.

### **SNAKES ALIVE!** (90 Minutes)

Snakes! Not many animals on earth scare people more. But snakes are some of the most beneficial and ecologically important creatures around, and Alabama has lots of them! Did you know that Alabama is home to more than 60 different types of snake? We have a crazy variety of snakes from tiny almost blind ones that eat insects to the two largest snake species in North America! We have snakes of every size and color; ones that bury underground, live in the water and even live in the trees! Come discover why snakes are so misunderstood and why they are so important to the wild places that we love! Get a chance to see and touch live snakes and be able to tell venomous ones from harmless ones. This is a perfect way to appreciate the wonderful world of snakes!

### **TURTLE TALK** (90 minutes)

Did you know that Alabama's state reptile is a turtle? Or that Alabama has more species of turtle than any other state? Come meet some of the intriguing species in our area as well as some exotic ones! Discover the differences between terrapins, tortoises, and turtles! Learn all about the gopher tortoise while visiting our longleaf demonstration forest. Hike to the pond to view, catch, and identify turtles in the wild! This is a great introduction to the watery world of turtles!

### **WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES AND POLLINATION** (90 minutes)

Learn all about this fascinating insect that is vitally important for pollination in agriculture. Many of our favorite fruits and vegetables are pollinated exclusively by honeybees! Did you know all worker bees are females? Or that honey has many wonderful medicinal uses. Learn the caste system of honey bees and the waggle dance. Hike out to our own preserve hives and observe our bees busy at work. ? Enjoy a taste of our own local honey.

## **BOTANY CLASSES:**

### **THE POWER OF PLANTS** (90 minutes)

They give us delicious food, shade, and clothing to wear. When we are sick they give us medicine, and when we want our imagination and creativity to flow they provide us with the paper. They are the most important organisms on the planet and without them we could not survive. Witness the power of plants! Come learn about the one group of organisms that provide us with everything, but are so often unappreciated. Examine live plants and plant parts in the classroom and in the field! Observe the plant life cycle and learn common species of tree, shrub, vine, and flower in our state. Learn about the essential interdependence of flowering plants and the pollinators! Explore our bog gardens and the cool insectivore plants found there during our plant prow!.

### **TREMENDOUS TREES** (90 minutes)

Did you know Alabama's state tree is the Southern Longleaf Pine? Or that our state fruit tree is the Peach Tree and our state nut is the Pecan? In this class, we take a special look at some of Alabama's most well-known and beloved icons of southern heritage. From gentle giants like the American Sycamore and the Tulip Tree to small trees like Flowering Dogwood and Sparkleberry and from well-known trees like oaks and pines to unusual ones like Devil's Walking Sticks. Alabama has plenty of trees to see! Enjoy a demonstration on coring a tree and estimating its age! Learn some of the tremendous trees in our area and demonstrate your skills on our Tree Trek! Investigate the parts of the tree and find out why they are so important to forests! Discover the animals that call trees bed and breakfast! Learn of all the Good from the Woods that we enjoy. This class will "leaf" you appreciating trees even more!

## **GEOLOGY CLASSES:**

### **ALABAMA ROCKS! -GEOLOGY** (90 minutes)

Did you know that Alabama is unique in that it is the only place in the United States that has a river that forms and flows its entire length on a mountaintop? Did you know Alabama is the only place in the world where one can find limestone, coal, and iron ore in the same place? Or that Alabama has over 7,000 miles of waterways that have helped to form and shape our land. Or that Alabama has spent much of its time underwater? Learn about all these things and more as we celebrate Alabama geology! Discover the geological history of central and eastern Alabama. Learn to recognize different minerals, rocks and prehistoric fossils and what they can tell us about our past. Help erupt a volcano like the ones that were once at the preserve. Hike through the Preserve to see examples of Alabama geology up close!

### **THE DIRT ON ALABAMA** (90 minutes)

Soil is extremely important to the state of Alabama and has had a major impact on our history. In this unique class, you'll get down and dirty observing soil layering and distinguishing between some of Alabama's many soils. Witness the wonders of weathering and the enigma of erosion! Join us on a hike to discover soil types and patterns of wear along the Preserve trails! Explore how soil is created and investigate some of the creatures that are responsible for soil creation! Try your hand at soil painting. What's the dirt on Alabama? It's simple- interesting and fun!

### **PREHISTORIC ALABAMA** (90 minutes)

Did you know that Alabama is famous for its giant, prehistoric whales? Or that the southern half of the state was underwater when the dinosaurs ruled the earth? Did you know that Alabama has its very own special type of tyrannosaur? Learn all this and more as we explore Prehistoric Alabama. In this class, you will be introduced to monsters of our past! Learn about fossils and identify examples up close! Learn about Alabama dinosaurs! Go on a mock “dino dig” to uncover bones! Discover what giant creatures lurked in Alabama!

### **SOILS AND LANDFORMS** (90 minutes)

What great forces shape our land creating mountains, valleys, cliffs and hills? How do tectonic plate movements shape the earth’s crust? Does Alabama have volcanos and earthquakes? How does water affect landforms? Learn all about erosion and weathering with some hands-on activities. See the fall line that runs through the preserve and the effect it had on our local history. Design and build your own landforms. Alabama has many different types of soils. Hike the preserve looking for some of these soils and landforms.

## **THE WORLD AROUND US:**

### **SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** (90 minutes)

Hey, want to save the planet? You don’t have to be a superhero to do it! All you need is this class to help get you on the right track! Learn about waste, recycling, pollution, and more through interactive games that will open your eyes! Explore the preserve’s sustainable practices. Learn about what you can do to help make the planet a better place!

### **FOOD WEBS AND HABITATS** (90 minutes)

Animals and plants depend on one another more than you know! In this fun class, we take a look at the major ecosystems and habitats on Earth, while focusing on those in Alabama. Discover how animals and plants adapt to different habitats and to each other. Learn and observe how organisms are grouped into populations, communities, and ecosystems! Hike the preserve to discover real-time food webs in action! Play the web of life game and see if you can survive! This class is an excellent hands-on way to introduce children to the complexities of ecology!

### **WETLAND WONDERS** (120 minutes- 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up- \$6/student- cannot be done with large groups)

How much fresh water is there in the world? Learn all about this and our own state water facts. Alabama is a hotspot for plant and animal biodiversity due the vast amount of water in our state. We have 59% of America’s mussel species and 320 freshwater fishes. Learn about our own little water basin at the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center and the bigger Tallapoosa watershed that we drain into. Visit the natural springs, the creek, pond and waterfall during the hike. Study the animals that use the pond from macroinvertebrates to larger animals like deer and coyote. Discover how the Preserve protects the Saugahatchee Creek with a SWaMP plan (Saugahatchee Watershed Management Plan) in our front parking lot and at our pavilion with our rainwater catchment system.