



FERNBANK FOREST TOUR

This is an outdoor program. In the event of inclement weather, alternate programs may be offered if available.

Level: **Grades 6-12**

Length: **90 minutes**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students will gain a better understanding of the interconnected Piedmont Forest ecosystem and the importance of native biodiversity during a guided interpretive tour of Fernbank Forest. Participants will see first-hand the ecology and characteristics of this old-growth forest while developing an appreciation for the natural world.

CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS

Students will:

- Understand the role of water and human activity on Earth's surface. **S6E3, S6E5, SES3, SES4, SES6**
- Examine the dependence of organisms on each other and their environments, including human impacts. **S7L4, SB5, SEV4**
- Describe the flow of energy and changes in Earth's ecosystems. **SEV1, SEV2**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How and why do organisms interact with each other and their environment?

PROGRAM VOCABULARY

Biodiversity	Ecosystem	Old-Growth
Community	Invasive Species	

ASSOCIATED VOCABULARY

Abiotic (Non-living)	Producer	Decomposer
Biotic (Living)	Consumer	

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Review vocabulary with students. Have each student investigate a 1m x 1m area in your schoolyard and record the living things found in the space. Compare observations, noting similarities and differences among the species students found in different areas.

AT THE MUSEUM

Be sure to visit **A Walk Through Time in Georgia** and have students search each diorama for animals which live in the Piedmont forests of Georgia. Also explore Piedmont Forest from tree height at Adventure Outpost and along the elevated trails in **WildWoods**.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Have students research one of the most interesting natural features they learned about, such as native trees, biodiversity, or animal tracks and traces. Have students discuss careers that work closely with the natural world.