



Classroom in the Clouds

School & Youth Programs

Grandfather's outdoor wonders can provide real-world lessons about concepts learned in your classroom. We teach what students can't find on Google! All of our programs offer students authentic NC Essential Standards-aligned science learning experiences in a rich and engaging environment.

Financial assistance is available – see our website for more information on scholarships. Tuition includes admission to the park, instruction, and transportation to and from the Swinging Bridge (if necessary). Meals and lodging are not included in price, but be sure to inquire about our Express Eats and Mildred's Grill lunch options. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.

Please see “Unpacked” program information in the following pages for important insight on the programs designed to meet your curriculum needs!

My Grandfather Edventure for K-6th Grades

Offered Monday thru Friday, April 1st-June 15th and September 1st-November 15th

These one-hour programs are tailored to state curriculum standards for your grade level. **Choose from four concepts: Animals, Plants, Weather, or Geology.** After your program, your customized itinerary will give your students time to explore the Swinging Bridge, Animal Habitats, and Nature Museum. Cost includes shuttle bus transportation to and from the Swinging Bridge.

\$7 per school group student, One teacher/chaperone FREE per 8 students, \$14 per additional adult

Citizen Scientist Field Study for 7th-12th Grades

Offered Monday thru Friday, April 1st-June 15th and September 1st-November 15th

Let Grandfather be your school classroom during this one-hour program. Watch science come alive as your students use the scientific method and critical thinking skills to investigate Grandfather's biodiversity in-depth. **This program focuses on Habitat Diversity.** After your program, your customized itinerary will give your students time to explore the Swinging Bridge, Animal Habitats, and Nature Museum. Cost includes shuttle bus transportation to and from the Swinging Bridge.

\$7 per school group student, One teacher/chaperone FREE per 8 students, \$14 per additional adult

Summer Excursions: Mountain Adventures

Offered Monday thru Friday, June 15th to September 1st

Bring your summer camp our youth group to the mountain this summer! Kids will find hidden treasures with our GPS Scavenger Hunt while learning about Grandfather’s rare and endangered species. Cost includes shuttle bus transportation to and from the Swinging Bridge. Limit of 60 students.

\$7 per school group student, One teacher/chaperone FREE per 8 students, \$14 per additional adult

Unpacked Program Information

My Grandfather Edventure for K-6th Grades

These programs are designed to facilitate self-guided discovery and outdoor experience. They will allow your students to connect with concepts that you have taught in the classroom by applying them in real-life. Below are the program highlights per grade and NC Essential Standards compliance.

	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Animals	K.L.1	1.L.1.1, 1.L.2.2	2.L.1		4.L.1	5.L.2, 5.L.2.2, 5.L.2.3	6.L.2
Plants		1.L.1.1, 1.L.2.1		3.L.2, 3.L.2.1		5.L.2, 5.L.2.2, 5.L.2.3	6.L.1, 6.L.2
Weather	K.E.1		2.E.1, 2.E.1.2			5.E.1.2	
Geology				3.E.2.2	4.P.2.3		
All programs strive to meet “ Science as Inquiry Standards ” (page 7 NC 3-5 Science Standards): Conduct simple investigations, Work in small groups, Make careful observations, Use data to create explanations of results, and Use appropriate safety procedures							

Kindergarten

- **Creepy Critters Animal Program:** Students will use discovery tools to examine the differences between living organisms. They will get to meet real-life snakes and insects in this exciting program. Essential Standards Covered: K.L.1
- **Cloud Detectives Weather Program:** Students will look at clouds and talk about their favorite kinds of weather. They will make a cloud viewer and observe different types of clouds. Their discoveries will help them attain a deeper knowledge of weather. Essential Standards Covered: K.E.1

First Grade

- **Creepy Critters Animal Program:** Students will use discovery tools to determine what all animals need: air, water, space, food, and shelter. They will get to meet real-life snakes and insects in this exciting program. Essential Standards Covered: 1.L.1.1, 1.L.2.2

- **Plant Detectives Program:** Students will use discovery tools to determine what all plants need: air, water, space, light, and food. They will get to explore a natural area of the park and meet grasses, shrubs, and trees while applying their natural curiosity. Essential Standards Covered: 1.L.1.1, 1.L.2.1

Second Grade

- **Creepy Critters Program:** Students will use discovery tools to examine animal life cycles. They will get to meet real-life snakes and insects in this exciting program. Essential Standards Covered: 2.L.1
- **Weather Detectives Program:** Students will discover why we have weather and how we measure weather. Participants will have the opportunity to use tools that meteorologists use in the field to record the weather at Grandfather Mountain. Essential Standards Covered: 2.E.1, 2.E.1.2

Third Grade

- **Plant Detectives Program:** Students will use discovery tools to learn more about the parts of a plant – roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. They will get to explore a natural area of the park and meet grasses, shrubs, and trees while applying their natural curiosity. Essential Standards Covered: 3.L.2, 3.L.2.1
- **Limitless Landforms Geology Program:** What better place to learn about landforms than the top of Grandfather Mountain – where mountains and valleys are in abundance! They will explore different viewpoints and maps, and apply their knowledge by making their own diagrams! Essential Standards Covered: 3.E.2.2, Science as Inquiry Standards: Make careful observations, Work in small groups, Draw models, charts, and/or graphs, and Use appropriate safety procedures.

Fourth Grade

- **Animal Adaptations Tour:** Students will use Grandfather’s Animal Habitats as a place to explore the structural and behavioral adaptations of bears, eagles, otters, cougars, and elk. Through their discovery they will create explanations of the benefits of the structures and behaviors of organisms. Essential Standards Covered: 4.L.1, Science as Inquiry Standards: Make careful observations, Work in small groups, and Use appropriate safety procedures.
- **Mineral Detectives Geology Program:** This student-centered exploration routine provides ways for students to observe, research, and share discoveries about minerals. Essential Standards Covered: 4.P.2.2, Science as Inquiry Standards: Make careful observations, Work in small groups, Make predictions that can be tested, and Use appropriate safety procedures.

Fifth Grade

- **The Case of the Disappearing Log – Ecosystems (Plant & Animal) Program:** After exploring a “disappearing log”, students will make possible explanations for what might be causing the log to disappear. Students then learn about common “suspects”—organisms that decompose wood—and the signature evidence they each leave behind. Students use a Disappearing Log Key to identify which organisms might have left behind which evidence, and use this information to make explanations about what has happened to the log since it was a tree. Finally, students learn that the log isn’t really disappearing, it’s turning into the invisible gases that are part of the cycling of matter in all ecosystems. Essential Standards Covered: 5.L.2, 5.L.2.2, 5.L.2.3, Science as Inquiry Standards: Make careful observations, Work in small groups, and Use appropriate safety procedures.
- **Weather Detectives Program:** Students will discover why we have weather and how we measure weather. Participants will have the opportunity to use tools that meteorologists use in the field to record the weather at Grandfather Mountain. Essential Standards Covered: 5.E.1.2, Science as Inquiry Standards: Make careful observations, Work in small groups, Make predictions that can be tested, and Use appropriate safety procedures.

Sixth Grade

- **Plant Detectives Program:** Students will use discovery tools to learn more about the parts and functions of a plant – roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. They will get to explore a natural area of the park and meet grasses, shrubs, and trees while applying their natural curiosity. Essential Standards Covered: 6.L.1
- **The Case of the Disappearing Log – Ecosystems (Plant & Animal) Program:** After exploring a “disappearing log”, students will make possible explanations for what might be causing the log to disappear. Students then learn about common “suspects”—organisms that decompose wood—and the signature evidence they each leave behind. Students use a Disappearing Log Key to identify which organisms might have left behind which evidence, and use this information to make explanations about what has happened to the log since it was a tree. Finally, students learn that the log isn’t really disappearing, it’s turning into the invisible gases that are part of the cycling of matter in all ecosystems. Essential Standards Covered: 6.L.2, Science as Inquiry Standards: Make careful observations, Work in small groups, and Use appropriate safety procedures.

Citizen Scientist Field Study for 7th-12th Grades

Watch science come alive as your students use the scientific method and critical thinking skills to investigate Grandfather’s biodiversity in-depth. **This program focuses on Habitat Diversity.**

7th thru 12th Grade Essential Standards	“Science as Inquiry” Essential Standards: Collections of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry. In addition, the science process skills necessary for inquiry are acquired through active experience. The process skills support development of reasoning and problem-solving ability and are the core of scientific methodologies.
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Program Description

Explore different plots of land to examine why different animals and plants live in specific habitats. This hands-on, field-based program allows students to understand how abiotic factors can change landscapes and ecological communities. This is a program for groups looking for a unique field experience and is catered to various curricula.