

Wake Audubon Young Naturalist Club Guidelines 2009

I. Field Trips

A. Field trip participation is encouraged, but not required. They can be the most exciting part of the program and are designed to give everyone unique experiences with the flora and fauna of the Carolinas. A sharp eye and an open mind can make these trips a success for everyone.

B. Permission forms are required to sign up for each field trip. A field trip fact sheet will tell you when to meet and when to be picked up, where, equipment, clothes, food, expenses and an idea of what you'll be doing. Be sure to keep the top section of the fact sheet for your information, while returning the bottom waiver with your check. Parents, please do your best to be here at the stated time to pick up your child at the end of the trip, or make certain any carpool details are ironed out before your child leaves on the trip. It only takes one parent being late for the leaders to be delayed in going home after these tiring trips, and we work very hard at being back to the drop off place by the stated time so as not to inconvenience parents. If we're going to be late, we'll call from the road to let you know.

C. If you have signed up for a field trip and cannot make the trip, please call the trip leader as soon as possible. This allows us to avoid waiting for you to arrive at the pick up spot.

D. Please arrive about 15 minutes early for field trips. This time will be spent loading the vehicles and handling permission and health forms.

E. Young Naturalist Club Romance: Since we are working with a group of teenagers, we need to discuss this issue. Our field outings are places for discovery and educational experiences. We want the Young Naturalists to work in an environment that is free from the pressures of romantic advances and relationships. We ask that the Young Naturalists focus on the activities of the program and leave the romance to other more appropriate places and times. Excessive expressions of affection are not appropriate in the Museum or during the field trips. Excessive or inappropriate displays of affection will result in a consultation with the family.

F. Inappropriate behavior such as the use of drugs and alcohol at the on field trips will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the program.

II. Support for the Integrity of the Program

A. Though it is exceedingly rare for us to have to use it, our behavior policy is described below (just in case).

1. **Honesty.** We expect honesty in all communication from the Young Naturalists. Mistakes and errors in judgment are going to be made at some time. We expect quick notification of such occurrences so that we can address the situation and move on. This is normal and is part of the process of growing up that we all go through. Sometimes a student's or leader's well-being is at stake if the problem is not immediately addressed. **Willful instances of dishonesty and deception between a Young Naturalist and leaders will be taken seriously and may lead to removal from the program.**

2. **Behavior.**

- If a Young Naturalist is disruptive, disrespectful, or poses a threat to an animal or another person, that individual will be given an oral warning. The Young Naturalist will be clearly notified that they have received an oral warning.
- If inappropriate behavior continues, they will be given a written warning and their family will be contacted.
- If a Young Naturalist receives a second written warning, they will be required to have a meeting with a trip leader and a parent/guardian to discuss their future participation in the program. At that time, either a plan for improvement will be made or the Young Naturalist may be removed from the program.
- If a YN's behavior warrants immediate dismissal, this will be discussed and decided upon by the trip leaders. An example of behavior that would warrant immediate dismissal would be possession or use of drugs or alcohol at any activity or an action that could cause harm to themselves or others.

Young Naturalist Program Participant Agreement

All YNs and their parents are required to sign and date the following participation agreement for the Young Naturalist Program and return it the leader of the first field trip you attend.

I, _____, have read and fully understand the Young Naturalist Program Guidelines 2009. I agree to follow these rules as outlined in this document, and I understand and accept the consequences of not doing so.

Young Naturalist Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date