

Eco Explorations Field Trips Frequently Asked Questions

How does the trip scheduling process work?

Teachers and group leaders apply by filling out and submitting the scheduling application as early as possible. When we receive your application we will schedule you for specific dates and then mail you a confirmation letter with more information about the program, location, times, and directions. If any of your plans or needs change before or after the confirmation letter is received, feel free to contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

When are field trips available?

Eco Explorations field trips are available from September through November and February through June.

When are the application deadlines?

There are no deadlines. However, we need your application at LEAST 2 weeks before your preferred dates so that we may schedule your program properly. You may schedule up to a year in advance.

How long will our program last?

Eco Explorations field trips typically last 3-4 hours with a snack or lunch break.

What are the fees and are there any discounts:

Fees are \$9.00 per student and are based on the number of students registered two weeks prior to the scheduled program date or the number of students who participate on the day of the program, whichever number is greater. There is no fee for chaperones or teachers.

Discounts are available for Public Schools only and are based on the percentage of free and reduced lunches for your school as reported in school annual reports for the preceding school year. Private schools should contact us for discount information. Please review the table below for a chart of discount rates:

% Free and Reduced Lunch	Discount on Total Fees
0% - 50%	No discount
51% - 60%	50% discount
61% - 80%	75% discount
81% - 100%	Free programming

Example I: If you bring a class of 53 students to Eco Explorations and your school had a Free and Reduced Lunch rate of 73%, your total fee will be 53(students) x \$9.00 (flat rate) x .25 (75% discount) = \$119.25.

Example II: If you bring a class of 28 students to Eco Explorations and your school had a Free and Reduced Lunch rate of 54%, your total fee will be 28(students) x \$9.00 (flat rate) x .50 (50% discount) = \$126.00.

What if my class is larger than the maximum number allowed for a program?

For our program to be most effective, we limit the group size to 120 students. This gives us the maximum student teacher ratio of 20:1. Our preferred ratio is 15:1; however, we understand the limits on your time and funding and have increased this ratio accordingly. If you need to bring more than 120 students, you can split your group into two groups and schedule your program for two separate dates. Schools are required to provide one chaperone per 15 students attending Eco Explorations.

Is lunch provided? Where should we have lunch and where are the public restrooms?

Lunch is not provided by Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center. Those schools wishing to have a picnic lunch at the park should bring their own sack lunches and several picnic shelters are available throughout the park. We recommend shelter 3 for large groups of students. There are public restrooms available right beside the Center at the entrance to the park, near picnic shelters 2 & 3 and on the north end of the peninsula.

How do I know which program is right for my class/group?

Our programs are very flexible and are designed to appeal to all types of groups. If you are unsure about which programs will be best for your class, give us a call and we can discuss your options. All lessons will develop scientific skills and most will have math, geography, reading, writing, and art components.

continued on back...

What types of programs do you offer?

We offer Eco Explorations programming in several topic areas and offer 4 different focus areas. Teachers pick one of the focus areas at the time of registration. The focus areas are Lake Washington Water Chemistry and Aquatic Ecology, Garry Oak Ecosystems and Habitats and Ecology, Old-Growth Forest Food Chains, Pyramids, and Webs, Botany and Ecology, and Arts and Nature. See the scheduling application for detailed learning station descriptions.

What will our field trip schedule be like?

Most field trips should last 3 hours. Classes will be broken down into groups of 20 or less and each group will rotate through a series of activities.

Sample field trip schedule

9:00 am Arrival and Introduction
9:15 am Learning Stations Round 1
10:05 am Learning Stations Round 2
10:55 am Learning Stations Round 3
11:45 am Closing Activity
12:00 pm Departure

What type of transportation do you recommend for our group?

You are responsible for transportation for your school. If this is difficult for you, please contact us and we will help coordinate grant and funding efforts for transportation. Remember, Metro has very reasonable rates for public busses but can only take about 50 students per bus.

If you have any more questions, please call us at (206) 652-2444 or email lmorton@audubon.org