

Woodend Field Trips Frequently Asked Questions

Where do we park?

Please let us know during registration how your group will arrive to the sanctuary (bus/cars). All vehicles should enter from Jones Mill Rd and exit at Brierly Rd.

- Buses should park in the first pull off on the right (see [map](#)). Your group can get off the bus into the adjacent open grassy area where your naturalist will meet you.
- If your group is arriving in separate cars, please park and meet your naturalist in the parking lot at the top of the hill on the north side of the driveway (see [map](#)).

What time should we arrive?

- While programs start at either 10:00 or 11:15, groups are encouraged to arrive 15-20 minutes prior to the start of their program to use the bathroom and fill their water bottles.

What if we are running late?

- If you are running late, please contact Brenna.Houck@anshome.org (301-652-9188 x44) or call the general ANS phone number 301-652-9188 (press 0 for receptionist).

Do you have restrooms and water fountains?

- Two wheelchair-accessible, composting restroom facilities are available at the East Trailhead, as well as a water fountain with bottle filler. Additional restrooms are in the main building. (see [map](#)).

Can you accommodate persons with disabilities?

- Our main trail and boardwalks are wheelchair accessible. Let us know any special needs of your group during registration so we can ensure a positive and inclusive experience for everyone.

Can we eat lunch on the grounds? What do we do with our garbage?

- We welcome you to enjoy a snack or lunch at Woodend. We encourage you to adopt [waste-free lunch](#) goals. Please bring a bag for trash and leave it by the bathrooms at the East Trailhead (see map). The Future Play Space area near the East Trailhead has plentiful log and stump seating and is a great place for unstructured nature play "recess."

What is the inclement weather policy?

- ANS School Field Trips are held rain or shine. In case of dangerous weather (ex: heavy rain, high winds or thunderstorms) you will have the opportunity to reschedule. If you choose not to reschedule you will be fully refunded minus a \$25 fee.

How much does a program cost?

- Each one-hour field trip program is \$200 for a group of up to 16 children and \$275 for 17-32 children, plus chaperones.

How many students can attend?

- Each one-hour field trip program is limited to a maximum of 32 children. If your group is larger, please register for the 10am session and the 11:15am session on the same day. Half of your group can gather for snack or other activities while the other half is on the trail with our naturalists.
- Naturalists are scheduled based on group sizes of 16. For groups of 17-32 students, two naturalists will be scheduled. ANS will schedule naturalists based on the group size indicated at registration.

What happens if more than the maximum number of students come on the field trip?

- ANS reserves the right to charge an additional \$85 for groups that exceed the numbers indicated at registration or refuse to accommodate the scheduled program.

How many chaperones do you require?

- Groups must bring at least one responsible adult per 15 children. We do not limit the number of chaperones, but suggest no more than 6 to keep the group manageable. Please note that the group's teachers and chaperones are responsible for general behavior management.

What themes do you offer?

- We offer four themes: Discovery Hunt (suitable for Pre-K to 2nd grade), Life Cycles (PreK-5), Habitats (suitable for grades K-5), and Decomposers (grades 2-5).

What days/times do School Field Trips run?

- Field trip programs are currently offered Monday – Thursday. There are two sessions available each day, 10am to 11am and 11:15am to 12:15pm. If your group is larger than 32 children, please register for both sessions.

How do I register?

- You can choose a day and time, register and pay at: <https://anshome.org/woodend-field-trips/>.

What is your cancellation policy?

- For cancellations 4 weeks or more in advance, you will receive a full refund minus a \$25 fee. 2-4 weeks in advance you will receive a 50% refund minus a \$25 fee. Cancellations less than 2 weeks in advance will not be issued any refund, however we may be able to reschedule your group. Cancellations and date/time changes must be e-mailed to brenna.houck@anshome.org.
- Should ANS have to cancel your program, you will be given the opportunity to reschedule. If you choose not to reschedule, you will be given a full refund minus the \$25 registration fee.
- Registration fees are nonrefundable.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

- Please contact Brenna.Houck@anshome.org (301-652-9188 x44) with any questions not answered here.

How should we dress?

- Our programs are held entirely outside. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes such as sneakers.

What are your COVID policies?

- We follow the guidelines of the Montgomery County Department of Health as they are updated. Field trip programs are conducted entirely outdoors.

Sample Program: Discovery Hunt

Total Distance Covered is about ¼ Mile

- 10:00 am* Welcome to the Sanctuary.
- 10:10 am* We set off on our hike and the hunt begins!
- 10:15 am* In the forest we listen for birds, smell native plants, and find animal tracks.
- 10:30 am* At the pond, we look for animals that make the water their home.
- 10:45 am* At a meadow, we search for insect life.
- 11:00 am* Time for a picnic lunch and nature play.