

# Panther Creek State Park

## Park Educator Guide Field Trips and Outreach Programs



# Table of Contents

▶ ABOUT	3
▶ INTRODUCTION/ LETTER TO EDUCATOR	4
▶ PARK MAP	5
▶ TRIP LOGISTICS	6
▶ MAKE A RESERVATION	7
▶ PARK PROGRAMS	8
▶ CUSTOM PROGRAMS	11

# Panther Creek State Park

## ▶ ABOUT OUR PARK

Panther Creek State Park is a 1,444 acre park located on the Cherokee Reservoir in the historic Holston River Valley, six miles west of Morristown. Pioneers from North Carolina and the older Watauga Settlement in East Tennessee arrived in this area around 1785. Prior to this time, the Cherokee Indians were the most prominent Native American tribe in the area.

The park has 17 different hiking trails covering more than 30 miles of terrain at all levels of difficulty. Hikers can enjoy magnificent views of Cherokee Lake and the Cumberland Mountains from Point Lookout Trail reaching 1,460 feet above sea level. There are also more than 15 miles of mountain biking trails that range from easy to difficult.

## ▶ PARK INTERPRETIVE MISSION STATEMENT

Panther Creek State Park will utilize proven and effective forms of interpretation to help visitors understand, appreciate, and emotionally connect with the park's rich natural and cultural heritage and gain public support for the protection and preservation of park resources.

## ▶ HOURS OF OPERATION

8:00 am - 6:00 pm EST April 1 - Oct. 31  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EST Nov. 1 - March 31

## ▶ WEBSITES

<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/panther-creek>  
<https://www.facebook.com/PantherCreekStatePark?rf=166227500060174>

## ▶ LOCATION

2010 Panther Creek Park Road  
Morristown, TN 37814  
[423]-587-7046

# Park Guide Introduction

Hello!

There are few state park systems that offer an area as diverse and remarkable as Tennessee State Parks. Panther Creek State Park is a perfect example of a natural, historical, cultural and scenic resource. As Rangers, we strive to create a passion and desire to protect and treasure this vast resource. In an effort to achieve this goal, we would love to share our knowledge, time, and experience with you and your students.

Panther Creek State Park offers several educational opportunities by means of exciting, relatable, and hands on experiences. Through partnering with us you will receive an experience that not only engages and educates students, but also inspires them. Our programs include:

- ▶ Field Trip Programs
- ▶ Outreach Programs (Rangers visit you and your school)
- ▶ Custom Programs

Programs listed in this guide support many Tennessee academic standards. An abbreviated standards correlation can be found under each program. Programs can be modified to fit your desired age group, academic goals, and time constraints.

As you review the following program opportunities, keep in mind that these are only examples of available programs. Custom experiences that address your particular needs are possible for both classroom outreach and park field trips. **Please note that large groups of more than 60 are usually split into smaller, rotating groups.**

We are looking forward to partnering with you! Please contact us at your earliest convenience to begin scheduling for this school year's events.

Sincerely,

Panther Creek State Park Rangers

# Panther Creek State Park Map



# Trip Logistics

## ▶ PARKING

Parking for buses is available. Please inquire of proper bus parking prior to arrival.

## ▶ LUNCH

If no other parties are using them for the day, you are invited to use our shelters to enjoy your lunch. Each of the aforementioned areas are available on a first-come basis. There is no fee for using the shelter. We ask that you ensure all trash and discarded food goes into the trash and/ or recycling bins.

## ▶ TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES

Because you are the best asset to your students' field trip experience, we prefer a ratio of 1 teacher or adult chaperone for every 20 students. Please let us know if the ratio of your group is significantly different. We ask that teachers and chaperones join as participants in our programs.

## ▶ ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact [Jacob.Mayfield@tn.gov](mailto:Jacob.Mayfield@tn.gov).

## ▶ RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located at the Visitor's Center. We advise that you arrive early and/ or schedule in time for your students to use the restrooms.

## ▶ LIMITED CAPACITY PROGRAMS

Rangers may limit the number of participants in a program based on the availability of equipment or the increased level of risk. These programs work best when rotated with other educational park programs. Limited capacity programs will be labeled.

# Make a Reservation

## ► RESERVATION STEPS

Please reserve as far in advance as possible. There is a 2 week minimum for reservations. For groups larger than 80, please allow a 1 month minimum.

When booking, please have the following information ready:

- Three potential dates
- Your email address, school address, and phone number
- The names of the school contact and group leader (if different)
- Grade level and total number of students
- If applicable, subsidized/ fee waivers for students or Title I school

To book your program, please contact Jacob Mayfield at [Jacob.Mayfield@tn.gov](mailto:Jacob.Mayfield@tn.gov). For further assistance or with any questions, please contact our office at [423]-587-7046.

## ► PROGRAM FEES

Program fees are listed with each individual program. There is no cost for teachers. Fees should be paid in a lump sum in the Visitor's Center at time of park arrival. Acceptable payment methods are cash, card, and check.

## ► CANCELLATION

Notification of cancellation must be received 24 hours before reserved program. Programs are held rain or shine, though locations may be adjusted. Extreme weather conditions, however, may warrant the cancellation of the program. Cancellations due to weather are made at the discretion of the park staff. In the event that your program is cancelled, please contact the assigned ranger to reschedule.

## ► SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Please know that as your school year may be experiencing many special circumstances, Tennessee State Park Rangers can be flexible in supporting your school's academic needs. When reserving a program, feel free to inquire about customizable options.

# Panther Creek State Park Programs

## MEET A RANGER

- ▶ \$0/ student
- ▶ 150 students
- ▶ 30 minutes

Who are Rangers? What do they do?

Find out! It takes skill, knowledge, experience, and education to be a park ranger. Join us today to explore a day in the life of a Tennessee State Park Ranger!



### Related Academic Standards; Career Clusters

Environmental & Natural  
Resource Management

Environmental Science  
[ecology, biology, geology]

Education  
Law Enforcement

## WILDLIFE MYSTERY BOX

- ▶ \$0/ student
- ▶ 40 students
- ▶ 60 minutes

Feathers, skulls, and pelts, oh my!

What better way to celebrate Tennessee than through learning about it's native wildlife? Students will explore the characteristics of different animals that call Tennessee home!



### Science Standards

K.ESS3.1	2.LS2.1+2	3.LS4.2
2.LS1.1+2	3.LS1.1	5.LS1.1



# Panther Creek State Park Programs

## SNAKES

- ▶ \$0/ student
- ▶ 70 students
- ▶ 30 minutes

Meet the snakes of Panther Creek!

The snakes at our park display beautiful examples of species-specific adaptations. Students will learn about the unique characteristics and ideal habitats of native snakes. Students will learn how humans impact the life and habitat of snakes. Join us today, and turn fear into curiosity!



### Science Standards

2.LS1.2  
2.LS1.1

3.LS1.1  
5.LS1.1

## CREEK CRAWL

- ▶ \$0/ student
- ▶ 30 students
- ▶ 45 minutes
- ▶ park only

Cool off & explore the creek!

Using various nets, buckets, and tools, students will examine the biodiversity in the creek and learn how to identify the freshwater creatures. Students will also learn about indicators of stream health.



### Science Standards

2.LS1.2

4.LS2.2

ECO.LS2.2

# Panther Creek State Park Programs

## OBSERVATION & INTERACTIONS HIKE

- ▶ \$0/ student
- ▶ 50 students
- ▶ 90 minutes
- ▶ park only

Calling all detectives!

Students will investigate and use clues to solve the case of the “Disappearing log” as they learn about different organisms in the park’s ecosystem, their interactions, and best practices in conservation.



### Science Standards

K.LS1.2	1.LS2.1	4.LS2.3
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## WINGED WARRIORS: A STUDY OF OWLS

- ▶ \$0/ student
- ▶ 60 students
- ▶ 60 minutes

Whoooo is making all that noise?

Students will learn more about Tennessee’s owls and the exciting characteristics that set them apart from one another while discussing how humans impact birds of prey in wild habitats!



### Science Standards

2.LS1.2	5.LS1.1
3.LS4.2	7.LS1.6

## Custom Programs

Need a program not mentioned in our list? We will happily work with you to create an experience targeted to your specific curriculum needs. Customized programs are at no additional cost to you.

Custom school programs can focus on subjects such as Tennessee history, landforms, geologic change over time, life cycles, water cycles, sustainability, Tennessee geography, compasses and map reading, etc. The options are extensive! To request a custom program, simply complete and submit the custom program form to [Jacob.Mayfield@tn.gov](mailto:Jacob.Mayfield@tn.gov).

Please allow 1 month notice for custom programming.