



MOUNTAIN TRAIL OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Environmental education

Our environmental education curriculum adheres to the standard course of study requirements for 4th-7th grades in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee and can easily adapt to fit other grade and state requirements.

Our courses allow students to experience first-hand the interactions of their environment.

- **Web of Life** is a general ecology half-class that focuses on the interactions and dependencies between living and non-living elements in our Blue Ridge ecosystem.
- In **Forest Ecology**, students hike to a viewpoint, seeing the inner workings of trees, the diversity of plants in the southern Appalachian Mountains and the interconnectivity between plants, animals, decomposers and people.
- **Mountain Ecology** classes enjoy a viewpoint hike and learn about the changes in flora, fauna and topography due to sun exposure, erosion, succession, geological forces and human activity.
- For a greater focus on geological forces, we offer a **Geology** half-class to discover how the Blue Ridge Mountains formed and continue to change.
- In the **Bog Study** half-class, students visit Kanuga's mountain bog and experience the role of wetlands and the unique characteristics of wetland organisms.
- **Animal Ecology** classes see evidence of wildlife in their habitats as well as native species in our Nature Center to compare and contrast their niches and adaptations.
- In **Ponds and Streams Study**, students examine macro-invertebrates that they catch as they explore our aquatic bodies to learn about water systems and the organisms that dwell in water.
- Students can get their hands dirty helping in the organic garden and see the route food takes from garden to table in **Garden Connections**.
- Our **Sustainable Future** half-class utilizes our solar hot water system, organic garden and ongoing conservation initiatives for students to experience the science of sustainability.
- **Cherokee Culture** classes explore the history and civilization of the local tribe through games and discussions.