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METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT • 50 SW 32 ROAD • MIAMI, FLORIDA 33129-2898

All Interested Instructors:

Arch Creek Park is once again ready for the new school year and we are interested in having your students come and visit us on field trips. Here they can explore the amazing history and natural wonders of Arch Creek Park. Scheduled field trips include activities such as an archaeological dig, a slide show, and a hammock hike. It is a unique educational experience they will not soon forget.

Attached is a field trip rules flier, a general outline of our program, a specific outline of our program, and a sample of our new reservation/confirmation system for programs.

We would very much like to share our park with your students. Please contact Recreation Specialist 2, Mike Pafford, 944-6111, for scheduling dates and reservation or any questions you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Pafford  
Recreation Specialist 2

MP:bh

Attachments

**HISTORY AND NATURE  
OF  
ARCH CREEK PARK**  
(General Outline)

- I. Adventurers Welcome
- II. Amazing History and Nature of Arch Creek
- III. "The Bridge Toss"
- IV. Hammock Hike and Exploration
- V. Critters and Tracks
- VI. Indian Artifacts Dig
- VII. Indian Scouts Scavenger Hunt and Relay
- VIII. Adventurers' Awards Ceremony

**NOTE:** The number of activities completed depends on the size of the group and time remaining.

**HISTORY AND NATURE  
OF  
ARCH CREEK PARK**

(Detailed Outline)

TARGET GROUP: 2nd to 6th Grades

SIZE OF CLASS: 30 to 60 children

THEME: The history and nature of Arch Creek Park

PURPOSE: To create history and nature awareness among the "Adventurers", children in the target group.

TIME LENGTH: 2 hours 30 minutes

DETAILED OUTLINE:

- I. Adventurers Welcome (Introduction)
  - A. 5 minutes
  - B. Gather class into museum
  - C. Welcome the class to Arch Creek Park
  - D. Introduce naturalist and assistants
  - E. Briefly explain schedule and procedures
  
- II. Amazing History and Nature of Arch Creek
  - A. 15 minutes
  - B. Examine the natural environment of the park
  - C. Examine the historical aspects of the park
  - D. A detailed narrative will be developed for the slide show
  
- III. "The Bridge Toss" (Group Activity)
  - A. 15 minutes
  - B. A net with rope will be tossed off bridge to scoop up trash in Creek
  - C. Class will discuss why the creek is polluted and what can be done to help the problem
  - D. Discuss the natural and historical facts about the natural bridge and its rebuilding
  
- IV. Hammock Hike and Exploration (Trail Hike)
  - A. 25 minutes
  - B. Examine the natural habitat of a hammock
    1. Flora and Fauna
    2. Insects
    3. Birds and Animals
  - C. Examine the history of the Arch Creek hammock
    1. Tequesta Indians
    2. Shell Midden
    3. Early Settlers
    4. Coontie Mill, etc.

- V. Critters and Tracks
  - A. 20 minutes
  - B. Look for tracks in the "Mud Flats"
  - C. Examine a display of tracks
    - 1. Discuss how the casts are made
    - 2. Discuss the animals found at Arch Creek
    - 3. Do two or three track casts in the mud flats
  
- VI. Indian Artifacts Dig (Group Activity)
  - A. 25 minutes
  - B. Take group to "dig site"
  - C. Explain that all artifacts belong to the park for others to enjoy
  - D. Explain the tools and methods used to find artifacts
  
- VII. Indian Scouts Scavenger Hunt and Relay
  - A. 30 minutes
  - B. Break group into teams
  - C. Each team chooses a face paint and name
  - D. Games will be a scavenger hunt and a relay race.
    - 1. Other games will be implemented, time permitting.
  
- VIII. Adventurers' Awards Ceremony
  - A. 15 minutes
  - B. Entire group meets back at museum
  - C. Awards are handed to the winning teams and other students will receive certificates

## FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Below you will find a list of requests and guidelines for your group to follow on your upcoming field trip to our park. The items are divided into three different categories: for you, the teacher, for the students, and for the chaperones. We ask that you go over the necessary items with each group. The chaperones and the children should be aware of the role of the chaperones. These guidelines are designed to make your trip smooth and enjoyable for all involved.

### **FOR THE TEACHER:**

The following guidelines are to assist you in organizing the group before you arrive so that your time spent with us can be used most effectively.

1. We recommend that the children wear name tags, the first name is all that is necessary, so that the staff can speak to the children by name. We think it is nice to be able to address the children by name and create a relationship with them even though they will only be with us for a short time.
2. If you are bringing your lunches to eat at the park, please have them organized in a box or cooler so they can easily be stored during the morning programs.
3. Please have the group organized and under control upon arrival at the site, so that we can start the program when you arrive. If your group is going to be divided into smaller groups for the programs, please have the students assigned to the groups before you arrive so that they can quickly break into their groups and go with the assigned staff member.
4. Please collect all monies from the students at school, do not take time to do it at the park. Give the collected money to one of the staff, they will write a receipt for you. If the school is paying by check, please have checks made payable to Metro Dade County.
5. Please call the park one week before your scheduled field trip to confirm the time and amount of students that are coming.

## FOR THE STUDENTS:

You should go over these guidelines with your students and chaperones before the field trip so that each is aware of their responsibilities and the safety measures that they need to take.

1. Students must stay with the group at all times. There should be no straying off the trail or away from the group, this is for the protection of the students.
2. Students should not touch any plant or animal unless instructed by one of the staff during the program. There are plants that can cause skin irritations, and we will point them out to the group during your trip, but we want to protect the children from inadvertently touching something that can be harmful to them.
3. If students are bringing insect repellent, we ask that they bring the roll-on type. If cans are brought, we request that the teacher collect the cans after the children have used them. No students are to have aerosol cans of repellent with them during their time at the park.
4. Shoes are to be worn at all times. We recommend that all students wear an old pair of tennis shoes or other covered shoes as they may get dirty or wet.
5. Students should stay within the boundaries given them. Students should always be in sight of the park instructor. In the woods, stay behind the instructor and in the middle of open pathways. Stay out of roadways and parking lots.
6. Students should report any injuries or illness to the park staff, chaperones, and teachers.
7. No gum chewing please.
8. No running, unless it is during one of the games being supervised and directed by the park staff.
9. We ask that the students treat the park naturalist with the same respect that they give other teachers. When the instructor is talking, the students should listen. To ask a questions, students should raise their hands and allow the instructor to call on them.
10. We want the students to understand that we have designed our programs and activities so that they can learn and have fun at the same time. The rules that have been made are not intended to restrict their "fun" but to protect both the students and the park. We are protective of the park and its natural inhabitants, we want to maintain the integrity of the park so that many people are able to enjoy it, and we encourage the children to be aware of the importance of our unique natural areas.

### FOR THE CHAPERONES:

These guidelines should be discussed with the chaperones that are accompanying your group on its field trip to our park. It will give the chaperones a clear idea of their role during the time at the park and help to include them in the programs.

1. As children learn by example, we ask that the chaperones please follow all the guidelines set for the students.
2. Please stay at the rear of the group during any program, or any walk through the woods. Keep the field trip group compact by not allowing the students to lag behind.
3. Report any discipline problem to the teacher in charge.
4. Report any ill or injured students to the teacher in charge.
5. Encourage the students to pick up their litter during the lunch period and to keep the restrooms clean.
6. Accompany students to the restrooms during breaks or lunch.
7. See that the students stay out of the roadways and parking lots.
8. Our programs are designed to help the children learn about their surroundings by interacting with their environment. In our programs this learning experience is through touching, looking and observing the world around them and coming to their own conclusions. One of our techniques to get the students involved is to ask them questions, and give them the opportunity to discover the answer. Often many of the adults also know the answers, and we ask that they refrain from answering the questions and allow the students to answer. We appreciate anything the chaperones can do that makes the program a more enjoyable and safe learning experience for each child. Thank you for your involvement in the special field trip we have planned.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you and your group soon. If you have any questions about the guidelines or anything else, please feel free to call the park at:

Arch Creek Park  
1855 N.E. 135th Street  
Miami, Florida 33181



# SPECIAL BULLETIN

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT • 50 SW 32 ROAD • MIAMI, FLORIDA 33129-2898

## ARCH CREEK PARK

will implement a

### NEW RESERVATION/CONFIRMATION SYSTEM FOR PROGRAMS

If any previous arrangements have been made for scheduled programs, we urge you to

**CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY**

Interpretive programs continue to be requested by various schools.

We welcome your interest in supporting these programs.

Attached is the new form that will be utilized to schedule programs.

Please direct inquiries to the Park Manager, Michael Pafford, 944-6111.





**CONFIRMATION NOTICE FOR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES**

Arch Creek Park  
1855 N.E. 135th Street  
Miami, FL 33181

Phone: 944-6111

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DATE OF PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF ACTIVITY OR PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON IN CHARGE \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP SCHEDULED \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER IN GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY OR PROGRAM SCHEDULED \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY WILL BEGIN AT \_\_\_\_\_ AND CONCLUDE AT \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICABLE FEES \_\_\_\_\_

S  
A  
M  
P  
L  
E

Note: Make check payable to Metro-Dade County. Fees are due at conclusion of activity.

NATURALIST(S) ASSIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

MATERIALS NEEDED/REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ACTIVITY SCHEDULED \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONFIRMED BY MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Walks will not be conducted during inclement weather and will be left to the discretion of the naturalist/guide. Teachers and chaperones are responsible for maintaining discipline during activities and a ratio of 1/10 is required.

cc: Greynolds Park Office