

JACK'S POND NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP

Jack's Pond Nature Center promotes understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of nature by using the Jack's Pond Park and Trail as an interactive window to the San Marcos environment. The Nature Center offers a K-5 curriculum-based science and outdoor education program with hands-on nature study, interpretive hikes, and more! Jack's Pond Park is a 23-acre park with picnic areas and a playground.

Nature Center Field Trip Information:

- Field trips last a total of 2 hours (10 am-12 pm)
- Cost is \$5/student regardless of residency
- Min of 30 students; Max of 60 students
- Schools with fewer than 30 participants are still welcome but must pay the minimum fee of \$150 (equivalent to 30 students at \$5 each) to cover staff and operational costs
- 3 field trip leaders (rangers and/or staff will be on hand so ratio will depend on attendance but be no greater than 20:1)
- No restrictions on school districts, all are welcome
- Buses are instructed to drop off / pick up along La Moree Rd. at the entrance to the park. Instruct drivers not to pull into the park as it is difficult to turn around and get out
- Children will be split into 3 groups during the field trip:
 - Interpretive hike
 - Nature-based craft the students can take home
 - Private nature center exploration
- Groups to be no larger than 20 students. If the entire group is less than 20, all rotations will be done together.

Booking Information:

- Bookings are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 am – 12 pm
- Reservations required 14 days in advance
- Participant waiver must be signed by all participant parents/guardians
- No food is provided. Groups are responsible for their own snacks/lunch
- Food is not allowed inside the Nature Center; it must be consumed outside
- Chaperone charge is \$5/person
- Teachers attend for free (max 5). Additional teachers count as chaperones and must pay the \$5 fee
- Behavioral and instructional aides are always free and do not count toward the teacher limit.
- Non-students, siblings and other guests are not allowed
- Pay in full at time of registration, no deposits or partial payments
- Refund/cancellation information can be found at:
<http://www.san-marcos.net/departments/parks-recreation/recreation-policies>



Field Trip and Safety Considerations

To ensure that your field trip to Jack's Pond Park and Nature Center is a fun, safe and enjoyable outdoor learning experience, please discuss the following rules and suggestions with all teachers, students and parent chaperones.

- Please have children use the public restroom near the parking lot before the field trip begins (there are only 2 stalls).
- Children should wear sturdy, close-toed shoes and clothing that they don't mind getting dirty.
- Bring water bottles, apply sunscreen before the trip and have the students wear hats or caps. In case of severe weather, please contact (760)744-9000 x3532 if you prefer to reschedule.
- Discuss appropriate behavior with the students. They will be expected to respect the nature center property and to be good listeners during their visit. Respect for all living things will be emphasized. Let the students know that the park has areas where small animals *might* be seen.
- During the hike, students are required to follow the group leader and stay on the trail. This reduces the risk of falls and encounters with bees, ticks, snakes and poison oak.
- Teachers and chaperones must supervise the children during the hike, inside the nature center and during other activities. Discipline is not a docent responsibility.
- Inform the group leader if any of your students have special needs, are allergic to bees, or have any allergies or medical conditions that need to be considered. The trail and nature center is accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Your group is welcome to remain in the park for picnicking and exploration before or after the nature center program has ended.