

The Auburn Land Lab: A Teacher Resource

Endless Possibilities:

The Land Lab is open all day to provide teachers and community members with environmental education materials and expertise. If you are unsure where to begin, please come and visit our facility. Our professional development room is full of resources for you to look at and check out for use in your classroom. Our staff of two is here to provide you with as many possibilities as we can. If you can get your students out here, great, but if not, feel free to put our materials to use in your classroom. We also have many activities and supplements to Auburn's K-8 science kit program.

Steps for reserving the Land Lab for a visit:

1. Call the land lab at 783-4563 with possible dates, topics or activities you want to do with your class(es).
2. Once a date is confirmed, fill out a bus requisition to arrange transportation. The Land Lab covers transportation costs for Auburn school trips. Please try to give the garage 2 weeks notice.
3. Plan schedule and specific activities with Land Lab Staff.

Questions to discuss with staff before arriving:

1. What topics and activities would you like to do with your class? What specific Learning Results are you trying to target?
2. How many students and teachers are attending? If more than one class, expect to break up into 2 or more groups.
3. If planning to do low ropes, consider the following:
 - a. Number of students & trained facilitators
 - b. Focus area (respect, communication, trust, teamwork, cooperation, gender)
 - c. Prior experience of students
 - d. Frequency of visits (single or multiple)
4. What activities will be outdoors/indoors? If outdoors, should there be a rain/snow date?
5. Is there any equipment (i.e. microscopes) that needs to be set up in advance?

Permission Slips:

- Write on permission slips that students will be outside and students need to dress appropriately.
- Students will need to have lunch and a drink (from school or home).
- Be aware of allergies or ask parents (i.e. bee stings, pollen, or foods like peanuts that may be used in an activity). Please bring necessary medical materials.
- We often take pictures of students for advertising and outreach materials. If you do not already have media permission, please acquire appropriate parental permission before arriving.

Reminders for Visits:

- Remind students to dress appropriately for any activity, indoor or outdoor. They should be prepared for full days outdoors, rain or shine.
- Ask for chaperones, especially for outdoor activities.
- Divide students into groups before arriving. Please provide nametags when possible.
- The rules that apply at your school also apply here at the Land Lab. If consequences are appropriate, please be ready to apply them.
- We encourage recycling and Leave No Trace Ethics. Students should be aware of litter and trash and put it in the proper place.

Weather Cancellations:

If it looks as though the weather will cancel the planned program, please call the Land Lab before the date of your visit to see if there are alternative activities to those you have planned. Remember, the weather may change! We try to keep scheduled dates if possible, as rain dates are hard to come by. If you decide that the weather is too harsh for the planned activities and you need to cancel, please be sure that YOU call the bus garage before 7:15 am to cancel. It is important to cancel or the Land Lab or the school will be billed. After you have cancelled, contact the Land Lab and we will try to reschedule. This is not always possible.

DISPELLING MYTHS: The Land Lab is NOT just for Science....

Subjects and interdisciplinary curriculum possibilities:

Art (possibilities are endless)

Careers (environment, education, service)

English/Language Arts (communication, reading, writing)

Foreign Language (animals, geography, environment in other cultures)

Health (fitness, physical education, and environmental health)

Mathematics (science protocols, many examples in nature)

Music (inspired by nature, nature songs)

Physical Education (Low ropes course, wellness trail)

Science (Biology, chemistry, ecology, physics, geology, phenology)

Social Studies (Economics, geography, government, history)

Technology (GIS/GPS training, mapping)

Visual and Performing Arts (art, music, theater in our amphitheater)

Some sample curriculum topics or projects:	Land Lab Equipment
Animal Tracking	Sample tracks, field guides, rubbing plates
Animal Adaptations	Environmental Ed. curriculum books
Birds (characteristics, identification, migration, observation)	Field Guides, ID cards, some samples
Forest Ecology	13 acres, Forest Inventory Plots
Gardens (planning / planting)	Perennial garden, butterfly gazebo
GLOBE program	Many prepared materials, teacher guides
Insects/Bugs/Butterflies	Field guides, activities, gazebo
Orienteering/Compass skills	5 compass courses, 70 compasses
Service-Learning	Teacher guides, examples and experience
Soils	Soil pit, soil mural, augers and other materials
Team-building activities	15 element low ropes course, initiative books
Trees	13 acre forest, 1 mile trail
Vernal pools/wetlands	Vernal pool on site, model wetland
Water quality testing	Lake Auburn Basin, macroinvertebrate supplies and many chemical test kits
Writing	Many supplies, 15 acres of natural area to ponder

Through generous donations and multiple grants, the Land Lab is fully equipped for many lessons. We will be happy to use our resources to provide you and your students with the best possible day of activities. If you have any questions, please call or check our website for more information on our program and equipment.

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