



Bayou Studies Pre-Trip Activities

The excitement and adventure of an Armand Bayou Nature Center field trip begins with you! Please look over the checklist below and complete these steps prior to our visit. We look forward to our visit with you!

- ✓ At least a week before your scheduled visit, call the nature center (281-474-2551 x13) to confirm the number of attending students and chaperones.
- ✓ Be sure to review the online Field Trip Planner before your field trip for information such as safety, chaperones, and lunches. (<http://www.abnc.org/educational-programs/field-trip-planner.html>)
- ✓ *Remind students that they will be going into the bayou and to wear clothes they do not mind getting potentially muddy or wet.* Encourage students to bring a change of clothes and shoes, and if desired, a camera, binoculars, and nature field guides.
- ✓ Complete at least one of the following pre-trip activities:
 - Find maps of Armand Bayou or the Upper Galveston Watershed, where you will travel by boat. Identify the path of rainwater as it travels from your school towards the bay. Take a closer look at the map and try to identify potential sources of pollution entering the waterway through rainwater runoff.
 - Preview some of the concepts that will be covered during the class:
 - Water quality – salinity, turbidity, temperature
 - Functions and values of estuaries
 - Bird and fish identification
 - Subsidence
 - Invasive species
 - Local wetland habitat restoration efforts
 - Ask students generate to questions about bayous or estuaries. Have them write them on note cards. Collect the question cards, and take them with you to the nature center. Challenge students to find answers to their questions during the field trip and write down answers on the backs of the cards. If they cannot find answers at the nature center, you may want to do some class research. Have students share what they learned with others.
 - Visit www.estuaries.gov to find out more information about estuaries and/or to have your students take an online quiz to test their knowledge before visiting.
 - For more information about Galveston Bay ecosystems, go to Galveston Bay Information Center's "Resources for Teachers" at <http://www.tamug.edu/gbic/CurriculumLessonPlans.html> .



Enjoy your visit to Armand Bayou Nature Center!

