



Understanding Wetlands 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 your visit!

- ✓ 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. Review the type of wetlands class and specific activities your class will participate in with a nature center staff member so that everyone knows what to expect.
- ✓ 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, pond, and/or marsh and should 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.
- ✓ You may wish to print off copies of data sheets to take to the nature center. (Check with a nature center staff member to see which ones you might need.) Students can fill them out individually or in groups. Completed data sheets will be very useful for post-trip activities. Data sheets can be found on the ABNC Understanding Wetlands page.
- ✓ If you plan to take water samples (for a post-trip activity), prepare at least two small bottles with lids to take with you to the nature center.
- ✓ Complete at least one of the following pre-trip activities:
 - Complete the *Understanding Wetlands and Water Quality Pre-Trip Quiz*. (Download it from the ABNC website.) Collect the quizzes. Set them aside for students to correct after the field trip. (Quiz answers are: 1.D, 2.C, 3.B, 4.B, 5.A, 6.D, 7.A, 8.C, 9.B, 10.D)
 - Preview some of the concepts that will be covered during the class:
 - Water quality – salinity, turbidity, temperature, DO, etc.
 - Functions and values of wetlands and watersheds
 - Diversity
 - Abiotic and biotic components of ecosystems
 - Invasive species
 - Local wetland habitat restoration efforts



- Ask students to generate questions about wetlands, watersheds, and/or water quality and write them on note cards. Collect the question cards, and take them to the nature center. Challenge students to find answers to their questions during the field trip and write 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 learn with others.

For more information about wetlands, visit:

- America's Wetlands <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/wetlands/vital/toc.html>
- EPA Wetlands: <http://www.epa.gov/Wetlands/>
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Wetlands:
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/habitats/wetland/index.phtml> .

We hope you enjoy your trip to Armand Bayou Nature Center!

