

# Schools in Parks *Teacher Collaborative*



The Schools in Parks Teacher Collaborative is a free, year-long professional development program, engaging 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers alongside park rangers in hands-on, inquiry-based activities integrated across content areas. The program emphasizes outdoor activities, current environmental science, and first-hand experiences with the natural resources of state parks. Our goal is to bring together park rangers and classroom teachers to collaboratively develop memorable outdoor learning experiences for students.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS: 2022-23



**Schools in Parks workshops.** Participate in an overnight summer institute at Haw River State Park (Aug 9-10, 2022) and day-long field experiences at regional state parks (four will be offered over the course of the school year; must attend at least one).



**Community of Practice.** Network with peers from across the state during the academic year to share resources and support in using outdoor learning approaches. Virtual workshops to support integration of outdoor learning approaches and use of state park resources in instruction.



**Lesson Development.** Draw on your virtual workshop experiences as you work in small groups alongside ranger staff to develop and pilot a lesson for use with students on field trips.



**State Park Field Trip.** Engage your class with a state park field experience during the 2022-23 school year, with transportation costs for in-person field trips reimbursed by Friends of North Carolina State Parks.

### Collaborative participants will receive numerous benefits including:

- ✓ **Authentic experiential learning opportunities** designed to enrich knowledge of North Carolina's ecosystems, geography, and environmental history and enhance **skills in using the outdoors for instruction**.
- ✓ **Resources** to support classroom integration of content including **tailored curriculum materials**.
- ✓ Access to a **peer learning network**.
- ✓ A **\$300 stipend** for fully participating in the workshops, including \$200 for the summer institute and \$100 for participating in at least one regional workshop
- ✓ An **additional \$100 stipend** after successfully bringing your students on a field trip to a NC State Park.
- ✓ **Continuing Education Units** (CEU), and credit for the N.C. Environmental Education Certification Program.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM:** [https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cLRci3UAJsu8JFA](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cLRci3UAJsu8JFA)



### PROGRAM CONTACT

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UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment  
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