



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Blue Spring State Park
2100 West French Avenue
Orange City, FL 32763
(386) 775-3663

Rick Scott
Governor

Jennifer Carroll
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr.
Secretary

Guide to field trips at Blue Spring State Park.

Thank you for bringing your class or group to Blue Spring State Park for a field trip. The following information will help your visit run smoothly. Please don't hesitate to contact the park with additional questions or comments.

SCHEDULING YOUR VISIT:

- Call (386) 775-1599, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and ask to schedule a school program.
- Have multiple dates in mind as we are limited by the number of buses and students we can have per day.
- January and February are the busiest times, especially Friday. Call several months in advance to secure your desired date for these months.
- Program size is limited to 50 students. Each group of 50 students will require a 30-minute time slot. Groups should be divided prior to arrival.
- If you need to cancel your program or are running late please call to let us know.

ADMISSION

Field trips to the park for educational purposes are free of charge. If you plan to swim or are coming in for a purely recreational purpose you must pay the regular admission fees. To gain free entry you must present the toll collector with a letter on official school/business letterhead with the reason for your visit and the date. Each vehicle entering for your field trip must have a copy of this letter; otherwise they will be charged admission.

CHAPERONES

Parking is extremely limited in the park during manatee season. It is very important that you assist us in minimizing the amount of vehicles that enter with your group. Please ask chaperones to ride the bus with you or carpool. A good meeting place near the park is Valentine Park at 1511 West French Avenue in Orange City.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- Be prepared to tell the toll collector the number of people on your bus.
- Have the letter on school letterhead ready to hand the toll collector.

PARKING & UNLOADING

- Continue about one mile down the road to the lower parking lot. See map for details.
- Continue around the lower parking lot and park in one of the long spaces on the left near the end of the lot.
- Unload students after the bus is completely parked in one of the long spaces to avoid blocking traffic flow.

ATTENDING YOUR PROGRAM

- Please have your entire group divided into smaller groups of 50 students, assigned with specific program times.
- Plan on at least 10 minutes to walk from the parking area to the program pavilion; longer if you plan to observe manatees on the way.
- Please arrive at the program pavilion at least five minutes prior to your start time and wait in the grassy area near the program pavilion until an instructor calls you in.
- It is important you arrive on time as we often have back to back programs scheduled. You may lose the opportunity to attend your program if you arrive late.
- It is the responsibility of the teachers and chaperones to discipline your students. There are challenges to holding a program outdoors, and we need your help to keep your students quiet and focused.
- Please save your food and drink for before or after the program.
- Please keep all cell phones or other electronic devices off or silenced during the program.

ADDITIONAL PARK LOGISTICS

- There are picnic tables scattered throughout the park for your use.
- There are two pavilions available with seating for approximately 50. The cost to reserve these pavilions is \$100. When not reserved they are available on a first come, first-serve basis.
- We do not have an area to store lunches.
- Please keep in mind you are sharing the park with other visitors and be aware of the noise level and behavior of your group.