

Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces and Wake County Public Libraries

Youth Programming Overview

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Parks Recreation & Open Space

Youth Programming

Parks Recreation & Open Space Program Philosophy

Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space preserves open space, promotes stewardship, and provides equitable and inclusive education and outdoor recreation for a diverse and growing community.

Our philosophy is to offer engaging, entertaining and educational site-based programs to audiences of all ages. We offer programs at all eleven of our sites to varying degrees and most are provided free of charge.



Parks Recreation & Open Space Program Types

Our program offerings fall into one of three categories:

Public Programs

Themed programs open to the public, typically offered by age group.



Group Programs

Requested by a group (school, scouts, etc.) to meet a specific need.



Partnerships

Outside program partners (YMCA, School House of Wonder, etc.).



Group Programs

Group Programs including Partnerships



- **Plantation to Park** – Join us for an engaging tour around the property as we discuss the history of Oak View from plantation to park.
- **Animal Trackers** – Explore Lake Crabtree for animal signs and discover who lives in and around the lake.
- **Partnerships**
 - YMCA of the Triangle – camps at Blue Jay Point, Lake Crabtree and Harris Lake County Parks
 - School House of Wonder – camps at Harris Lake and Crowder County Parks

Program Type	# of Programs	Total Attendance	Average Attendance
Group Programs	1,294	30,761	24

General Public Programs

General Public Programs



- **Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!** - examine some of the neat bugs that live around Blue Jay!
- **Park Discovery Camp: Exploring Local Wildlife and History** - hands-on exploration of some of the plants and animals that live at Historic Yates Mill County Park.

Program Type	# of Programs	Total Attendance	Average Attendance
Public Programs	766	9,103	12

Other Resources

Natural Resource Inventory Database

Whether you're a teacher, student, citizen scientist or just curious about nature, you can explore data and photos, print checklists, or discover fun nature facts about the wildlife and plants seen at our Wake County Parks and Preserves.

Discovery Box/Adventure Backpack

Created by park staff to assist groups with educational activities - these self-contained kits contain background information, education activities and all equipment needed to complete these activities.

The Lodge

The Lodge at Blue Jay Point is a great way to turn education into an extended experience and cover many topics related to Wake County and Piedmont of North Carolina.

Summer Food

In partnership with the Wake County School System, free lunches are provided to children under 18, Monday through Friday during the summer at the Historic Oak View.



Wake County Public Libraries

Youth Programming

Library Programs

Wake County Public Libraries designs programs for our community that promote opportunities to explore, inspire and connect. Programs encompass one of the following three program pillars. These pillars guide our work across our community.



Community
Encourage meaningful opportunities for engagement, connection and support.



Literacy
Provide valuable learning pathways across multiple areas of interest.



Creativity
Celebrate imagination while inspiring curiosity, collaboration and fun.

School Age Program Types

Read, create, discover, and explore through play-based learning centers.

**K-2ND
ADVENTURES**



Discover North Carolina! Explore your state on the GIANT map and learn amazing things about the place we all home.

Art! True Blue: True Blue! Learn about the history of blue in art and see a cyanotype change color through light and chemistry. Plus: Blue + white drawing, ice melt experiment, and building the best sail for a wind-powered toy car!

**3RD-5TH
ADVENTURES**



Make Your Very Own Robot! Choose Your Own Adventure this week by enjoying "Your Very Own Robot" by R. L. Montgomery. Then create a dancing robot of your very own.

Pizza and Taco! 3rd-5th graders will be ready for summer reading with lots of funny books to explore—including Pizza and Taco games and crafts!

**K-5TH
ADVENTURES**



Brain Benders & Puzzles: Give your brain a workout! Come play some logic games and puzzles in today's adventure!

Magnetic Slime: Defy gravity with the pull of magnets in slime that will stretch, wrap and move on its own!

School Age Program (by the numbers)

Program Type	# of Programs	Total Attendance	Average Attendance
K-5th Adventures	970	23,051	24
K-2nd Adventures	348	8,634	25
3rd-5th Adventures	129	2,546	20
School Age - Other	159	5,555	35
Total	1,606	39,787	25

Teen Program Types



NC Rare Species: Come learn about some of the endangered animals in your own back yard and make them into Pokemon! Inspired snacks, craft supplies, and other activities provided. Program is for teens in 6th-12th grade.

Tie Dye Bags & Patches: Tie dye a bag and learn how to iron on and sew patches.

Job Interview Practice: A successful interview is key to getting a job you love. Sign up for a 30-minute interview skills practice session with feedback from our librarian interviewers to help you improve your skills. Get that job!

Teen Leadership Corps (TLC) offers youth in Grades 6–10 the opportunity to cultivate leadership skills, explore and develop a variety of interests and talents, contribute to the local community, and get to know other teens with similar interests.

Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting with program set-up and tear-down
- Craft prep
- Working with younger children during programs (Learning with Legos programs)
- Working with other teens to plan library programs
- TLC Mentorship Coaching
- Tabletop Gaming Clubs
- Pop Up Programs

Teen Programs (by the numbers)

Program Type	# of Programs	Total Attendance	Average Attendance
Teen Events	330	3316	10
TLC Hosted Events	194	3,476	18
Teen Leadership Corps Participation		6,951	

Other Programs & Services

Other Programs and Services	Count
College Application Help Appointments	50
Custom Book Lists for School Age Kids and Teens	191
Express Book Bags for School Age Kids and Teens	295
School Age Book Club Kits Checked Out (15 books per kit)	106
Summer @ the Library Raffle Entries - School Age	15,663
Summer @ the Library Raffle Entries - Teen	5,507



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