

The Conservation Station

...invites you to open the door to an outdoor environmental experience!



The Conservation Station, operational since the mid-1990s, is comprised of six open-air outdoor classrooms for the study of soil, air quality, water, forests, wildlife, and geology. Programs are designed to incorporate the South Carolina academic standards and can be customized to meet your students' needs. Schedule a field trip for your class, group, or club and select lessons from the six topics below. A guided nature walk can also be provided. Each lesson requires approximately 1 hour to complete (lesson length may be adjustable, depending on your needs), so please specify which lesson(s) you are interested in. You may request any combination of lessons, or only one lesson, depending on your students' interests and the amount of time you plan to spend in the Conservation Station; staffing constraints generally prevent us from offering all six lessons on one day.

Air Quality: How clean is the air we breathe? Discuss the causes and effects of air pollution, then, using lichens as an indicator, estimate the quality of the air at the Conservation Station.

Soils: What's the "dirt" on dirt? Build a soil profile, explore erosion and soil conservation, and classify soils based on their characteristics.

Geology: What are the different rock types and how are they formed? Learn about the rock cycle and identify samples of South Carolina stones.

Forestry: How does a tree grow? Investigate the life cycles of trees and learn to interpret growth rings. Tree identification lessons may be available upon request.

Wildlife: Lions, tigers, and bears, oh my! Discuss habitats, adaptations, and life histories of various South Carolina wildlife species. Learn about animal tracks and make plaster casts. A focused lesson on particular groups of animals may be available upon request.

Water: Why should we be wise about water? Learn about water quality, explore aquatic habitats, and examine some of the creatures that call our states' waterways "home."

Nature Walk: Take a guided walk through the Conservation Station and explore the natural history of our region!

For more information or to schedule a program, send an e-mail to conservationstation@gmail.com or call Chanda Cooper at (803) 459-3212.

Responsible adults (teachers, chaperones, parents, scout leaders, etc.) must **remain in attendance** with students at all times. We recommend one chaperone per ten students.

About the Conservation Station

- **Hours:** Open daily, 8:30 AM-dusk
- **Pricing:** Programs require a \$2 per student per visit fee to cover the cost of supplies. However, the Conservation Station is open to the public and may be visited at no cost at any time.
- **Facilities:** Two port-a-johns are present in the adjacent Carolina Children's Garden; there is no potable water (be sure to bring your own!). Hand sanitizer is recommended. Picnic tables, benches, and trash cans are also available in the Carolina Children's Garden, providing an excellent area for group lunches. Please do not bring sick children to programs.
- **Directions:** The Conservation Station is located at the Clemson University Sandhill Research and Education Center at the intersection of Clemson Road and Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC. Enter the Clemson University Sandhill Research and Education Center from Clemson Road directly across from the main entrance to the Sandhill Village. Follow the signs to the Conservation Station.
- **Accessibility:** There are no paved surfaces in the Conservation Station and the ground is sloped and uneven. One port-a-john is wheelchair accessible. If this presents a problem for members of your group, please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate special needs.
- **Supervision:** Conservation Station educators do not take responsibility for children attending programs. A responsible adult **must** be in attendance at all times.
- **Weather:** As the Conservation Station is outdoors, events will be cancelled or re-scheduled in the case of inclement weather.

The Conservation Station is sponsored by the Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Contact:

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(803) 459-3212