

PLANNING YOUR 2018-2019 STEP FIELD STUDY

1. REQUEST A FIELD STUDY

Offerings, program descriptions, and reservation request forms can be found at <http://rpsec.edu/step/>. The deadline to submit a request is Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Requests received after the deadline will be placed on a waiting list.

2. CONFIRM YOUR FIELD STUDY

All scheduling for the upcoming school year is done in the summer. Once your trip has been scheduled, you will receive a confirmation contract letter. Confirmation contract letters **MUST** be signed and returned to RPSEC by the date specified to avoid cancellation.

3. RESCHEDULING A VISIT

It is highly unlikely that we will be able reschedule a visit unless another school cancels.

4. CANCELLATIONS

We must receive written notification of cancellation at least **FOUR** weeks in advance of reserved date or a \$25.00 cancellation fee **PER PROGRAM** will be assessed.

5. PROGRAM REQUEST GUIDELINES

- Silver Bluff Audubon Center can accommodate up to 90 students K5 – Grade 12 per day.
- Savannah River Site can accommodate up to 60 students Grades 4 – 12 per day. Some paperwork will be required for adult chaperones to SRS. A list of student names will also be required. Kim Mitchell, Education Outreach Coordinator, will send all pertinent information required approximately a month prior to the field study at SRS.
- We recommend that one teacher make a reservation for an entire grade level.
- A normal field study day at Silver Bluff Audubon will begin at 9:15 and end at 1:00. Adjustments can be made upon arrival as necessary.
- A normal field study day at Savannah River Site will begin at the badging office at 8:30 if possible, and the field study day will then

begin at 9:15 and end at 1:15. Adjustments can be made upon arrival as necessary.

6. LUNCH

There are picnic tables at both locations for the students and adults. Neither site has food, drinks, or microwaves available.

7. CHAPERONES

- Adult chaperones are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Adult chaperones are asked to help monitor the students at all times.
- To limit distractions, children that are not in the class attending the field study should not accompany chaperones.
- All chaperones should turn off cell phones during programming.

8. STUDENT PROGRAM FEES

- Silver Bluff Audubon Center - \$4.00 per student per day.
- No cost at Silver bluff Audubon Center for teachers or chaperones.
- Savannah River Site – no cost for students, teachers, or chaperones.

9. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

All STEP Field Studies are aligned with South Carolina academic standards. Most programs consist of a lab study, field study, and eco-hike during which students are actively engaged in hands-on, inquiry-based learning. South Carolina standards correlations and some pre- and post- activities can be found on our website: <http://rpsec.edu/step/>.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

Ruth Patrick Science Education Center

University of South Carolina Aiken, 471 University Parkway

Telephone: 803-641-3313

Fax: 803-641-3615

E-mail: RPSEC@usca.edu