



DeKalb County
School District
Fernbank Science Center

Title: Briarlake Forest Study - Field Trip (2418) **Type:** Single Visit, Outdoor
Level: 4th Grade **Length:** 1.5 hours
Location: Briarlake Forest Park **Limit:** One class

Fernbank Science Center field trips are not subject to the DCSD travel restrictions – you can attend Fernbank Science Center field trips in April & May.

Program Description

Students and teachers will meet the instructor at Briarlake Forest Park.

In this hands-on lesson students will work in small groups to identify and measure trees in an effort to understand the composition of a forest community. A minimum of three adult chaperones are needed to provide supervision as student groups will be working in different areas of the forest. Students will mark the boundaries of their study site, tag the trees in their study area, measure the circumference of each tree, use a photo guide to identify each tree and, record their observations. Back in the classroom students will apply their math skills to determine what trees are most common and what trees are the largest. Students should wear comfortable clothes that are appropriate for the weather conditions and close-toed walking shoes. Teachers should schedule a restroom break prior to leaving the school.

*Because **there are no restroom facilities at the park** this field trip is recommended for schools that are in close proximity to the park. Briarlake Forest Park is located at 3330 Briarlake Rd, Atlanta, 30345. Nearby Elementary Schools include: Briarlake, Dresden, GLOBE Academy, Hawthorne, Henderson Mill, Laurel Ridge, Oak Grove and Sagamore Hills.*

Georgia Standards of Excellence – Life Science & Math

S4L1: Obtain, evaluate and communicate information about the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.

MGSE4.NBT.4: Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm

MGSE4.MD.2: Use the four operations to solve word problems involving distances, intervals of time, liquid volumes, masses of objects, and money, including problems involving simple fractions or decimals, and problems that require expressing measurements given in a larger unit in terms of a smaller unit.

Vocabulary: community ecosystem circumference diameter

Post-visit Activity: Compile the data collected and graph students' results to determine which trees are most common and which are the largest in Briarlake Forest.

Resource: Harcourt School Publishers, Georgia Science pgs. 296-322; 356-63

(CAR 10/2019)