

The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program



A TRIP PLANNING GUIDE FOR TEACHERS



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Trip Planning Guide can be found online

The Trip Planning Guide is now available online in a variety of formats at www.wahsega4h.org/eeguide.htm. Please read the trip planner.

Arrival is 1:30 p.m.

Early arrival is an inconvenience for other school groups who may still be on center. Departure on the last day is before 12:30 p.m.

A bag lunch on center is not an option.

Please do not arrive early to eat a bag lunch. Other groups may still be on center. See the information in the Trip Planning Guide for information about reserving a park in Dahlonga.

Space heaters are not allowed.

Gas or electric space heaters pose a fire hazard in Wahsega's cabins.

Assign students to learning groups before arrival.

This will save time when students break into groups following the orientation.

Report attendance numbers when paying.

List these numbers on the ES-237 Attendance Registration Form found in the online Trip Planning Guide or at the end of this document.

Prepare for classes taught by visiting teachers before arrival.

Work with the Program Coordinator well in advance to prepare for classes taught by a teacher or other resource person attending with your school. Usually there is not enough time to prepare after arrival.

QUICK CONTACT GUIDE

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RESERVATION PROCEDURES

1. Create a trip preparation check off sheet

This is a list of a few of the items that you will need to add to your own list. If you have questions, you can find many of the answers on our website. However, feel free to call or email us if you need to.

- Book your preferred dates (see step 2 below)
- Make transportation arrangements.
- Publicize and host a Parent Meeting about the trip
- Get a check cut for the 10% deposit
- Send in the signed contract and deposit
- Recruit chaperones
- Designate an emergency Home Contact Person (see page 9)
- Collect permission slips, paperwork and money
- Make final class selections (see page 13)
- Set up class schedule with the Program Coordinator at Wahsega
- Make requests for special services when you set up the schedule
- Plan and host a chaperone orientation meeting
- Assign students to their Learning Groups (see page 7)
- Plan to have a check cut for the remainder of your fees
- Make nametags
- Plan classes taught by teachers from your school (see page 13)
- Create student journals (use our samples on the website if you like)
- Fill out the ES-237 form to present with payment (see page 21)

2. Pick a season to attend.

- EARLY FALL (late August to mid-October): Planning the trip helps teachers and parents establish a great rapport early in the year. The weather is still warm, so getting in the creek during stream ecology is refreshing.
- LATE FALL (mid-October through mid-November): Leaves are changing and it can be cold, but it gets dark earlier so there is better stargazing and campfires. Be sure to book early for late fall sessions as this is a popular time of the year.
- EARLY SPRING (early March through mid-April): The weather is unpredictable so be prepared for either near freezing temperatures or very warm days. Since it still gets dark early, evening classes such as astronomy don't have to start too late. By this time of the year, teachers know their students well and can predict their behaviors better than at the beginning of the year.
- LATE SPRING (mid-April through late May): The weather is warmer than in the early spring or late fall. It gets dark later in the evening so some evening classes are better choices than others.

3. Choose a program package option.

During the Environmental Education seasons, Wahsega hosts 3-day programs, 2-day programs, 1-day programs and groups with customized schedules. The 3-day/2-night program is our most popular offering. However, this longer program does not fit the needs of all schools, so we also offer 1- and 2-day program package options. Customized variations of the program packages are available.

4. Pick a session to attend.

Typically, there are two sessions each week. The first is from Monday afternoon at

1:30 until Wednesday afternoon at 12:30. The second session is from Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 until Friday afternoon at 12:30. Do not plan to arrive early if your group's orientation is at 2:00 p.m. Early arrival for a bag lunch is usually not an option. Local parks may be used for a picnic lunch.

5. Contact Wahsega's Program Coordinator.

Cathy Bodinof is our Program Coordinator. Her contact information is on page 2.

6. Make reservations well in advance.

We make reservations as much as 18 months in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. You may book for the next year before attending programs this year. The Important Dates webpage on our website lists the dates that books open for each season.

7. Estimate attendance costs.

The fee per person varies according to the length of the field study. See the Rate Schedules section of our website for current rate information. Attendance fees are charged to every youth or child and every adult in attendance including teachers, parents and chaperones.

8. Read, sign and return the contract and deposit.

We will send out a contract by U.S. mail after you call to make reservations. To secure the dates you want, within 90 days of making the reservations return to our office a signed copy of the contract and a non-refundable deposit. A note on the contract specifies the deadline date.

Note: Reservations are not secured until the signed contract and deposit are received in our office.

CANCELLATION POLICY

No fee will be assessed for the first 10% drop from your original numbers or for cancellations when you notify us 120 days (4 months) or more before the field study. Notification of cancellations of 10% or more of your original numbers, including a complete cancellation of the trip, between 120 and 60 days before the scheduled trip will result in a \$10 charge per person; less than 60 days is a \$25 per person charge.

9 Contact us if attendance numbers change.

BRINGING MORE STUDENTS OR ADULTS

Additions to your reservation numbers *may* be possible. Call us to see if we can accommodate any students who are on your waiting list.

Note: Due to fire safety regulations, we cannot overfill cabins. Do not plan for more than 14 people per cabin.

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE

We may reduce the number of cabins assigned if attendance is lower than originally estimated.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Objectives

- To develop an awareness, knowledge and appreciation for the environment
- To cultivate curiosity, critical reasoning and evaluation
- To develop positive relationships among students and teachers
- To make the school program more meaningful by applying knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations
- To provide experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring and classifying
- To develop self-confidence and physical fitness
- To develop appreciation for the local and natural history of an area

Wahsega 4-H Center Facilities

- 16 cabins with 14 beds each
- 2 bathhouses
- Dining Hall with seating for 200 guests
- Recreation hall with sound equipment
- Entomology classroom with a stereoscope connected to a TV
- Herpetology Lab – featuring live reptiles and amphibians
- The Discovery Room – 11 self-guided, hands-on stations
- Low-ropes course – A challenge course that enhances communication, problem solving, and team-building skills.
- High-ropes course – An adventure challenge course that builds self-confidence and courage.
- 3 fire-rings with seating for 30 each
- Amphitheater with 2 fire pits and seating for 200
- 4 Hiking Trails
- 4 pavilions with seating for 25 each
- Basketball and volleyball courts

Class selection

Well before your field study, our Program Specialist will contact you to set up a schedule. You must choose the classes for your students. Follow the format on the Class Selection Worksheet on page 19.

When more than one school is on center, we often have the same class being taught at several locations. Because the number of locations to teach certain classes is limited, the first group to contact us with their class selections will receive priority over other groups asking for the same classes. Due to scheduling conflicts with other schools, we reserve the right to refuse last minute schedule changes.

Learning Groups

Teachers assign students to learning groups. Wahsega's Program Coordinator will assign the names of learning groups (squirrel, bear, etc.) to your school. The number of students per group, and the number of groups will depend on the total number of students on center from all schools.

Our contract stipulates that as many as 25 students may be assigned to a group. However, in order to provide the best possible experience, we attempt to keep the student/instructor ratio below 25 to 1.

Reporting Attendance Numbers

Please provide us with attendance numbers using the ES-237 Form found at the end of this document. Present the form along with a check when you pay the balance.

Chaperones for classes and cabins

Each learning group needs at least one chaperone. Our staff will not teach a group that does not have a chaperone present. Cabins will need to be chaperoned by members of your group as well. Wahsega does not provide cabin counselors.

Phone Service

Phones for adults to use are in Pavilion 4 and the First Aid Station. A phone is not available for students. Cell phones don't work at Wahsega. Plan to use a calling card to call long-distance. We sell calling cards at our cost for \$9.00. Please don't request to use an office phone except in an emergency.

Student nametags

Most school groups choose to give their students nametags to wear. Wahsega does not provide the nametags and does not require them.

Classes taught by teachers from the school

While we make the facilities available, our staff does not teach every class. Adults from the school teach one day class and two night classes during a typical three day/two night session. See the class selections beginning on page 13 and the Class Selection Worksheet on page 19 for more information.

You may either choose to create lesson plans and lead a class of your own design during these times or use the Wahsega curriculum. Feel free to request the curricula for the classes you want to teach. The Program Specialist can assist you in making the class selections best suited for your grade level.

Journals

Writing about their experiences in the various classes allows students to express their own creativity and to reinforce the learning experience. Breaks and journal times are scheduled into the program to maximize this opportunity.

DOWNLOAD OUR JOURNAL PAGES

The format of journals is left up to you. For your convenience, sample journal pages corresponding to our classes are in Adobe Acrobat format on the Wahsega website at www.wahsega4h.org/eejournals.htm. You are welcome to make copies of them.

Enforcing our rules, school rules, curfews & lights out

Please enforce the rules for students listed on page 11. Lights out is 11:00 p.m. You may want to impose a few others or remind students of your school's rules.

Carpooling and parking vehicles

Parking is limited; please carpool if your group is not using buses.

Damage Fees

A schedule of damage fees is posted in each cabin. The fees for damages, if any, will be assessed on the last day of your visit.

Kitchen Patrol (KP)

Some youth help set tables before a meal and cleanup after the meal. This is called KP. Assign youth to KP duty before arrival. Typically, youth are assigned KP on a rotation basis so that most students only serve KP for one meal, if any.

Adults are integral to KP. At least two chaperones should accompany the youth to the dining hall when KP starts. We need adults to serve as role models who help the youth as well as keep them focused on the job. Our staff will provide direction and instructions, but they are not responsible for discipline.

The lead teacher of the school assigns KP duties. Please communicate with the Program Coordinator to make sure that KP is assigned correctly. There are usually 6 meals that have to be covered as well as a boys' and a girls' bathhouse cleanup. This is a total of 8 service opportunities during a typical 3-day/2-night field study.

When the KP bell rings, it is important that students and chaperones report to the dining hall. Different grades require different numbers of KP'ers:

- Grades 3 & 4 – One KP person is needed for every 8 people
- Grades 5 & up – One KP person is needed for every 10 people

Cabin cleaning

Upon arrival, the Program Coordinator and lead teacher check cabins. Sign off on the Cabin Condition Report before students move in.

On the last day of the session, packed luggage should be taken out to the front porch of the cabin. Students will then clean their cabins before breakfast with chaperones supervising. Please read the Cabin Information poster on the cabin door for details.

A Wahsega staff member will check the cabin. Students and chaperones remain at the cabin until released by our staff. Finally, all luggage should be taken to the area designated for your school by the Program Coordinator to be loaded on buses.

Trash and recycling

Stress to your students the need to keep our grounds clean. Encourage students to recycle or throw trash away properly.

Students not participating in bathhouse cleanup on the last day will help cleanup the grounds. All trash should be picked up from the grounds and creeks.

Use of the parks in Dahlongega

ABOUT THE PARKS

Because schools may not arrive early, some teachers like to go to a park in Dahlongega for a bag lunch before arrival. . The Dahlongega City Park has a small restroom and four or five covered picnic tables and playground equipment. Hancock Park near the downtown square has a large pavilion and grass lawn but it has no restrooms or playground equipment.

RESERVING A PARK

- You must call ahead to reserve a park for your group.
- Use of a park is free.
- Call the Dahlonega City Hall at 706-864-6133 to make reservations

DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKS

Going north on Georgia 400, turn left where 400 ends, this is GA 60 North. It goes directly to Dahlonega. Near Dahlonega, there is a Shell station on the right at the top of a hill. Chestatee Regional Hospital and McDonalds are on the left down the hill from the Shell station.

- To Dahlonega City Park: At the stoplight at the bottom of the hill, turn right onto U.S. 19 & GA 60. Go less than a mile. Turn right onto Riley Rd. The ball field is on the left. Follow Riley road around and behind the field. City Hall is directly ahead and the Park and Recreation building will be on the left. Proceed to City Hall. The public park area is on the right as you face City Hall.
- To Hancock Park: At the stoplight at the bottom of the hill, go straight. At the square, curve around the Gold Museum (old court house) and continue straight to the first traffic light. Turn left and go one block. Turn at the first left and go 3 blocks. Hancock Park is on the left.

Accessibility

Wahsega is somewhat accessible. If anyone in the group has special needs, we recommend that the group leader visit Wahsega ahead of time to determine if we can meet their needs.

Custom field study schedules

We can provide more or less meals or classes in your schedule to more closely fit your student's needs. There is no premium fee for this service. Call us for a quote.

Exclusive use option

Exclusive use of the center during a 4-H Environmental Education field study is available. A premium conference fee is assessed for groups that request this service. Call for an exact quote.

Custom food services

Our kitchen manager is an experienced food service provider and can accommodate any special dietary needs your group has. We cook special meals for vegetarians, persons with food allergies or those who observe religious dietary restrictions at no extra charge.

Note: We need seven days notice to provide service for special diets.

Prayer, worship or communion services

We will work with you to schedule times and provide facilities to accommodate religious services. To avoid scheduling conflicts with other groups, mention these needs to the Program Coordinator when you make class selections.

GUIDE TO STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Learning groups

We will let you know how many learning groups we have calculated that your school needs based on the estimated attendance numbers. We will assign learning group names such as squirrel, bear, and snakes. Please use the names assigned to you.

Divide students among the learning groups as evenly as possible. Learning groups of significantly different sizes are not allowed as they tend to cause friction among the groups and detract from the experience of everyone.

Note: Please assign students to learning groups before arrival.

USE THE LEARNING GROUPS WE ASSIGN

Learning groups need to be given the names we assign. Colors, numbers, teachers' names or some other system causes confusion.

Cabin assignments

Divide the students among the cabins provided for your group. Children and adults should be segregated by gender regardless of the age of the children. Be sure to put at least one chaperone in each cabin. We will assign actual cabin numbers to your group and communicate these to you before your visit.

Note: Cabins 1-14 have fourteen beds and cabins 15 and 16 have fifteen beds. Reserve at least one bed in each cabin for a chaperone.

Bathroom cleaning duty

The visiting schools should keep the bathhouses tidy and clean. Encourage students to be considerate of other schools. We do not provide housekeeping services to clean the bathhouses during your visit.

On the day of departure, youth and chaperones assigned by the lead teacher will clean the bathhouses at 10:30. Before they may leave the bathhouses, an inspection will be performed by Wahsega's staff. If the bathroom is sufficiently clean, it will be locked. Public restrooms in the Canteen building will remain available.

Students from all schools in attendance will need to be assigned to bathroom cleanup duty for a total of eight students at each bathroom. In addition, one adult from each school will need to accompany their students assigned to bathroom cleanup.

Note: Adults from each school must be assigned to supervise cleanup. Wahsega staff members will be present to provide cleaning supplies and give direction to students assigned to clean the bathroom.

Cabin cleaning

All students should be prepared to help clean the cabins on the last day of the field study.

Trash and recycling

All students who are not assigned to bathroom duty will help pick up trash around the center and in the streams on the last day.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

First Aid Station

24 HOUR SERVICE

Wahsega does not provide a nurse on center. Minor incidents can be treated in our First Aid Station 24 hours a day. It is at the end of the hall in the Canteen building.

SUPPLIES

We are only allowed to stock Ace bandages, band-aids, water, soap and ice packs. We are not authorized to stock or dispense other supplies or medications.

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

If you give aid to anyone, please complete the blanks on our Incident Report Form located on a clipboard in the First Aid Station.

MEDICATION

Medication should be left in the care of an adult. Refrigerators are available in our First Aid Station and Pavilion 4 for medication that needs to be refrigerated.

On-center emergencies

HOSPITAL VISITS

We will help you obtain emergency medical treatment for students if necessary at the hospital in Dahlonega.

PERMISSION SLIPS

Be sure to bring the proper paperwork with you to Wahsega when you come. Our office does not collect permission slips for each child.

INSURANCE

Wahsega is not responsible for your group's medical insurance. Inexpensive insurance is available through your local Cooperative Extension Service office if desired.

TRANSPORTATION

We strongly recommend that a teacher or chaperone drive a vehicle to Wahsega that can be used in the event of an emergency.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency that requires us to evacuate all guests to a safe location, or respond in some other way to an emergency, officials from the Lumpkin County 911 Center will advise us as to the proper course of action. The Lumpkin County Emergency Services Director (the supervisor for Lumpkin County's Emergency Management Agency, 911 Center, Fire Department and EMS) has a County Emergency Operations Plan to provide services in the event of an emergency. This plan includes procedures for residents, tourists and residential education facilities like Wahsega (of which there are several in the area).

Home Contact Person

RELAYING MESSAGES TO GUESTS

It is wise to designate a person who will not be on the trip as a Home Contact person. Leave emergency contact information with this person. Let the school know who this person is and distribute the contact's phone number in a letter sent to all parents. In the case of an extreme home emergency that requires contacting a member of your group, your Home Contact Person can call Wahsega's office number during office hours. After office hours, the contact person can call the Lumpkin County 911 Center. The 911 dispatcher will either attempt to contact us from a list of contact numbers we have on file at the 911 Center or they will dispatch a sheriff's deputy to drive to Wahsega to find us and deliver the message.

- Wahsega 4-H Center Office – 706-864-2050
- Lumpkin County 911 Center – 706-864-3633

RELAYING MESSAGES FROM GUESTS

When necessary, a Home Contact person can also relay messages from you while you are here to the proper individuals at home if you are having trouble contacting them. In addition, if the school office is closed, bus breakdowns or other problems can be communicated through a Home Contact person.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

What to pack

- Sleeping bag or twin sheets & pillow (No linens or pillows provided)
- Towels & washcloths
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Bag or basket to carry supplies from the cabin to the bathhouse
- Daily change of clothing (Some days you may need two)
- Old shirts & jeans (for ropes courses)
- Jacket or sweatshirt (for cool mornings and nights)
- Rain gear (classes continue regardless of the weather)
- Shoes (Some to keep dry and some that can get wet):
Note: Wearing wet socks, shoes or sandals all day causes blisters.
- Sun block
- Plastic garbage bags (for wet clothes)
- Water bottle
Note: Label clothing and personal items.

What not to pack

- Chewing gum
- Flip-flops or *any* sandals without a heel strap (except for showering)
- New or nice clothing

Georgia 4-H statement regarding consumer electronics: Youth participating in 4-H programs are to leave consumer electronics at home unless used under direct supervision of chaperones. No skates, roller blades or bicycles are allowed. Safety and damage or loss of expensive items is the concern.

Note: Wahsega 4-H Center is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Our location

Wahsega 4-H Center is 12 miles north of downtown Dahlonega, Georgia. We are on Forest Service Road 28 one mile from the entrance to Camp Frank D. Merrill Army Ranger Training Facility. The 4-H center is in a valley shared by Ward Creek on property owned by the University of Georgia in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

No housekeeping service

CLEANLINESS IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

There is no cleaning service for the bathhouses or cabins. It is the responsibility of the students to keep bathhouses and cabins clean.

KEEP UP WITH YOUR OWN BELONGINGS

You will share the bathhouses with other schools. Please be considerate of them and keep the bathhouses clean. Each time you leave the bathhouse, carry your own dirty or wet clothes and towels as well as soap, shampoo and other toiletries with you.

Bring old clothes & shoes

Bring old clothes and shoes that can get dirty and old shoes that can get wet for attendance in the Stream Ecology class.

Do not plan to wear sandals without a heel strap

Sandals with no heel strap are not allowed at Wahsega. To prevent injury, you must wear shoes that will stay on your feet.

Bring a pillow & sleeping bag or twin size sheets & covers

Pillows and sheets are not provided for guests. Bring a pillow and sleeping bag or twin sheets and adequate covers for the bunk beds. Cabins are not heated, but a blanket is available on every bed if needed.

Do not forget toiletries

Towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and other toiletries are not provided. Some of these products may be available for purchase in the canteen.

Money for the canteen

We sell a selection of souvenirs, clothing and snacks in the canteen. Soft drinks are available in vending machines on the outside of the canteen building.

First Aid

Wahsega's First Aid Station is on the right at the end of the hall in the Canteen Building. It has Ace bandages, band-aids, water and soap. We are not authorized to stock or dispense other supplies or medications. A nurse is not on duty. We will help teachers get emergency medical treatment at the hospital in Dahlenega if necessary.

Medication

If a child is taking any medication, the medication must be left with a teacher who will oversee its use. A refrigerator is available in our First Aid Station or in the Pavilion 4 kitchen for refrigerated medication.

Rules for students

1. A raised hand indicates that it is time to be quiet.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times even if they are wet.
3. No swimming.
4. No throwing rocks.
5. No chewing gum.
6. No skipping rocks on the pond.
7. Phones may not be used.
8. Do not leave your money in the cabin.
9. Never enter a cabin other than the one you are assigned to.
10. Do not harass water snakes living alongside the creek. They are harmless.
11. Hurry to your group meeting area when the bell rings for class.
12. No food or drinks in the cabins.
13. Do not throw trash on the ground or abandon soft drink bottles.
14. Curfew is at 11:00 p.m. (or earlier according to school rules)
15. Never walk down a trail or go into the forest except under adult supervision.
16. Do not go beyond the deck near the waterfalls except under adult supervision.
17. Do not climb on the Climbing Wall except during supervised class times.
18. Follow any other rules set by your teachers.

TYPICAL SCHEDULE

The sample schedule below for a school with two learning groups staying two nights provides an idea of what to expect during a field study at Wahsega. Please note the arrival and departure times. Also, note that many more learning groups are possible.

Day One Learning group Learning group

1:30	Arrive, cabin inspection, move		
2:00	Opening Session (followed by a tour of the center for students)		
3:15	Day Class No. 1	Stream	Herpetology
4:45	Break and journals		
5:00	Supper KP		
5:30	Supper		
6:30	Canteen opens		
7:00	Night Class No. 1	Ultimate	Ultimate
8:00	Night Class No. 2	Night Wildlife	Night Wildlife

Day Two

7:00	Wake up bell		
7:30	Breakfast KP		
8:00	Breakfast		
8:45	Day Class No. 2	Survival* [†]	Challenges
10:15	Break and journals		
10:30	Day Class No. 3	Challenges	Survival*
12:00	Lunch KP		
12:30	Lunch		
1:30	Day Class No. 4	Entomology	Wildlife
3:00	Break and journals		
3:15	Day Class No. 5	Herpetology	Stream
4:45	Break and journals		
5:00	Supper KP		
5:30	Supper		
6:30	Canteen opens		
7:00	Night Class No. 3	New Games*	New Games*
8:00	Night Class No. 4	Campfire*	Campfire*

Day Three

6:30	Wake up bell		
7:15	Cabin check		
7:30	Breakfast KP		
8:00	Breakfast		
9:00	Day Class No. 6	Wildlife	Entomology
10:30	Lunch KP and Bathhouse and grounds cleanup		
11:00	Lunch		
12:00	Load luggage		
12:30	Depart		

* Classes taught by teachers from the school.

CLASS LISTING

Day class options

1. Challenges (Low-ropes course)
2. Entomology
3. Geology & Soils
4. Forest Ecology
5. Herpetology
6. High-ropes course (Additional charges apply)
7. Orienteering
8. Pioneer Life
9. Stream Ecology
10. Survival
11. Wildlife
12. Wilderness Art*
13. Discovery Room*
14. Gold-panning*

Night class options

1. Astronomy
2. Dance Party*
3. Night Wildlife
4. Sensory Awareness
5. Ultimate Frisbee
6. Campfire Songs & Skits*
7. Native American Games*
8. New Games*

Wahsega GPS Correlation Guide

Classes are matched to the GPS by grade level. This means that the major concepts taught in a class are determined by GPS requirements. The concepts we teach are listed in the *Wahsega GPS Correlation Guide*. There may be numerous indirect relationships in a class to many concepts covered by the GPS; however, these indirect concepts are not listed. The correlation guide is available on our website.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

CHALLENGES (LOW-ROPES COURSE) – ONLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To help students increase personal confidence, build mutual support within a peer group, and aid in understanding the importance of planning and cooperation.

Methods: The students will go through a series of activities designed to give students clearly defined mental and physical problems to solve. The challenges offer students the opportunity to stretch beyond their boundaries in a safe environment, allowing growth in self-awareness and self-confidence. The low-ropes course elements are designed to force students to plan and work together as a team to solve the specific problems presented.

Skills: Leadership, Cooperation, Coordination, Mutual respect, Discipline, Patience, Listening, Processing, Oral communication, Following directions

* Teachers or chaperones from the school normally provide instruction for this class

ENTOMOLOGY – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To discover how diverse the insect kingdom is, become aware of the traits that enable insects to survive in their habitats and understand the role of insects in relation to other living things.

Methods: Students learn the characteristics and body parts of insects. Subsequently, students explore different habitat areas around Wahsega observing, collecting and gathering information about insects.

Skills: Observation, Identification, Classification, Comparing Similarities and Differences, Matching, Processing Skills, and Problem Solving Skills

DISCOVERY ROOM – ONLY TEACHERS WITH THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

The Discovery Room is a 1½-hour program consisting of 11 hands-on stations. Students stay at each station for 5 to 10 minutes. The objectives for each station are presented below. Each student will be given a worksheet to complete as they go through each station. Since the Discovery Room is self-explanatory, it can easily be used as the day class taught by visiting teachers.

Discovery Room station names & goals

1. ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS – To expose students to accurate information about the causes of and threats posed by some natural phenomena.
2. PLANTS – To increase student awareness of how plant seeds are dispersed, the parts of a plant and the role of each.
3. MAMMALS – To present the role mammals in the North Georgia Mountains play in the ecosystem.
4. BIRDS – To present the many roles of birds in the ecosystem.
5. SOILS & GEOLOGY – To develop understanding of the rock cycle, how rocks are formed and how the earth has developed.
6. ENDANGERED SPECIES – To help students become aware of and understand the natural order of life and what can happen if we don't protect it.
7. APPALACHIAN TRAIL – To increase awareness and appreciation of maintaining natural areas.
8. FOREST ECOSYSTEMS – To introduce the students to the mixed-deciduous forest common in the North Georgia area and how wildlife communities work within the forest.
9. TREES – To present tree structures, key Georgia species, and the importance of trees in relation to humans and wildlife.
10. CONSERVATION – To make students aware of what they can do to help promote a healthy environment.

FOREST ECOLOGY – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To help students understand and appreciate the relationships and inter-dependency that characterizes a forest ecosystem.

Methods: Students will participate in a group discussion exploring the implications of community. While hiking on a trail, students will participate in activities that illustrate the life cycles that exist in the forest and search for signs of the members of that community. Due to a lack of interest in the Ornithology class, it has been dropped from our course offerings. However, the data collection component from Ornithology can be easily worked into Forest Ecology.

Skills: Observation, Identification, Classification, Comparing & Contrasting, Analyzing, Processing Skills, Problem Solving Skills, Comprehension, and Sensory Awareness Skills

GEOLOGY & SOILS – ONLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To help students understand the internal structure of our planet and identify the major forces which alter Earth's surface. Also, to encourage students to identify ways in which humans are affected by the geology of an area as well as ways that humans depend on healthy soils.

Methods: Students will use maps and models to identify landforms and demonstrate the tectonic plate movements that produce such features. Students will observe rock types and weathering forces at work in natural surroundings and take part in activities that re-create weathering patterns. After collecting soil core samples using scientific techniques, students will have an opportunity to identify soil horizons and soil type.

Skills: Modeling, Data Collection, Observation, Identification, Classification, Comprehension, Sensory Perception.

GOLD PANNING (Not scheduled with pioneer life) – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: To introduce students to the early history of Georgia and the role of gold in the relations between Native Americans and colonists.

Methods: After a brief discussion about Georgia's pioneer and gold rush history, students have the opportunity to pan for gold.

Skills: Observation, Compare/contrast, Analyzing, and Comprehension.

HERPETOLOGY – ONLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To introduce students to characteristics, differences, and roles of reptiles and amphibians.

Methods: After participating in a group discussion to identify characteristics of reptiles and amphibians students will have the opportunity to handle live specimens.

Skills: Observation, Application, Classification, Description, Comparing Similarities & Differences, Reading, and Snake Handling!

HIGH-ROPES COURSE – ONLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To use the high-ropes challenge course to help students in 5th grade or higher identify and then overcome self-imposed limitations.

Methods: The lead teacher will select one high-ropes element from the three available. Students will then be instructed in appropriate safety methods and equipment usage before beginning. With the support of their peers and Wahsega staff members, students will be encouraged to accept the challenge presented by the element and then accomplish the goal of the element as set out by Wahsega staff members.

Skills: Identification, Analyzing, Problem Solving, and Comprehension.

PIONEER LIFE (Not scheduled with gold panning) – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: Through observation and participation students explore the life of the Pioneers of North Georgia.

Methods: Students will participate in a group discussion about the effects of Europeans in Georgia on Native Americans. In addition they will use tools of the early settlers to explore the nature of daily life during this time period, pan for gold, make candles, and end class with a discussion on technological advances and how their life might be different if they were alive during the time of the Georgia gold rush.

Skills: Coordination, Discipline & Patience, Listening, and Following Directions.

ORIENTEERING – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To introduce students to the proper use of the compass and the proper pacing technique.

Methods: Students will listen to a mini-lecture describing compass parts, how to take a bearing, and proper pacing techniques, then participate in activities practicing these skills.

Skills: Application, Estimation, Computation, Listening & Following Directions, Measurement, and Psychomotor Development

STREAM ECOLOGY – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To aid students in their understanding and appreciation of the importance of the water cycle; recognize differences in the life stages of aquatic animals as they grow and discover the diversity of animals that live in a stream. Students also learn to distinguish the difference between healthy streams and unhealthy streams.

Methods: The students will participate in activities that enhance their understanding of the water cycle and aquatic ecosystems; students also capture, identify, and observe stream animals; students learn about the purpose and procedures for stream testing.

Skills: Observation, Inference, Identification, Collecting, Classifying & Categorizing, Comparing Similarities & Differences, Matching, Recognition, and Critter Catching

SURVIVAL – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To teach skills and techniques which help prevent students from getting lost in the woods and what to do if they become lost. Students will learn to set up a survival camp and will demonstrate understanding of basic survival needs and how to fulfill these needs in the wilderness.

Methods: Activities are incorporated into discussion about how not to get lost and the five basic survival needs. Students decide what items and methods should be utilized. Students are challenged to construct a survival shelter.

Skills: Problem Solving, Inference, Observation, Psychomotor Development, and Cooperation

WILDLIFE – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To help students understand some of the natural processes that affect the wildlife of the Chattahoochee National Forest, their habitat and how human activity affects wildlife.

Methods: Students will participate in activities that enhance their understanding of the essential components of habitats, the importance of good habitat for animals, what limiting factors affect animals and the importance of predator/prey relationships.

Skills: Generalization, Psychomotor Development, Graphing, Application, and Comparing Similarities & Differences

WILDERNESS ART – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: Students use various mediums to explore environmental education concepts.

Methods: Contact the Program Coordinator, for information on available choices.

Materials: Once a choice has been made, notify us and we will provide any materials that we can for the class.

Skills: Problem Solving, Hypotheses Formulating and Testing, Aesthetic Sensitivity, and Dexterity

Note: *Candle making is not available as an activity in Wilderness Art when Wahsega's staff is teaching Pioneer Life.*

ASTRONOMY – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To increase the student's knowledge of astronomical concepts and the locations of common stars and constellations.

Methods: The students observe the night sky with the aided and unaided eye (time and weather permitting). Students are exposed to asterisms, constellations, stories related to the constellations and significant stars and planets visible in the evening sky.

Skills: Observation, Literary Awareness, Creativity and Identification

CAMPFIRE SONGS, SKITS & STORIES – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: To provide students with the opportunity to interact socially in an educational and entertaining setting.

Methods: Students participate in songs, skits and stories at a campfire.

Skills: Oral Communication, Cooperation, Observation, Listening, Acting and Public Speaking

DANCE PARTY – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Teachers who wish to have a dance in the Rec. Hall for their students may do so. Please communicate with Wahsega's Program Coordinator when making these plans.

NATIVE AMERICAN GAMES – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: To allow students to experience non-traditional physical activities, introduce them to other cultures, and show students how other cultures used games to teach lessons or make decisions.

Methods: Students participate in a series of active games similar to those played by Native American people.

Skills: Discipline, Agility, Communication, Processing Skills, Patience, Listening, Observation and Psychomotor Development

NEW GAMES – USUALLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: To enable students to increase their agility, trust and cooperation within a group using non-traditional physical activities.

Methods: Students participate in a series of active physical activities designed to build group cooperation and trust.

Skills: Problem Solving, Processing, Discipline, Psychomotor Development, and Oral Communication

NIGHT WILDLIFE – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To help students understand and distinguish between nocturnal and diurnal animal traits.

Methods: Students participate in activities and games that aid in their discovery of nocturnal animal traits.

Skills: Observation, Problem Solving, Classification, Inference, Investigation, and Processing

SENSORY AWARENESS – USUALLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To increase the student's awareness of their various senses and illustrate how dependent humans are on the sense of sight.

Methods: Students participate in multi-sensory exercises illustrating the limitations of human sensory organs at night.

Skills: Listening, Observation, Classification, Coordination and Independence

ULTIMATE FRISBEE – ONLY TAUGHT BY WAHSEGA'S STAFF

Goals: To encourage students to use teamwork to reach a common goal, to encourage physical activity while having fun and to demonstrate to students that they can enjoy themselves while staying within the structure set forth by the rules of the game.

Methods: Students participate in a short orientation where they learn the basics of throwing a Frisbee and the rules of Ultimate Frisbee. Then the students participate in a game of Ultimate Frisbee that the Wahsega staff regulates.

Skills: Discipline, Agility, Verbal and non-verbal communication, Patience, Cooperation, Team skills, Leadership, Hand-eye coordination and Athletic ability

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD STUDY CLASS SELECTION WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Review the class list above. In the blanks below, enter the names of the classes in which you wish your students to participate. After making class selections, communicate them to Cathy Bodinof.

THREE-DAY/TWO-NIGHT FIELD STUDY

Make six day class selections.

- Choose five of the available day classes to be taught by Wahsega's Environmental Education Instructors.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- Choose a sixth day class to be taught by visiting teachers.
 6. _____

Make four night class selections.

- Choose two night classes to be taught by Wahsega staff. These classes are taught on the first night of the trip.
 1. _____
 2. _____
- Choose two night classes to be led by visiting teachers. These classes are taught on the second night.
 3. _____
 4. _____

TWO-DAY/ONE-NIGHT FIELD STUDY

Make four day class selections.

- Choose four classes to be taught by Wahsega's Environmental Education Instructors.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

Make two night class selections.

- Choose one night class to be taught by Wahsega staff. This class is scheduled to be taught first.
 1. _____
- Choose one night class to be led by visiting teachers. This class is scheduled to be taught last.
 2. _____

ONE-DAY FIELD STUDY

Make three day class selections.

- Choose three classes to be taught by Wahsega's Environmental Education Instructors.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

BUS DRIVER INFORMATION FORM

This information may be useful for bus drivers. Fill in the blanks below and make copies for bus drivers.

Note: Using MapQuest can cause confusion when trying to find the best route to Wahsega because it attempts to provide the shortest route possible without regard for the quality of the roads. Many U.S. Forest Service roads in the area may provide a shorter route but are almost impassable.

Contact Information

SCHOOL GROUP INFORMATION

- Contact person: _____
- Group name: _____
- Office phone: _____
- Cell phone: _____
- Email: _____

WAHSEGA 4-H CENTER INFORMATION

- Phone: 706-864-2050
- Email: wahsega@uga.edu
- <http://www.wahsega4h.org/maps.htm>

Itinerary

FIRST DAY

- Pick up point: _____
- Departure from pick up point: Day: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
- Drop off point: Wahsega 4-H Center
- Expected arrival time at Wahsega 4-H Center: _____

Note: Please do not arrive before 1:30 p.m. without prior approval.

LAST DAY

- Pick up point: Wahsega 4-H Center
- Departure from pick up point: Day: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
- Drop off point: _____
- Expected arrival time at drop off point : _____

Getting to Wahsega

Try following the bus route marked on the map to the right rather than going through downtown Dahlonega. Wahsega's driveway is named Cloverleaf Trail.

Expect a dirt road

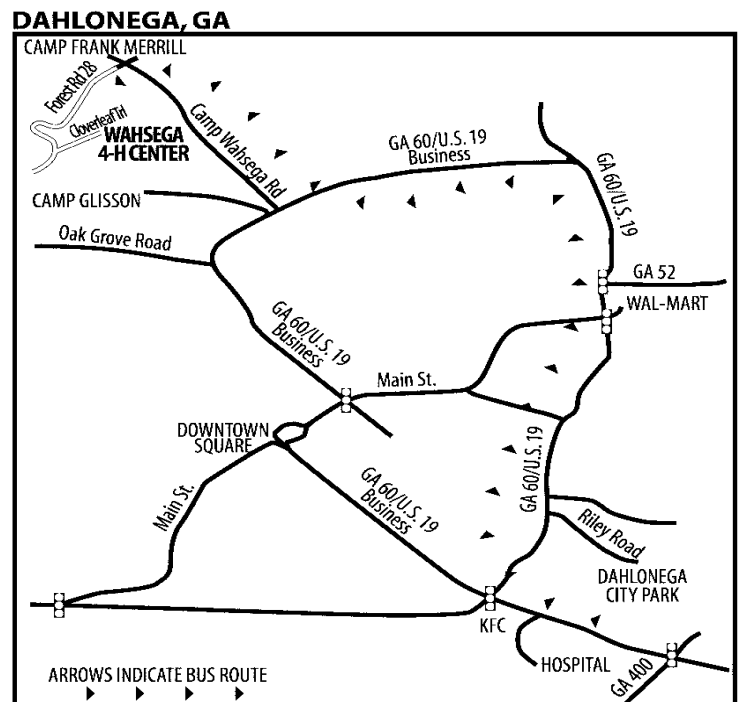
Wahsega 4-H Center (a.k.a. Camp Wahsega) is off a narrow winding dirt road, Forest Road 28, one mile from the end of Camp Wahsega Road

Entering the center

Our driveway does not have an exit separate from the entrance and it is not wide enough for two lanes. Turning around in the parking lot is not recommended. Therefore, to exit without a problem, drivers may find it easier to pull past the entrance and then back down the driveway.

Parking on center

While the parking lot is small, a number of buses can park side by side without much trouble. Please turn off engines rather than leaving them running.



ES-237 ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Completion of this form is required by the USDA and the ethnic breakdown is based on their guidelines. This form is also used when tabulating your bill. Please complete the blanks and present it along with payment upon arrival. The data collected is confidential and will not be identified with your school when used for reporting purposes. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name of Group _____

County _____

Dates Attending _____

YOUTH

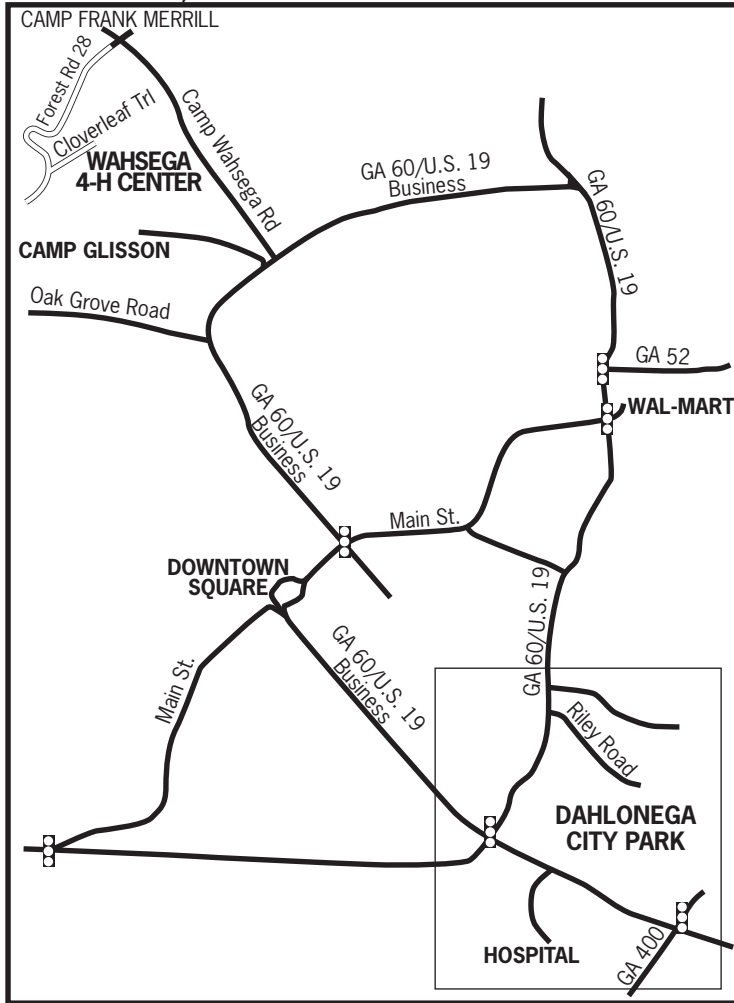
	MALE	FEMALE
White	_____	_____
Black	_____	_____
Hispanic	_____	_____
Asian	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____	_____
Total Youth	_____	_____

ADULTS

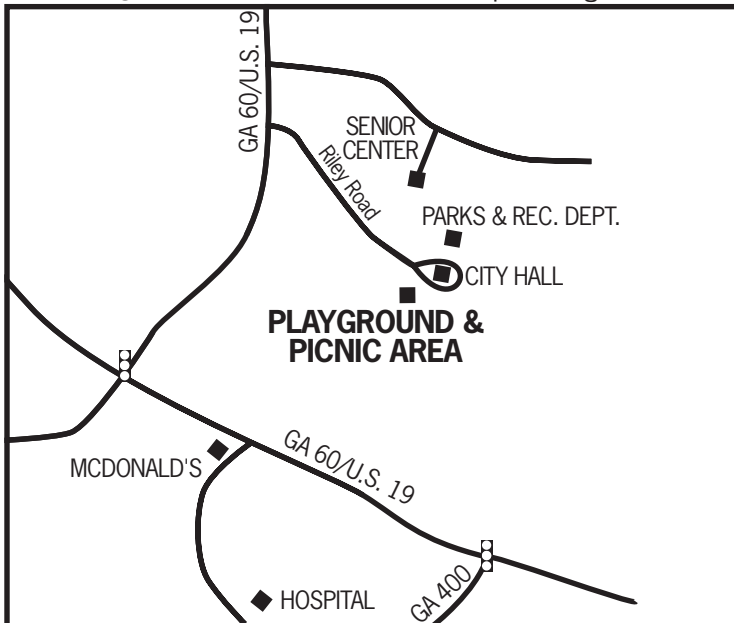
	MALE	FEMALE
White	_____	_____
Black	_____	_____
Hispanic	_____	_____
Asian	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____	_____
Total Adults	_____	_____

TOTAL YOUTH & ADULTS _____

DAHLONEGA, GA



DETAIL OF PARK AREA (See notes on park usage above.)



MILAGE




12 miles to Wahsega from the downtown square

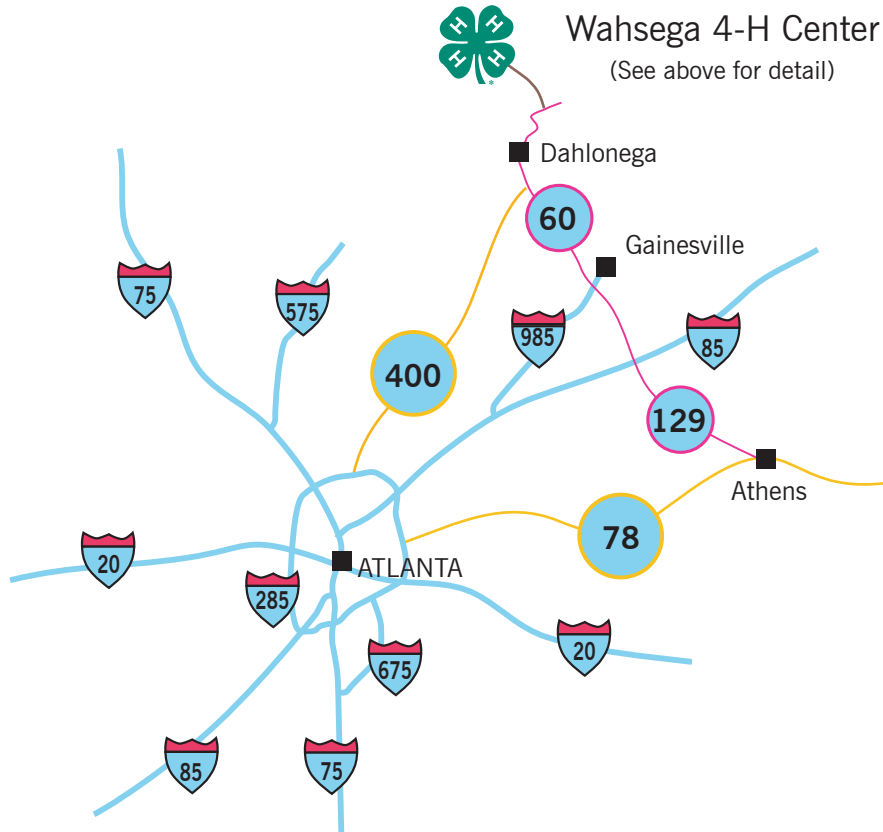
14 miles to Wahsega from Wal-Mart

9.5 miles to Wahsega from the beginning of Camp Wahsega Road

5 miles to downtown Dahlonega from the end of GA 400

KEY

-  TRAFFIC SIGNAL
-  PAVED ROAD OR HIGHWAY
-  DIRT ROAD



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

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COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
WARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES

The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force

* 18 U.S.C. 707

(Revised 8/2006)