

WELCOME TO THE OUTDOOR LAB!

WHAT IS THE OUTDOOR LAB?

The Outdoor Lab is an over 200-acre outdoor education center in Fauquier County owned by the Arlington Outdoor Education Association (AOEA). AOE is a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to promote and provide outdoor education experiences for Arlington students and citizens. AOE and Arlington Public Schools (APS) work cooperatively in this effort. The education program conducted at the Outdoor Lab is under the direction of the Science Office/Office of Academics within APS. The property is officially called the Phoebe Hall Knipping Outdoor Laboratory in honor of Dr. Phoebe Knipping who, as a former APS Science Supervisor, was instrumental in establishing the facility as an outdoor education site.

The site includes two wooded mountains intersected by a spring-fed stream that flows over a series of geological faults into a 2-acre pond. The property also boasts a large rolling meadow and a mixture of hardwoods and conifers that make it an ideal habitat for Virginia wildlife.

The facility, while rustic, includes:

- x a dining room and kitchen
- x a classroom/wildlife lab
- x an ever-increasing assortment of interdisciplinary study equipment
- x over 5 miles of marked trails
- x restroom facilities
- x approximately 22 canvas tents that can be mounted on wood platforms (for GR 5 overnights).

The staff

WHAT HAPPENS ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE OUTDOOR LAB?

The agenda for a visit is determined by the classroom teacher(s), in consultation with the Lab Coordinator. Instruction is usually correlated with the curriculum currently being taught in the classroom. It often encompasses an overview of the science topics taught throughout the year and a review of topics covered in the SOLs.

Typical day trip: The students are transported to the Lab by school bus, leaving just after the start of a regular day. Upon reaching the Lab, the class is greeted by a staff member, who orients them to the facilities. The schedule of activities follows what has been requested in advance by the teacher(s). These activities include curriculum-based nature walks, ecological studies, analysis of invertebrates or aquatic organisms,

and a picnic. A picnic menu for high school may be offered the opportunity to purchase a picnic between turkey hot dogs (no beef or pork) or vegetarian. The picnic menu is available on the APS Outdoor Lab web page ([http://www.aops.edu/outdoorlab](#)).

The lunch fee will be collected by the teacher in advance of the trip. For students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, or who are otherwise unable to pay, the Lab will cover the cost of the cookout.

CHAPERONES

Many teachers welcome the help of chaperones during their class trip to the Outdoor w-11.4 (e O)1.8 fab.(haper)7T