



The Green River Preserve Field Trip Guide

Indian Cave: 1½ to 3 hours, easy walk. Arrive via bus on CCC Road. Visit clear-cut and game feed plots on your way to the cave. Walk and crawl into multi-chambered cave. See a hand cut chimney, bats and cave crickets. Experience pitch-black darkness after scooting through a narrow opening into one of the cave's chambers. Children love the adventure. You'll get dirty!

Long Rock / Upper Bald: 2 to 3 hours, easy walk. Arrive at the hilltop via bus on CCC Road. See beautiful mountain overlooks from this Natural Heritage designated site. Gain first hand knowledge of ancient erosion on exfoliated granitic domes. An unusual plant community (with a sizable nearby feed plot), this area provides a wonderful wildlife habitat. A great introduction to mountain ecology.

Lower Bald Rock: 2 to 3 hours, moderate to strenuous walk. Approach from the top via bus on CCC Road (less strenuous), or from the bottom via bus on Green River Road (more strenuous). View spectacular overlooks of the Green River Valley. This Natural Heritage designated sight is peaceful and undisturbed with interesting plant, insect and bird life. A wonderful destination at The Green River Preserve, bring your camera!

Anders Bottom / Hemlock Field: 1½ to 3 hours, easy walk. Arrive via bus on Green River Rd. This area provides a real hands-on look into the early history of the Green River valley. A short walk reveals a pioneer cabin sight circa 1790, with a nearby spring and cemetery. After viewing a grove of original growth hemlock and examining the flora and fauna of the "bottom land", wade through a stream and take a moment to feed the wild trout. This is a prime lesson in "Little Tree Country" ecology.

Uncle's Creek Falls: 2½ to 3 hours, moderate walk. Arrive via bus on Green River Road. Climbing from the valley floor to the headwaters of Uncle's Creek provides a memorable image of your first glimpse of the falls. Stepping under the falls to join the "Polar Bear Club" is quite a thrill for some students while others are content to enjoy the cool mist in this original growth forest. Abundant with wildlife, the riparian zone offers great homes to critters such as salamanders, crawfish and the native brook trout.

Emerald Falls and Twin Pools: 1½ to 3 hours, easy to moderate walk. Arrive via bus on Green River Road. Enjoy a short but strenuous hike along a narrow valley trail to view Emerald Falls, the highest falls on the Preserve. Close by, is beautiful and "trout-full" Twin Pools where children can feed wild trout and explore the river ecosystem.

Beaver Ponds: 2 to 3 hours, easy walk. Cross the continental divide via bus on Reasonover Road (about ½ mile west of camp). Take an easy walk to the secluded confluence of Reasonover and Wildcat Creeks. After "snacking" on some wild plants, wade into the ecological world of the beaver. Investigate the abandoned moonshine still and old gold mine. Unusual wildflowers, abundant deer, turkey, and a resident bear or two are sometimes part of this excursion. Children will always remember this hike - mud and all.



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Pine Barons and South Fork Feed Plot: 1 to 3 hours, moderate walk. Walk across Green River Road from base camp to begin this lengthy hike deep into the wildlife habitat of the Preserve. Visit Native American burial mound sight, track wildlife, sneak up on feed plots in hopes of seeing deer, turkey or small game. This is bear territory, peaceful and rich with quiet messages.

Sanderson's Falls: 2½ to 3 hours, moderate walk. This hike will take you from base camp down the valley where you will be picked up by bus at the third bridge. Exercise your senses by becoming aware of the abundant wildlife invisible to the novice tracker. Study large rock outcroppings and waterfalls, and notice the "pine plantation" monoculture that was planted to help the forest recover from ice damage.

Climbing Tower and In-Camp Activities: Each activity is designed to last approximately 1½ hours. Groups will move from one activity to another (trading places with another group) within a field trip period.

Our three-story climbing tower is a thrilling confidence builder for all children and adults. The tower can be demanding both mentally and physically and will help foster teamwork and group cohesion.

Brief walks through the woods around base camp are enjoyable as well as informative. Learn the history of the area or experience a Native American cultural tradition at the medicine wheel or learn to start a fire with steel and flint.

Participate in the ways earlier cultures enhanced their lives by making salves, playing musical instruments, playing games, or story telling.

The Spire: 1 ½ to 3 hours, difficult. This is one of the steepest, most difficult hikes offered at Green River. The reward of the wet feet and heavy breathing is to sit on top of a rock spire with a spectacular view of the Green River Valley.

The student groups rotate through the different field trips so that each group will have a similar experience. The Green River guides address certain common lessons – walking and stalking skills, environmental awareness, and perspectives on Native American culture. Participants will gain first hand knowledge of ecological issues relevant to the natural landscape– water quality, erosion, invasion by forest pests and pathogens, and wildlife management.