

## Self-Directed Curriculum at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

What can we do if we come to Middle Creek and there isn't anyone available to provide us with programming?

You may choose to visit the Visitors Center at Middle Creek with your classes or groups for a self-directed educational experience. There are 8 different self-directed curriculum kits available. To keep kits available for visiting groups, they must be used while at Middle Creek and will not be loaned out for off-site use.

What topics are covered with the self-directed kits?

- **Connect With Wildlife**  
Students compare and identify twelve different Pennsylvania mammals using their pelts and wildlife background information.
- **Decoy Detective**  
Students use the decoys to learn about waterfowl identification and divide birds into a diver or puddle duck classification.
- **Feet Are Neat**  
Students explain the role of bird feet in bird survival and compare and contrast bird feet adaptations.
- **Let's Wing It**  
Students compare and identify the different types of flight feathers that make up a bird's wing.
- **Scatology**  
Students create fake animal scat and learn to identify an animal by its droppings.
- **Skull King**  
Students infer from a skull what classification and niche the animal inhabits.
- **The Nose Knows**  
Students identify different food smells and will compare the ability to distinguish different smells to animals using their sense of smell to find mates, offspring and food.
- **Wildlife Tracks**  
Students use a variety of methods to observe, identify, collect and document tracks of different common wildlife species in Pennsylvania.

Each kit includes lesson objectives, background information for the educator, lesson equipment and materials, and step by step instructions to complete the activity.

How do we reserve a kit at Middle Creek?

To reserve a kit to use on the day that you plan to visit Middle Creek, please call 717-733-1512. Due to the limited number of kits that are available, registering to use a kit 3 weeks in advance is suggested. All kits must be returned to the Visitor Center front desk and checked out by a Game Commission employee prior to your departure.

Other self-directed options at Middle Creek include:

- Take a hike on the trails at Middle Creek. Stop at the Visitors Center and pick up a trail guide.
- Bring a nature journal along and practice your writing skills while out in nature.
- Bring your camera along and take pictures of the many wildflowers, insects, birds and mammals that abound at State Game Lands 46 and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.
- Bring your fishing rods (and licenses) and spend a few hours fishing in the lake and stream at Middle Creek.
- Bring your kayak or canoe (with PFD's) and explore the lake at Middle Creek.