

Rural Hill

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO PROGRAMMING

The Snail's Trail

Grades 4-8

Rural Hill is an historic site and working farm owned by Mecklenburg County and operated by Historic Rural Hill, Inc., a non-profit 501c-3. With two hundred and fifty years of history behind it, Rural Hill is a restoration in progress. Enjoy two hundred sixty five acres of magnificent rural vistas, a variety of farm animals and wildlife, a 5k wooded trail that encircles the property, and our historic buildings and reconstructions. With eleven structures in all, we have the perfect setting to provide cultural heritage events, educational programs, self or guided tours, and so much more! We welcome all visitors and students to Rural Hill, where history springs alive!

Teachers:

It means so much to us here at Rural Hill that you have chosen us to be the destination of choice for your students. We know that your time and theirs is precious. If there is anything that we can do to make your trip more enjoyable please do not hesitate to let us know. Our programs are designed to fall within grade specific NC Curriculum guidelines but are generally suitable for all ages and can be modified within reason to suit your needs. Please take the time to review the following materials, which serve as an introduction to your trip and program. Again, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank you so much,
The Rural Hill Staff

DIRECTIONS:

From I-77 North:

From I-77 North take Exit 16B, Sunset Road West, traveling 0.2 miles. Merge onto Sunset Road and travel 0.6 miles. Turn Right onto Beatties Ford Road. After traveling 6.5 miles turn Left onto Neck Road. Rural Hill is located 2.1 miles on the right. Pull into the SECOND driveway for parking.

From I-77 South:

From I-77 South take the Exit 23, Gilead Road toward Huntersville, traveling 0.3 miles. Turn Right onto Gilead Road and travel 0.6 miles. Turn Left onto McCoy Road and continue onward for 1.7 miles. Take a Right turn onto Hambright Road, traveling 1.6 miles, then turn Right onto Beatties Ford Road. After 0.7 miles, turn left onto Neck Road. Rural Hill is located 2.1 miles on the right. Pull into the SECOND driveway for parking.

From NC-73 West:

From NC-73 West turn Left onto Beatties Ford Road, continuing 3.6 miles. Turn Right onto Neck Road. Rural Hill is located 2.1 miles on the right. Pull into the SECOND driveway for parking.

From NC-73 East:

From NC-73 East turn Right onto Beatties Ford Road, continuing 3.6 miles. Turn Right onto Neck Road. Rural Hill is located 2.1 miles on the right. Pull into the SECOND driveway for parking.

BEFORE YOU COME:

Please review the following reminders and recommendations prior to your departure:

- Return the enclosed Group Reservation Form with your deposit payment. Please make checks payable to: *The Catawba Valley Scottish Society Inc. (CVSS)*. This will confirm your reservation on our calendar, as well as let us know exactly when you will arrive and how many students to expect.
- Teachers, Parents, and other Adults are free with student groups.
- Please review the page entitled “*Site Etiquette*” with your students prior to arriving to Rural Hill and ensure that they understand what is expected of them.
- We would like you to arrive about 10 minutes early to allow the students plenty of time to check in and group themselves away from the bus(es).
- *Rural Hill is open all year in all weather.* If there are concerns regarding inclement weather and your group, please call ahead to let us know whether you are coming or rescheduling.
- There is no such thing as poor weather, just poor preparation! Please ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the outdoors and the weather at hand. Being one of Mecklenburg County’s highest elevations, Rural Hill is naturally windy. Because of this, it can feel 10-15 degrees cooler here than where you are. Our historic buildings have no climate control measures, if it is cold outside, it will be cold inside. *Please dress appropriately.*
- The maximum number of students per program is 30. If there is more than this, your group will be divided into two or more groups.

SITE ETIQUETTE:

Rural Hill has over two hundred and fifty years of history on site and the staff here have the obligation to protect it for the future. Please abide by the following written rules as well as any verbal instructions our staff may provide to you during your stay. Students who fail to follow these rules may be separated from the group, asked to hold a teacher / parent's hand, and / or made to leave the site. We request that you obey these rules and honor us as much as we honor your group for spending time with us.

- I. Rural Hill is a working farm. This means live animals and working machines and tools. Please do not chase, yell at, hit, or throw anything at the animals. Do not offer the animals any food unless instructed to do so. Please do not climb on or touch any piece of farm equipment. If a staff member or your teacher tells you to stop, **STOP**.
- II. Do not climb on, touch, step, or jump over fences: They are electric and **WILL SHOCK YOU**.
- III. Be aware that many of the things in and around our buildings are very old and fragile. Do not touch or pick up anything unless you are told its okay.
- IV. For the safety of our guests, do not climb on, in, or jump off any part of our buildings.
- V. Please keep any and all trash on your person until you can locate a proper receptacle. **DO NOT LITTER**.
- VI. No food, drink, or gum is allowed inside any of the buildings. Please finish all snacks prior to entering or leave them outside.
- VII. The entirety of Rural Hill is a Non-Smoking site due to the dry and combustible nature of our land, crop, and buildings.



The Snail's Trail

(Grades 4-8)

Time Required:

Approximately 150 minutes or less, 90 minutes will be spent walking.

Special Considerations:

Teachers: Please ensure that each group leader has at least one working cell phone for safety. Please review with each group the rules of the trail: No running, No yelling, No damaging plants, No harassing animals, and No throwing rocks or sticks. Poison Oak and Poison Ivy are both a problem and something to look out for on this, and any, trail in this area. If you are unsure what to look for, ask a Rural Hill staff person and they will show you how to identify the plants. During the warmer months, it may help for the group leader to carry a small stick to knock down spider webs crossing the path, and remember to always watch out for snakes!

Materials for each student

Writing Paper

Pens

Clipboards

Materials for Group Leader

Kitchen Timer

Writing Paper

Pens

Clipboards

Extra Paper

Extra Pens

Activity:

1. After the group leader sets his/her timer for 10 minutes, the class will begin to walk on the nature trail at a comfortable pace. As soon as the timer beeps, the group leader will choose one student to sit down where they stand. The group leader will walk forward, leaving the first student behind, for a steady count of 10 and then choose another student to sit down where they were standing. This practice will continue until all the group has been evenly spaced down the trail. The group leader, after setting their kitchen timer for 5 minutes, either chooses to sit down as well and do the activity, or walk back and monitor their group.
2. When students are chosen to sit, they should take out their writing paper, pens, and clipboards. At that point they should begin to observe and record what they see, feel, hear, smell, and perhaps

taste around them. As each student is in a different spot, they should each have a different list.

3. This is meant to be a quiet activity and talking should be kept at a minimum.
4. After the 5 minute period of time has passed, the group leader will begin at the back of the line and gather their group, one by one, until they have reassembled as an entire unit.
5. The exercise begins again with step #1. Repeat the steps until the entire trail has been completed. Again, try to keep talking to a minimum both when sitting and walking on the trail. This will help ensure that the sense of discovery and awareness that this exercise is to evoke will remain unbroken.
6. After the trail has been completed the group will reassemble and go over what they found.