

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in bringing your students to The Schiff Nature Preserve where we are committed to providing exceptional experiential learning opportunities in the natural environment. All programs are correlated to New Jersey's Core Curriculum Standards to provide students with an engaging, interactive and enjoyable experience. Schiff offers hiking trails, outdoor and indoor educational facilities, a native plant garden, picnic area and restrooms.

To provide students with a meaningful experience, **group size is limited to 50 students**. We can accommodate larger groups by dividing them into separate trip days. Two to three weeks prior to your field trip date, I will contact you to discuss logistics and planning. This discussion will include team sizes, length and purposes of activities, minimum and maximum numbers of chaperones permitted and other required topics of discussion. Of course, you may contact me at any point in time with questions.

Field trip fees are \$10 per child for a 2 ½ hour program. There is no charge for teachers and chaperones/aids. Educational activities are conducted by NJ certified teachers with professional backgrounds in environmental education.

We look forward to meeting your group and exploring the beautiful natural environment of Schiff Nature Preserve with them. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss curriculum, scheduling options or if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Rich Santangelo
Environmental Educator
Schiff Natural Lands Trust
339 Pleasant Valley Road
Mendham, NJ 07945
phone. 973-543-6004
www.schiffnaturepreserve.org



Schiff Nature Preserve Teacher Checklist

Pre-Trip

- ✓ Review the Teacher Information Packet.
- ✓ Distribute the Parent Information handout to all participating parents and chaperones.
- ✓ Distribute the Chaperone Information handout to each chaperone.
- ✓ Divide your students into two teams using the Team Roster (included in this packet) or a school form. At least one adult from your school should be assigned to each team and please limit teams to no more than 25 students.
- ✓ Create a list of student names (first and last) that include allergy and special medical conditions for all applicable students. Use either the Team Roster or a school form.
- ✓ Notify us with any changes in student numbers, schedule or program options.
- ✓ Make name tags for all students and chaperones to wear on the day of the field trip. You may use name tag stickers or be as creative as you would like!

Day of Field Trip

- ✓ Please bring at least two copies of the team roster (or applicable school form) with allergy and medical conditions listed.

Post trip

- ✓ Please complete and send to us the teacher survey form.

Note: A 30 minute lunch period will be incorporated into your field trip schedule. We ask that teachers, parents, and students work together to reduce waste and be eco-friendly when visiting our facilities. For more information and instructional materials, please visit the EPA's website on packing an eco-friendly lunch: <http://www.epa.gov/wastes/education/lunch.htm>. One fun idea for your field trip day might be to challenge the two attending teams to see who can produce the least amount of waste. Schiff staff can help determine the winner at lunchtime.

Chaperone Information for Schiff Nature Preserve Field Trip

Location of Field Trip

The 695 acre tract of The Schiff Nature Preserve is located in Mendham Township and Mendham Borough, Morris County, New Jersey. The entire acreage of the Schiff Natural Lands Trust Nature Preserve is contained within the Ralston Historic District which is listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. There are several rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species which are found on our Preserve. Schiff offers hiking trails, outdoor and indoor educational facilities, a native plant garden, picnic area and restrooms. You may visit www.schiffnaturepreserve.org to further familiarize yourself with The Schiff Nature Preserve.

Chaperone Role

Chaperones play an important role at Schiff in providing a fun, positive learning experience for students. Chaperones are expected to supervise students during their visit. Chaperones primarily assist by **providing close supervision and maintaining discipline** to:

- ✓ Ensure student safety;
- ✓ Enhance student interactions and learning opportunities; and
- ✓ Protect the natural ecosystems from unintentional damage.

Chaperones also support Schiff staff with conducting educational activities. These activities may include hands-on exploration in the Schiff Nature Center or assisting with education activities during the guided hike. During the guided hike, at least one chaperone is asked to walk at the back of the line to ensure that no students fall behind. Chaperones may also be asked to assist with the coordination of lunch or snack times and assist students with restroom visits.

Please take a minute to review the Parent and Chaperone Information handout prior to the field trip. This handout will advise you on what to bring and how to dress for the day. A schedule for your field trip can be obtained from the lead teacher of your group. If you have any questions about Schiff, please contact us.

Have fun!

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Phone: 973-543-6004



Website: www.schiffnaturepreserve.org

Rich Santangelo, Environmental Educator: rich@schiffnaturepreserve.org

Parent Information for Schiff Nature Preserve Information Sheet

Location of Field Trip

The 695 acre tract of the Schiff Nature Preserve is located in Mendham Township and Mendham Borough, Morris County, New Jersey. The entire acreage of the Schiff Natural Lands Trust Nature Preserve is contained within the Ralston Historic District which is listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. There are several rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species which are found on our Preserve. Schiff offers hiking trails, outdoor and indoor educational facilities, a native plant garden, picnic area and restrooms. You may visit www.schiffnaturepreserve.org to further familiarize yourself with Schiff Nature Preserve.

Field Trip Activities

Your child's visit will be supervised by teachers, chaperones and trained Schiff personnel and volunteers to ensure safe exploration of Schiff Nature Preserve. Activities may include guided hikes, hands-on exploration in the Schiff Nature Center or other environmental education activities. Educational activities are conducted by NJ certified teachers with professional backgrounds in environmental education who are also certified in CPR and first aid. All programs are correlated to New Jersey's Core Curriculum Standards to provide students with an engaging, interactive and enjoyable experience. Schiff offers hiking trails, outdoor and indoor educational facilities, a native plant garden, picnic area and restrooms.

What should students and chaperones wear?

Students are likely to be hiking along dirt trails and must be appropriately attired.

Clothing: Weather-appropriate and comfortable clothing suitable for the outdoors is strongly recommended. A light-colored cotton t-shirt and loose cotton pants or shorts are ideal in spring, summer, while a jacket or sweatshirt is recommended in the fall and winter.

Footwear: Comfortable hiking footwear such as sneakers or hiking boots is essential. Flip-flops, open-toe sandals and heels are NOT recommended.

What should students bring?

- An eco-friendly lunch: <http://www.epa.gov/wastes/education/lunch.htm>
- A (reusable) bottle of water
- Sunscreen and/or insect repellent (should be applied at home)
- Camera and/or binoculars (optional)

What students should NOT bring:

- Hand-held video games (Gameboy, etc.)
- Music players or noisemakers of any kind
- Cell phones are required to be on vibrate or off during their visit

Planning a Family Visit to Schiff?

The Schiff Nature Preserve provides many exciting activities for families. Schiff also offers eco-friendly birthday parties that serve as a great way to educate children about the importance of caring for the planet while providing a fun and unique party experience. The hiking trails are open daily from dawn until dusk and the Nature Center is staffed most weekdays from 8 am - 5 pm. For more information on educational activities and family events please visit <http://schiffnaturepreserve.org/calendar.htm>.

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Directions to Schiff Nature Preserve

From Route 287/Peapack/Gladstone:

- Take Rte 287 to exit 22B (Bedminster/Netcong/Rte 206 North)
- Travel 3.5 miles on 206 North (pass the Sunoco gas station on your right) to Holland Road and make a right
- Turn left at the stop sign at the end of Holland Road
- Travel 1.1 miles and turn right onto Mosle Road
- Travel 2.7 miles and as the road forks look for the white Union School House, bear right onto Pleasant Valley Road
- Travel 0.1 miles and make a left between the stone pillars into the Schiff Natural Lands Trust
- Make a left at the "T" at the far end of the driveway and follow the winding road for 0.5 miles to the top of the hill
- Pass the two houses and follow the road into the parking lot.

From Morristown/Mendham:

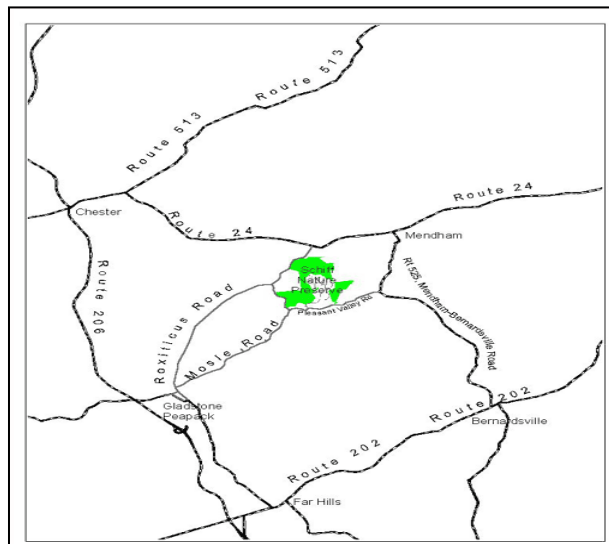
- Take Rte 24 from Morristown into Mendham
- Make a left onto Hilltop Road (at the light with the Black Horse Pub on the corner)
- Travel about 1.5 miles and make a right onto Pleasant Valley Road
- Travel 1.4 miles and make a right between the stone pillars into the Schiff Natural Lands Trust
- Make a left at the "T" at the far end of the roadway and follow the winding road for 0.5 miles to the top of the hill -
- Pass the two houses and follow the road into the parking lot.

From Chester:

- Travel 3.5 miles on Rte 24 from intersection of Main Street (Rte 513) and Rte 24
- Make a right at the blinking light onto Roxiticus Road. (Just past the Ralston Fire House)
- Travel 1.1 miles and make a left onto Union School House Road
- At the fork, make a left onto Pleasant Valley Road.
- Travel 0.1 miles and make a left through the stone pillars.
- Go straight until you reach the "T" and make a left.
- Travel 0.5 miles up the driveway
- Pass the two houses and follow the road into the parking lot.

From Basking Ridge/Bernardsville:

- Take North Finley Avenue from the center of Basking Ridge into Bernardsville
- At the traffic light make a left onto Rte 202
- At the next traffic light, in the center of town, turn right onto Anderson Hill Road. (This road turns into Mendham Road.)
- Travel approximately 2.5 miles, make a left onto Pleasant Valley Road
- Travel 1.4 miles and make a right between the stone pillars into the Schiff Natural Lands Trust
- Make a left at the "T" at the far end of the roadway and follow the winding road for 0.5 miles to the top of the hill
- Pass the two houses and follow the road into the parking lot.



Schiff Nature Preserve Team Roster

School or Group Name: _____ Date of Field Trip: _____

Please bring this form with you the day of your field trip!

Teacher (s) for this team:	
Chaperones for this team:	
Student names	Allergies/Medical Conditions/Special Needs?
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