

2011 Raccoon Mountain School Field Trip Guide

© 2 0 1 0 R A C C O O N M O U N T A I N C A V E R N S

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- Because caves stay the average temperature of an area, they can be used to study global warming and cooling trends
- Our cave is home to a variety of bats, salamanders, crickets, and even a rare, blind cave spider.
- Cave animals can be classified by the amount of time that they spend in a cave. Troglonenes are cave guests, trogloniles are cave lovers, and troglonites are cave dwellers
- Karst is a term given to areas where dissolving limestone plays a major part in land erosion. Karst areas have caves, springs, sinkholes, and disappearing streams.

VISIT TENNESSEE'S #1 RATED CAVE

A fascinating and educational field trip experience awaits your group just outside of Chattanooga, TN at Raccoon Mountain Caverns.

We invite you and your class to join us on the Crystal Palace Walking Tour – a 45-minute guided tour through the front portion of our vast cave system. Your students will be presented with a cave in its natural state and will view an impressive array of 100% natural formations including: stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, fossils, natural bridges, rimstone pools, and much more.

The Crystal Palace Tour is our “underground classroom” that features:

- A top rated cave in its natural state
- Ground level entry

- Constant 60° temperatures year round
- Bonus activities which emphasize ecology, safety, animal life, fossils, and white nose syndrome,
- Chance to view cave life in its natural habitat



The Crystal Palace Room pictured above is the largest cave formation chamber in the South.

- Teacher's Are Free !

We provide one complimentary teacher admission for every ten paid students when your group visits our cave. Teachers may visit anytime during the year and receive a complimentary tour simply by showing their identification card from a qualified public or

private school. We invite you to visit us on-line anytime at either www.raccoonmountain.com or www.wildcave.com

Contact Information:

Raccoon Mountain Caverns
319 West Hills Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37419

Phone: (423) 821-9403
(800) 823-2267

Fax: (423) 825-1289

E-mail:

raccoon1@raccoonmountain.com

WHITE NOSE SYNDROME

Over one million bats have died as a result of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) since it was first discovered in 2006. It is named for the fungus that covers bats as they hibernate. It has been spreading at the rate of about 200 miles (a bat's range) each year to the north, south, and west. It has been found in Tennessee, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

It is still unknown whether the fungus is the

cause or if there is an underlying condition that allows the fungus to take over. The fungus only affects bats and not humans.

Bats are the primary nocturnal insect eaters, with each bat capable of eating about 600 mosquitoes every hour during the summer. Since mosquitoes can spread various diseases, it is obvious why there is so much concern for bat populations.

A N A W A R D W I N N I N G C A V E

Raccoon Mountain Caverns is Tennessee's highest rated cave because it contains more formations and fossils in their natural state than any other cave in the state. In fact, our geologists estimate that over 85% of the formations in our cave are actively growing at some point during the year.

While many caves have small areas with limited formation growth, our cave has a di-

verse array of formations all along the lighted walking trail of the Crystal Palace Tour.

In our cave, your students will travel along a circular trail and are able to view new and varied formations around each corner. A circular pathway also means that your group can travel at its own pace without being disturbed by other touring groups.

We believe that smaller

group sizes enhance the learning experience, so large classes are divided into small touring groups that are led by a highly trained guide.

The Hall of Dreams is one of the driest sections of the cave visited on the Crystal Palace Tour. It contains large sections of flowstone, exposed fossils, cave bacon, delicate stalactites, and soda straws. It is also home to "The Raccoon's Den."



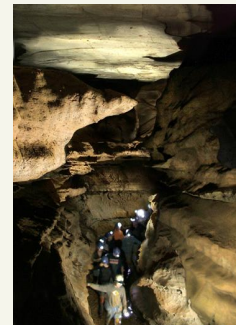
"Our students thoroughly enjoyed their time at Raccoon Mtn. Caverns. We had no idea that you existed and are thankful for the teacher that steered us in your direction"

E X P L O R E T H E W I L D C A V E

Wild Cave Expeditions are "spelunking" tours that take your students into the inner portions of our vast cave system. They will be provided with, and required to wear, helmets, lights, gloves, and pads to use during their tour as they experience a cave in its most natural state. While they will be walking most of the time, there will be times

when they will have to crawl, slide, and stoop walk. These tours are varied and include an Eco-Tour (~1-1.5 hrs) that focuses on viewing the life forms that exist within the delicate eco-system of the cave, along with 2-hour, 4-hour, and 6-hour tours that show the diversity within the cave, plus the opportunity to spend the night on an over-

night expedition. More information is available at www.wildcave.com.



E X C E P T I O N A L E D U C A T I O N A L V A L U E

Cave & Panning		Wild Cave Expeditions	
Crystal Palace Tour	4.00	Eco-Expedition	20.00
Gem Panning (large)	5.00	Fossil Crawl	24.00
Gem Panning (small)	3.85	Echo Room	30.00
Arrowhead Find	3.85	Gypsum Flower	36.00
Fossil Find	5.50	Overnight with Echo Room	40.00
		Overnight with Gypsum Flower	46.00

All rates are plus Tennessee sales tax. Public schools are automatically exempt from sales tax as they are classified as government units. However, private schools must have either a valid Federal 501(c)3 certificate or a Tennessee Department of Revenue Tax Exemption certificate. Most importantly, tax exempt groups must pay as a group in order to comply with Tennessee tax exemption requirements.



Your students will use traditional mining techniques to find hidden gemstones.