

At Severn Valley Country Park, we provide a wide range of outdoor educational activities for kids. Our activities are fun and entertaining and all link to the curriculum.



The park is full of history too. Our park, in part, was landscaped from derelict coal spoil heaps from the former collieries at Alveley and Highley. The area has a rich geology. Sandstone quarrying was a key industry before coal mining. With such a varied history in living memory, the park is a fascinating place!

The park is now an area for outdoor recreation as well as a haven for wildlife. We have a large visitor centre with a welcome area which tells our story. We have an indoor classroom and a covered patio area which is perfect for lunch time.

Severn Valley Country Park has 126 acres to explore. With many habitats, including woodlands, meadows, streams and ponds, we provide excellent outdoor learning spaces for children to get hands-on with nature.

In our woodlands we have a mini beast area with log piles ready for a hunt to begin. One of our larger ponds has a pond dipping platform large enough for a class to dip for fish and other pondlife. The River Severn flows through the park, making us the perfect location for a river study session.





There is ample parking space for cars, mini buses and coaches.

We have a sand pit play area as well as a river themed play trail and playground for children to enjoy and let off steam after a fun session of learning.

We also have a number of self-led nature trails to follow including an Easy Access Nature Trail which leads to our wetlands.

You can download a map of the park here to get a sense of what we have on offer.







## To book a session:

Call 01746 781 192 to chat to one of our rangers. You can discuss your visit, check availability and make a booking. We will send a completed booking form to confirm your booking.

#### Our costs:

1 session: £4.00 per child 2 sessions: £7.00 per child

Our sessions are detailed below. You can join us for 1 session or you can select 2 sessions and spend a full day with us. Please click the title for more information.



### **River Study**

The study of a river system, along with its flora and fauna is both interesting and informative, and forms one of our popular educational activities.



### **Mini-Beast Hunts**

Finding mini-beasts is very easy and great fun for all age groups. Children can act as nature detectives for an enjoyable but informative session looking at creatures in different

habitats, and finding out how and where they live.

## **Pond Dipping**

Pond dipping is a great method of sampling the rich diversity of life within a pond habitat and one of our



popular educational activities for kids. Children of all ages and abilities can investigate different habitats and discover the different creatures that live within them.

## **Orienteering**

While participating in an enjoyable physical activity, children can study various subjects such as geography, natural history and, of course, map reading, which makes this one of our most versatile educational activities for kids.



### **Mining our History**

Discovering our history will enable visiting children to learn fascinating stories of how people used to live and work in



the Severn Valley. The area was once an industrial landscape shaped by sandstone quarrying and coal mining which was transformed into the park.

### **Rock and Fossil Hunt**

Explore the formation of rocks and fossils in the Severn Valley. Get hands-on with a rock and fossil hunt on an exposed area of coal spoil in the country park.



<u>Scavenger Hunt</u> This is a simple activity in which children are given a list of things to find and collect. It is one of our shortest but most entertaining educational activities for kids. The list can include shapes or colours as well as naturally occurring objects such as feathers and leaves.



'Mining Our History' and 'Rock and Fossil Hunt' are new activities which have been produced as part of Severn Valley Lives in the Landscape project. This project has been funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Shropshire Council and The Jean Jackson Charitable Trust.











# What your day will look like.....

Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoon sessions begin at 12.30pm. (We are flexible on times and can discuss with you what is suitable for your needs.)

Your session will be led by an experienced ranger who will help you make the most of your time with us.

On arrival, you will be greeted by our rangers who will show you to the welcome area. This will be where you can leave your lunches and belongings.

Before the session starts, there will be time to wash hands and use the toilet facilities.

Lunch can be taken on one of our many picnic areas including our covered patio area by the visitor centre.



We will provide all the equipment needed for the sessions. We just ask that the children wear appropriate clothing.

If you are with us for 1 ranger led session, you are welcome to stay after the session ends and explore more of the park yourselves.



### Pre visits and risk assessments

We are happy to welcome teachers for a free pre-visit. This can be arranged with our rangers.

Our risk assessments are available to download here:

Site risk assessment

Play area risk assessment

**River Study** 

Mini Beast Hunt

**Pond Dipping** 

Orienteering

Scavenger Hunt

Mining Our History

**Rock and Fossil Hunt** 







## **Group sizes**

One ranger can lead a group of 35 children. If you are bringing over 35 children, for example, 2 classes then we will provide 2 rangers. We do ask that you ensure that there is 1 adult to every 8 children to help support the rangers leading the activities.



#### What to wear

Our activities will be outdoors and will go ahead even if it is raining. Please remember to bring waterproofs.



Please wear clothing that can get dirty. Layers of clothing are helpful in changeable weather and long sleeves and full length trousers will help prevent sunburn, bites and scratches.

#### In the summer

Lightweight long sleeves and long trousers; Sturdy shoes/trainers or wellies; Sun cream, sun hat and insect repellent.

#### In the winter

Long sleeves, trousers and warm layers; Hat, gloves and scarf; Sturdy shoes/trainers or wellies.

Consider bringing spare clothes—just in case!

## How to make sure you have a safe and enjoyable visit

-Our activities will continue in almost all weather conditions. In the event of poor weather we are happy to alter the timetable to make the most out of the day. In cases of extreme weather, a joint decision will be made between the ranger and school.

-We have a wide number of picnic tables in various locations around the park, near our play areas and visitor centre. If the weather is poor, indoor space will be made available for lunch.

-Please wear appropriate clothing. See details above.

-Please note that the school will be responsible for first aid. Schools are also responsible for the behaviour and discipline of children.

-Please keep with your group and follow the instructions given by the ranger.

-Please be cautious around water.

-Please respect other people visiting the park.

-Please do not approach or pet dogs at the park. They may be nervous.

-Please treat wildlife kindly and do not pick wild flowers unless the ranger says it is ok to do so.

-Please put litter in the bins provided.

We look forward to welcoming you to Severn Valley Country Park



