

Opportunities for Environmental Education at the University of Kansas Field Station

Our mission is to foster scholarly research, environmental education, and science-based stewardship of natural resources.

The University of Kansas Field Station (KUFS) affords numerous opportunities for field-based environmental education. We provide facilities that permit exploration of diverse themes, but through our community of scientists and developing network of partners, we also provide the framework for an unusually rich educational environment.

Examples of activities include:

- Class field trips
- Science or service club outings
- Student research involvement
- Teacher training workshops



Facilities

KUFS, a program of the Kansas Biological Survey, was established in 1947. It now consists of 3400 acres of diverse native and managed habitats, experimental research installations, support facilities, outdoor shelters, on-site classrooms and laboratories, and interpretative trails available for a variety of educational purposes. The recent acquisition of a key parcel of land designed largely for public use has opened the door to exciting teaching possibilities:

Fitch Natural History Reservation and McColl Nature Reserve



- Explore forest, grassland, stream, wetland, and pond environments
- Hike 4 miles of self-guided nature trails (and traverse a wooden bridge)
- Outdoor shelter house with picnic tables, water, and restroom facilities
- Parking for vans and school buses



Armitage Education Center

- Classroom and lecture accommodations for 30-40
- Laboratory space available
- Kitchen facilities
- Two small, 5-person sleeping cabins for overnight use

We welcome educational groups to KUFS. However, given the major focus on research, it is imperative that visitors to the station do not disturb ongoing research projects or sensitive ecosystems. We ask your cooperation so we can maintain our facilities and habitats for both research and education!



People and Information Bases



A strength of KUFS resides in its scientific community. More than 70 faculty, staff, students, and other professionals are actively engaged in research at the station. There may be opportunities for students to work with cooperating investigators and to undertake their own research. Teaching units and independent study can investigate a spectrum of environmental issues. Synoptic collections of plants, biotic inventories, climate data, long-term databases, and core data supporting geographic information system technology and computerized mapping permit tremendous experiential opportunities for students and teachers.



We invite inquiries as to how KUFS and members of its scientific community can provide research experiences for students and others. However, please be aware that we do not currently have an interpretative staff, and that involvement of our researchers is totally voluntary and dependent on their availability.



Administration



Currently there are no fees charged to education or other non-profit groups using the trails, classrooms, or laboratories; however, there is a fee for overnight cabin use. KUFS is administered by the Kansas Biological Survey, a research and service unit of the University of Kansas. For information about scheduling an event at KUFS, please contact Galen Pittman at 785-843-8573; for additional information about KUFS please contact Dean Kettle at 785-864-1540 or visit our website www.ksr.ku.edu