

## Keep Gastonia Beautiful Environmental Education Programming 25/26 School Year

We offer a variety of FREE educational programs designed for public, private, charter, and homeschool groups. Each program is tailored for a single classroom presentation and covers engaging, standards-aligned content. To register your class or grade level, please click on the Request form below. Once your registration is submitted, a staff member assigned to your school will contact you to confirm your date and finalize the details. For more information on any of our programs you can reach out to **[keepgastoniabeautifulnc@gmail.com](mailto:keepgastoniabeautifulnc@gmail.com)** and the staff person assigned to your school will contact you.

[Click here to sign up your class or grade level](#)

Keep Gastonia Beautiful - First Semester Programming			
K	Super Trees Through the Seasons	Superheroes come in all shapes and sizes. Learn the 5 superhero traits of the biggest plants on Earth: TREES! Student interactive presentation as we explore the benefits of trees throughout the year. NC Science Standards Correlations: ESS.K.1, LS.K.2	30 minutes
1	Busy as a Bee	The statement, "Busy as a Bee", will be introduced to students as they act out various jobs which bees perform over their short lives. The colony is dependent on all of them performing their tasks - in a similar way that students are important in our school & home communities. The program ends with students dancing the popular bee "Waggle Dance" NC SS & Science Standards Correlation: 1.C&G.1, LS.1.1	30 minutes
2	Eyes on Nature	Using powers of observation, students will use tools to help them focus on discoveries outside. By identifying qualities of existing habitats, students will be encouraged to improve an outdoor space and return to journal about seasonal changes as well as search for eggs, larvae, nymphs, and adults of various organisms. NC Science Standards Correlation: LS.2.1	45 minutes
3	Waste Detectives	Starting inside with a short introduction on waste, we will then move outside as third graders to sort another grade's classroom trash. Using pickers and instructive charts, students will sort and weigh different types of garbage to create data to share with the school. Each class will investigate a different grade and compare data sets. NC SS Standards Correlation: 3.G.1	45 minutes
4	Wanderin' about Watersheds?	What's a watershed? Which one do you live in? These questions and more will be answered as students learn the nomenclature and perform experiments involving how the water cycle truly impacts their lives. This lesson is the first of an ongoing series that will be released over time. Learn what stormwater is and how we can impact it both positively or negatively. NC Science Standards Correlations: LS.4.2	45 minutes

5	Vermicompost & the Soil Food Web	Introducing students to the “superhero” of composting - Worms! We will investigate food waste and its effect on landfills and the air. Students will examine live worms and build a worm hotel from repurposed plastic soda bottles. Classes will be able to keep this ecosystem throughout the school year in order to observe the worms’ living and eating patterns. NC Science Standards Correlation: LS.5.2	60 minutes
<b>Keep Gastonia Beautiful - Second Semester Programming</b>			
K	Sea Turtle Survival	Students will be engaged in the non-fiction story of Duffy, a sea turtle, who was rescued after mistakenly eating plastic trash. After discovering ways to reduce our use of plastics, the class will join in a “fishing out plastic expedition” to save Duffy. NC Science & SS Standards Correlation: LS.K.1, K.G.2	30 minutes
1	Earth Magic	Watch a magical production as we mix the most important parts of what makes the Earth so special - sun, air, water, plants, soil, and animals...and people. Students will take home a little piece of Earth Magic at the end of the program. NC Science Standards Correlation: ESS.1.3	30 minutes
2	Recycle Jams	Dive into the world of sound by crafting your very own musical instruments from recycled materials! In this hands-on adventure, young creators will explore how soundwaves work while learning the importance of reusing and recycling. Build, play, and discover the science of sound and the power of conservation—together! NC Science Standards Correlation: PS.2.2	30 minutes
3	Project Pollination	Bees and other pollinators are vital to our agricultural economy. After exploring the how’s and why’s of pollination, students will actually take on the role of a Stamen, a Pistil or a Bee in the fast-paced Project Pollination Game. This action-packed learning game works best outside with lots of room for our pollinators to get to work. NC Science Standards Correlation: LS.3.3	45 minutes
4	Eco-nomic Showdown!	Students will participate in an interactive gameshow connecting economics with the environment. Students compete in rounds to review Supply & Demand, finite versus renewable resources, and how the entrepreneurial drive (shark tank style) will be the next steps in sustainability. NC SS Standards Correlation: 4.E.1.1, 4.E.1.2, 4.E.1.3	45 min
5	Wrapping Up the Food Web	Students will complete the 1st Semester Vermicomposting Experiment by harvesting the worm castings and disassembling their worm hotel. They will investigate the ecosystem by looking for and identifying producers, consumers and decomposers in this hands-on Food Web wrap up. EOG Science Review	30 minutes

## Louie the Litterbug Programming

*Louie is available to visit your classroom anytime throughout the school year.  
We do request no programming before Labor Day.*

K	Louie the Litterbug Meets Michael Recycle	"Louie," the Litterbug puppet, visits your classroom and presents the story of "Michael Recycle." Students will learn to waste less and reuse more. They will become environmentally aware of what they can do in their classroom and community. Mental and Emotional Health K.MEH.1.3 Social Studies K.G.2.2	30 minutes
1	Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug	"Louie," the Litterbug puppet, visits your classroom and presents the story of "Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug." Students will learn to waste less and reuse more. They will become environmentally aware of what they can do in their classroom and community. NC Science Standards Correlation: Science 1.L.1.3	30 minutes

# THE FUN CONTINUES... OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

## ADOPT A PLAYGROUND

This program is to encourage schools to adopt the street in front of their school or clean their playground. The adopted areas are to be cleaned, at least, every 2 months.

- If your school is within the City Limits of Gastonia you will get a personalized road sign acknowledgement.
- We will provide: trash bags, gloves, and safety vests for use

Celebrate your school's successful cleanup efforts on social media and show school pride!

Contact [jeffie.hardin@gastonianc.gov](mailto:jeffie.hardin@gastonianc.gov) to learn more



## BLACK GOLD

Black Gold is available to all schools who have a school garden or want to beautify their school property. Only available during March/April and September/October. Delivery is not available.

What Is Black Gold?

Black Gold consists exclusively of ground compost from leaves collected from Gastonia residences and municipal properties. It contains no dyes, artificial fertilizers, or additives of any kind.

Contact [Jeffie.Hardin@gastonianc.gov](mailto:Jeffie.Hardin@gastonianc.gov) to learn more

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## FIELD TRIP STOP OVERTS



## STORYWALK

Our StoryWalk is located at Rankin Lake 1750 Rankin Lake Road. Start your journey by the boathouse and end right by the pavilions. This is an all paved path along the waterfront. Students will be able to walk a short path at Rankin Lake and read a page of a book at each stop. Head over and check out what book is on display as books change almost monthly!

## TALKING TREES TRAIL

Our Talking Trees trail is located at Lineberger Park.

The Talking Trees Trail is an educational walking trail designed to teach students about the variety of trees in our local environment.

The Trail is self-guided. Students interact directly with the trails "talking birdhouses," hearing information and fun facts about 10 tree species native to North Carolina.

