

## RETENTION PONDS: WHO'S THERE?

### DIRECTIONS:

1. **STAY WITH YOUR GROUP!** Enjoy the day, but stay focused on the task: to find out and document who's there? This is a group task with each of you playing an important role in its accomplishment. Treat each other with care you would like to receive.
2. **LISTEN FOR DIRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTION and MOVE QUICKLY WHEN ASKED.** We must cross a major roadway to reach our destination and return. This must be accomplished safely for both us and the drivers. Therefore, we must move together as a group, no stragglers. Further, we must accomplish our task at the pond and return to school for our next class. To maximize our time at the pond, we must walk quickly there and back to school.
4. **MOVE WITH CAUTION AROUND THE WATER.** No one wishes to spend the day with wet, dirty shoes or clothes because of an accident. Watch where you step and save play for the playground.
5. **TREAT THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS WITH RESPECT AND CARE!** Disturb as little of the water and plants as possible. Find paths through the vegetation without trampling the plants. Return the animals to the water when you're finished observing them. This is their home and our research site. Both must be preserved.
6. **DOCUMENT YOUR OBSERVATIONS.** Use your notebook and pencil to describe and draw. Be careful to hold on to both or put them in a safe place when you collect samples. Remember to include the basic information of date, time, and weather conditions, such as clouds, air movement temperature, etc., and your feelings. Title your drawings and label the parts. Include measurements. Be detailed. Use color and texture. Describe the plants and animals and their behavior. State where, specifically, you found them. For example, were they under an oak leaf or skimming on top of the water? Were they at the bottom or just below the surface? Use the form below as a guide to the types of information you should include.
7. **USE YOUR EQUIPMENT APPROPRIATELY.** Take turns. Everyone in your group should learn to use all of the equipment. You are responsible for the return, cleaning, and checking in of all your equipment. Be sure you have all of it before leaving the site.



## POND VISIT CHECKLIST

### Each Class:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Whistle
- \_\_\_\_\_ Compass
- \_\_\_\_\_ Watch
- \_\_\_\_\_ Graphing Calculator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nets: If possible, each small group should have one each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aquatic (at least 3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sweep (at least 2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Water Chemistry Equipment:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Water Chemistry test strips
- \_\_\_\_\_ LabPro/Probes (pH, DO, turbidity, temperature, salinity, calcium)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Insect Repellant
- \_\_\_\_\_ First Aid Kit (including anti-bacterial lotion, wipes)

### Each Group:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Field Guides:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pond Animals, Plants, Mammals, Birds
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plastic Egg Carton
- \_\_\_\_\_ Underwater viewer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Waterproof Boots
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Baster
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spoon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forceps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dish Pan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sieve
- \_\_\_\_\_ Large Sample Container with lid
- \_\_\_\_\_ Small Sample Container with lid
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meter/yard Stick
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stopwatch/timer

### Each Student:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Notebook and Score Sheet
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand lens on neck loop
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rubber Gloves
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pond Map
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pencils