

McGEE'S

Louisiana Swamp Tours & Adventures

*Fostering appreciation of Louisiana's swamps through
immersive and educational experiences.*



FIELD TRIP GUIDE



1337 Henderson Levee Rd., Henderson, LA 70517
www.mcgeesswamptours.com 337-228-2384

What's Inside:

- How to Use This Guide
- About McGee's
- Program Details
- Policies
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- Example Itineraries
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How to Use This Guide

Welcome to Louisiana's largest outdoor classroom! We are excited you and your students can join us for an on-site learning experience. This guide is here to assist you! We understand that implementing a field trip is not an easy task, and we want to make the process as smooth as possible. The goal is for all participants to have a clear understanding and realistic expectations for the field trip.

About McGee's

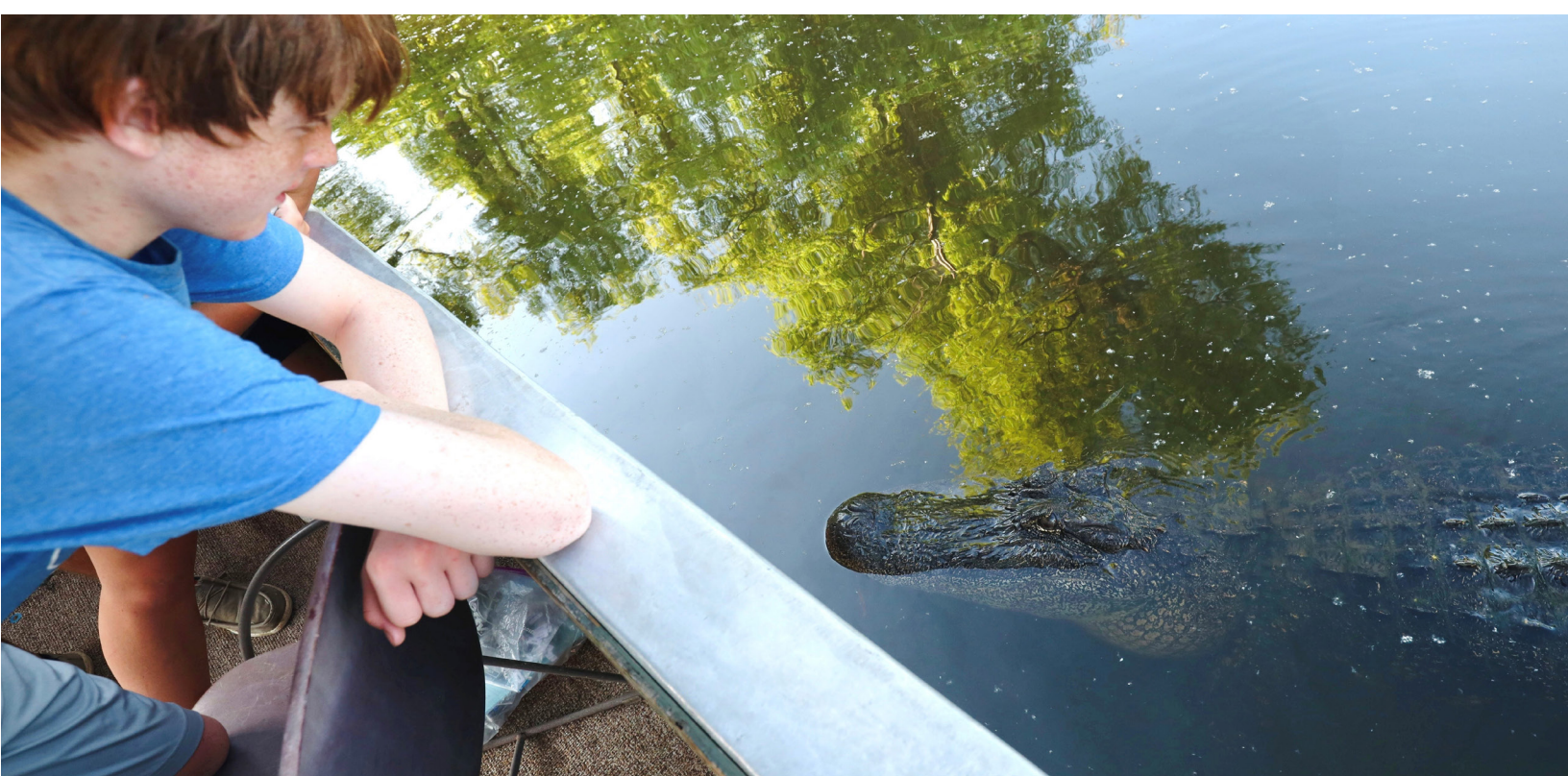
At the beginning of 2017, the McGee's property was purchased from the Allemond Family by Louisiana Swamp Base, Inc., a non-profit adventure and conservation program affiliated with Scouting America. Swamp Base's goal is to immerse people from all over the world into the unique and often misunderstood wilderness of America's greatest swamp, the Atchafalaya Basin. McGee's helps fulfill this goal by providing insightful, entertaining, and educational tours to the general public, tour companies, and school groups.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Swamp Tour

Depart on a 90-minute tour through the Atchafalaya Basin on one of our comfortable tour boats. While on the tour, you'll explore the diverse natural beauty and rich ecological systems of America's largest and most mysterious ecosystem. Tour guides will share personal experiences of the swamp, and historical and cultural information about the various people that have called the Atchafalaya home — all while pointing out the abundant plants of the area and getting up close and personal with the wildlife.

- **Capacities:** Our tour boats can hold up to 90 people at a time. If your field trip will have more than 90 people, we can accommodate groups of up to 180 through our rotational onshore programs. Half of your group will enjoy a 90-minute boat tour, while the other half participates in educational programs onshore. *Please see the menu of onshore programs available to your students to select which programs best suit your group. Groups of over 90 are required to select 3 onshore programs.
- **Grades:** Our Swamp Tour is suitable for all grades.
- **State Standards:** www.mcgeesswamptours.com/field-trips
- **Cost:** \$22 per student for groups smaller than 90
\$27 per student for groups larger than 90.*



PROGRAM DETAILS

Paddle Excursion

These guided canoe trips are great for older students looking for more adventure. Whether your students are new to paddling or seasoned adventurers, our various trails will be able to accommodate you and your group's thirst for exploration. Our guided paddles for students offer a unique and eco-friendly way to experience the swamp by quietly gliding among the cypress trees. Not only will the experience teach your students about the swamp, it will also foster communication, leadership, team building skills, and fellowship.

- **Capacities:** Our canoe guides can take groups of up to 36 on a 2-hr canoe trip
- **Grades:** Middle School and High School
- **State Standards Covered:** www.mcgeesswamptours.com/field-trips
- **Cost:** \$22 per person. Includes canoe, paddle, life jacket, and a canoe guide



PROGRAM DETAILS

Onshore Programs

Onshore programs provide an opportunity for students to be further enriched by their swamp field trip. Programs align with various subjects, such as ELA, science, and PE.

For groups larger than 90 students, teachers must select three onshore programs for your students to rotate through while half of the group is on a swamp tour. For groups smaller than 90 students, you may select onshore programs to add to your field trip either before or after your swamp tour.

Onshore programs are designed to facilitate classes of up to 30 students. Please select an appropriate number of programs to work with your group size. Example: 60 students would need to rotate through at least 2 programs.

Cost:

- Three programs \$5 per student



PROGRAM DETAILS

Alligator Experience

Your students can get up close and personal with live baby alligators. By breaking the myths and misconceptions about the species, students will learn more about the resiliency of alligators and their amazing come back from the endangered species list.

Standards Addressed:

- Kindergarten: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1
- First Grade: 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1
- Second Grade: 2-LS4-1
- Third Grade: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4
- Fourth Grade: 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 4-ESS2-3
- Fifth Grade: 5-ESS3-1
- Sixth Grade: 6-MS-ESS3-4, 6-MS-LS2-1, 6-MS-LS2-2
- Seventh Grade: 7-MS-LS2-4, 7-MS-LS4-4
- Eighth Grade: 8-MS-ESS3-3, 8-MS-LS1-4, 8-MS-LS1-5, 8-MS-LS4-1, 8-MS-LS4-2

Program is suitable for all grades.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Invasion! (Invasive Species Activity)

What is an invasive plant and how can we help? Through physical games, students will learn about the damages invasive plants cause and the efforts that conservationists put forth to mitigate that damage. Students will also learn how they can help stop invasive plants in their own communities.

Standards Addressed:

- Second Grade: 2-LS4-1
- Third Grade: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4
- Fourth Grade: 4-ESS2-3
- Fifth Grade: 5-ESS2-3
- Sixth Grade: 6-MS-ESS3-4, 6-MS-LS2-1, 6-MS-LS2-2
- Seventh Grade: 7-MS-LS2-4, 7-MS-LS2-5, 7-LS3-2
- Eighth Grade: 8-MS-ESS3-3, 8-MS-LS1-5

Program is recommended for grades 1st to 12th.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Poet-tree (Bald Cypress Tree Study)

Our state's majestic cypress trees have sparked inspiration among people of all kinds. Your students will learn more about bald cypress trees and the important role they play in wetlands. After a brief discussion and observation of cypress trees in nature, students will compose a unique "picture poem" to take home or back to the classroom.

Standards Addressed (Science and ELA):

- Third Grade: 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 3-ESS3-1, W.3.1, W.3.2, W.3.4, W.3.8, SL.3.1, SL.3.2, SL.3.3, L.3.1, L.3.2
- Fourth Grade: 4-LS1-1, 4-ESS2-3, 4-ESS3-2, W.4.1, W.4.2, W.4.3, W.4.4, SL.4.3, L.4.1, L.4.2, L.4.6
- Fifth Grade: 5-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1, W.5.1, W.5.1, W.5.2, W.5.3, W.5.4, SL.5.1, SL.5.2, SL.5.3, L.5.1, L.5.2
- Sixth Grade: 6-ESS3-4, W.6.1, W.6.2, W.6.3, W.6.4, SL.6.1, SL.6.3, L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, L.6.6
- Seventh Grade: 7-LS2-5, 7-LS2-4, W.7.1, W.7.2, W.7.3, W.7.4, SL.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.6
- Eighth Grade: 8-ESS3-3, 8-LS1-4, 8-LS1-5, W.8.1, W.8.2, W.8.3, W.8.4, SL.8.1, L.8.6

Program is recommended for grades 3rd to 12th.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Water Hyacinth Dissection

Students will take a closer look at one of Louisiana's most devastating invasive plants, learn about its unique adaptations, and talk through potential ways they can help mitigate damages done by invasive plants and animals.

Standards Addressed: Coming Soon!

Program is best suited to 4th Grade and older.

Swamp Story & Song Time

Perfect for lower elementary grades! Students will enjoy listening to a story that helps them forge personal connections with wetland environments and sing along with the Alligator Song.

Standards Addressed: Coming Soon!

Program is best suited to lower elementary grades.

Animal Evidence

The Atchafalaya Swamp is home to more than 400 species of wildlife, but many animals that call the swamp home are shy and can be difficult to spot. In this activity students will learn about the evidence animals leave behind, discuss animal evidence seen on their swamp tour, and make an animal track art piece to bring home or back to the classroom.

Standards Addressed: Coming Soon!

Program is best suited to grades K through 5th.

PROGRAM DETAILS

What's a Watershed?

This program gives students a hands-on understanding of what a watershed is and why it matters. Students will be introduced to simple hydrology concepts, build their own model watershed, and observe how pollution can spread through it.

Standards Addressed: Coming Soon!

Program is recommended for grades 5th to 12th.

Team Building Games

Students will foster and build social, emotional, and cognitive life skills, all while having fun with our team building challenges. Hands-on challenges will encourage students to strategize, support one another, and think creatively to accomplish shared goals.

Standards Addressed: Coming Soon!

Program is recommended for grades 6th to 12th.



POLICIES

Safety

1. With the exception of visiting our gift shop and restrooms, all activities and programs will take place outside. Please be aware of the risks of recreating outdoors.
2. Please keep an eye out for fire ants. Make students aware ants may be in grassy areas.
3. Stay hydrated! We recommend bringing a water bottle, but we also sell drink and snack concessions in the gift shop if needed. Louisiana temperatures can be hot.
4. Avoid sunburn. Even though our boats have a roof, the sun's rays can be exacerbated while on the water. We recommend bringing and wearing sunscreen on bright days.
5. Wear outdoor appropriate clothing and shoes. Close-toed, close-heeled shoes are best. On cold days, the wind in the swamp can be chilly. Please wear the necessary outerwear to remain comfortable.
6. First Aid kits are in our gift shop and on every tour boat. Please find a staff member should you need to access one while on your field trip.
7. Due to the size and safety ratings of our tour boats, life jackets are not required to be worn while on your tour. There are life jackets for all passengers located on all of tour boats if needed.
8. Do not approach or harass any wildlife. Alligators are normally very shy, but can be unpredictable if provoked.

Severe / Inclement Weather

McGee's Swamp Tours reserves the right to close its facilities in the event of approaching or forecasted severe weather. If this occurs, your field trip will be rescheduled by McGee's staff.

POLICIES

Adult Group Leaders

- An adult leader must be present for each student group. We encourage one adult per 10 students.
 - Please be sure all adult group leaders understand their duties before the visit. Group leaders should:
 - Ensure students in his/her group behave appropriately.
 - Assist staff in providing a positive learning experience.
 - Stay with their students at all times and help them move through the provided programs.
 - Assist students with their purchases while visiting the gift shop (if applicable).
-

Parents & Extra Chaperons

All parents and extra chaperones participating in the swamp tour are required to purchase a ticket (\$22 per person).

Extra parents and chaperones riding the swamp tour should be included in the total headcount provided to McGee's by the lead teacher prior to your field trip.

POLICIES

Gift Shop

- Students may visit our gift shop to make souvenir and snack purchases.
 - All prices listed on items include tax, to help students better tally their totals before reaching the register.
 - To help expedite the checkout process, students should have what they want and their money ready before approaching the register.
 - Cash, debit, and credit cards are accepted.
-

Lunch

- Your group is welcome to eat lunch onsite or back at school.
- All lunches onsite are picnic style. We have a brand-new 4,000 square foot covered pavilion along with picnic table seating to accommodate approximately 120 people. Many field trip groups pack picnic blankets to spread out on the levees and on the McGee's greenspace if they prefer eating in the sun.



OUTREACH PROGRAMS

McGee's Swamp Tours can now bring the swamp to your school! Immerse your students in the mysteries and wonders of the Atchafalaya Swamp in your own classroom. Hands-on programs provide students with valuable connections to their own communities and ecosystems. Used in combination with a field trip to McGee's, these standards-based, classroom experiences provide students and teachers with the ultimate programs.

Grow with the Flow

Watch landforms develop before your very eyes with our interactive erosion table, sponsored by Cox Communications.

- **Students will:**
 - Learn how Louisiana was created
 - Experience how altering the environment can lead to both positive and negative outcomes
 - Gain a greater understanding about the importance of water
 - Explore various adaptations that living things undergo
 - Acknowledge that they can make choices to reduce their impact on the environment
- State Standards Addressed: www.mcgeesswamptours.com/school-programs



OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Swamp Superpowers

Learn about the special adaptations or “powers” of the plants and animals (including humans) that call the Atchafalaya Basin home through interactions with LIVE animals facilitated by a McGee’s Interpreter.

- **Students will:**
 - Get up close and personal with a few residents of the Atchafalaya Basin.
 - Explore the benefits and challenges living things face in swamp environments
 - Gain understanding about the connectivity of ecological systems.
- State Standards Addressed: www.mcgeesswamptours.com/school-programs



EXAMPLE ITINERARIES

Group Larger than 90 Students

9:00 AM: Arrival @ McGee's Swamp Tours

Group A

9:15 AM - 10:45 AM: Swamp Tour

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Onshore Programs

Group B

9:15 AM - 10:45 AM: Onshore Programs

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Swamp Tour

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 PM Departure back to school

*Itineraries will be tailored to your field trip's needs and arrival time.
We will send you a customized itinerary before your McGee's Field Trip.
Please let us know if you have any special itinerary needs.*

Group Smaller than 90 Students

9:00 AM: Arrival @ McGee's Swamp Tours

Group A

9:15 AM - 10:45 AM: Swamp Tour

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Onshore Programs

Group B

N/A

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch

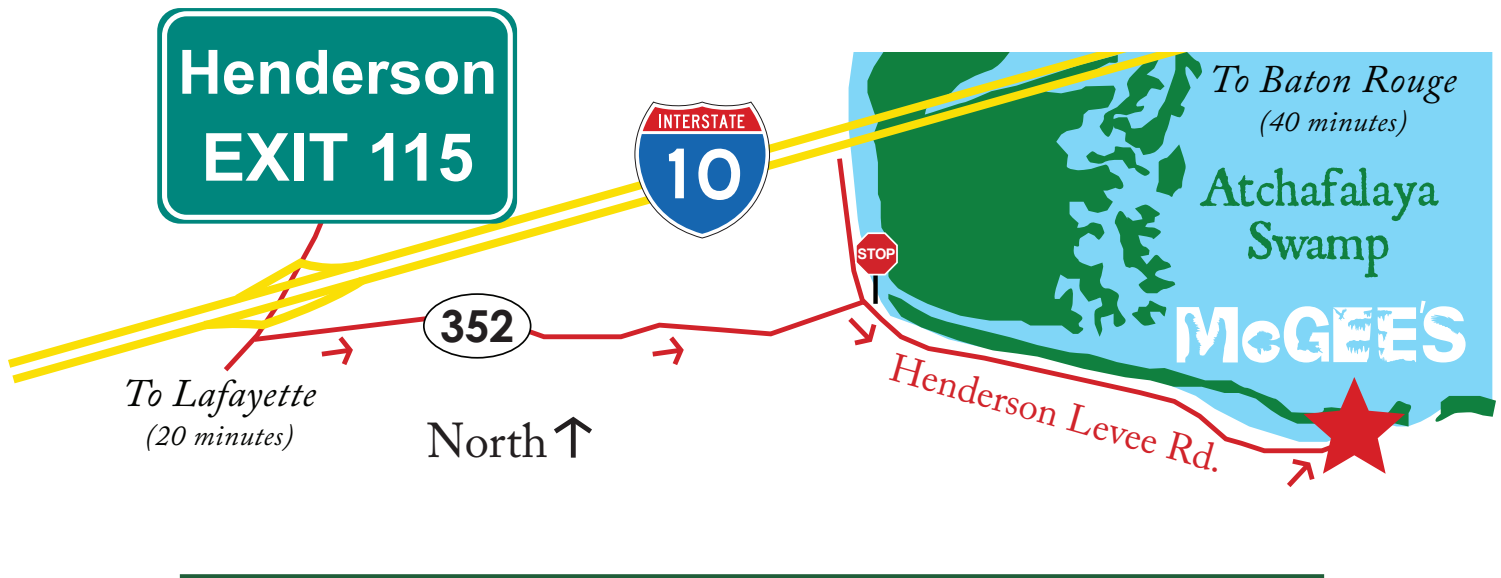
1:00 PM Departure back to school

*Itineraries will be tailored to your field trip's needs and arrival time.
We will send you a customized itinerary before your McGee's Field Trip.
Please let us know if you have any special itinerary needs.*

DIRECTIONS / PARKING

McGee's is located between Lafayette and Baton Rouge, Louisiana and just 2-hours west of New Orleans.

Take I-10 Exit 115, then turn onto LA 352. Travel 2.7 miles to the stop sign at the Henderson Levee Rd. Turn right, then 2 miles down on the left. Cross over the levee for McGee's.



Parking

- Please fill the parking area to the left of our building with personal vehicles first. When that parking area is filled, you may park in the lot to the right of our building.
- Bus parking is to the right of our building, parallel to the levee.
- Please do not block the boat ramp, as it is used by public boaters and as the bus turn around point.
- In the unlikely event that our parking lot is full, additional parking can be found across the highway. Access to the overflow parking can be found to the right, immediately past (approx. 100 yards) the McGee's entrance driveway. Please be careful walking across the highway and up the levee.

REQUIRED FORMS

McGee's Swamp Tours understands that serving and educating students in a safe manner is our number priority. Because of this, we require each field trip group to complete the following forms prior to arriving for your field trip. The further in advance these documents are provided to McGee's, the smoother your experience will be when you arrive, which means more time and fun for everyone!

Required Forms Checklist:

- ☐ Field Trip Request Form
- ☐ Risk Acknowledgement Waiver
- ☐ Life Jacket Form
- ☐ Media Release



FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

Please Complete the Entire Form

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Grade Level: _____ School District: _____

Requested Date #1: _____

Requested Date #2: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

of Students: _____ # of Classes: _____ # of Teachers/Staff: _____

of Chaperones/Parents: _____ # of Buses: _____

Preferred Arrival Time: _____

Do your students plan to eat lunch at McGee's: _____ Yes *or* _____ No

RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The State of Louisiana legislature hereby recognizes that there are inherent risks in various adventure, educational, or recreational activities in the Atchafalaya Basin which should be understood by the participants and which are essentially impossible for nonprofit youth organizations and their providers to completely eliminate. As a "participant" at McGee's Ventures dba McGee's Swamp Tours, you are engaging in an "adventure, educational, or recreational activities" sponsored by a nonprofit youth organization or provider at a "youth adventure center" in the Atchafalaya Basin.

It is the intent of this document to make aware that the adventure, educational, or recreational activities of this company are hazardous to participants, regardless of all feasible safety measures which have been taken.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPANT:

1. Each participant in an adventure or recreational activity expressly assumes the risk of and legal responsibility for any injury, loss or damage to person or property which results from participation in an activity. It is the responsibility of the participant to know their own ability to participate in a particular adventure, educational, or recreational activity, and that the participant should act within the limits of their own ability, heeding all posted warnings, acting in accordance with the instructions of any employee and only within a designated area or facility identified by the nonprofit or provider, and refraining from acting in a manner which may cause or contribute to the injury of anyone.
2. The participant must remain in the area or facility in the event of an accident causing injury, unless the participant leaves personal information and contact information, notifies the authorities, or obtains assistance when that participant knows or reasonably should know that any other person involved in the accident is in need of medical or other assistance.
3. All necessary equipment for activities is provided at McGee's Swamp Tours and participants must properly use the equipment and personal protective equipment fitted and worn at all times.
4. Participants under the age of eighteen or of any age who have a legally appointed guardian shall also require the acknowledgment of their parent or legal guardian with regard to their duties.

ACTIVITY HAZARDS:

McGee's Swamp Tours strives to minimize risks to participants through emphasizing proper safety precautions. McGee's Swamp Tours makes it known that there are dangerous traits or characteristics or physical impairments or conditions related to any particular adventure, educational, or recreational activity. *Be it known that through due diligence, McGee's Swamp Tours has identified the following, but is not limited to the list of hazards stated below.*

Climatic Condition Hazards

- Prolonged sun exposure
- High heat with humidity
- Cold weather with humidity
- Severe weather and thunderstorms
- Sustained rain storms
- Tropical weather systems (hurricanes, tropical storms, and disturbances)

Wildlife

Though all wildlife can be considered hazardous, proper precautions must be made when dealing with the following species:

- Reptiles – including American alligators, snakes, and turtles
- Insects – including wasps/hornets, bees, ants, chiggers, ticks, red bugs, and mosquitoes
- Spiders – including black widows and brown recluses
- Birds – including bald eagles, osprey, hawks, and wading birds
- Fish – including Asian carp, alligator gar, and catfish
- Mammals – including raccoons, squirrels, wild hogs, and Louisiana black bears

Aquatic Environment

- Drowning
- Underwater obstructions
- Bacteria from ingestion
- Other boaters

RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT (continued)

Land Environment

- Steep banks
- Uneven surfaces
- Obstructions along waterway
- Tall grasses or shrubs
- Poison Ivy

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NONPROFIT OR PROVIDER:

1. The nonprofit or provider must make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of a participant to safely engage in an adventure, educational, or recreational activity.
2. The nonprofit youth organization or provider shall be liable for any of the following:
 - a. Injury, loss, or damage directly resulting from the failure to follow any of the duties set forth in Subsection C of Louisiana ACT No. 437.
 - b. Acts or omissions which constitute gross negligence or willful and wanton conduct which is the direct cause of injury to a participant.
3. The nonprofit youth organization or provider shall not be liable for any of the following:
 - a. Injury, loss, or damage caused by the negligence of any person who is not an agent or employee of the nonprofit youth organization or provider.

PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT - UNDERSTANDING OF RISKS:

I have read and understand the information provided in this acknowledgement that summarizes the potentially dangerous elements of the adventure, educational, or recreational activities at McGee's Swamp Tours as well as liability limitations, restrictions and responsibilities pertaining to me as a participant as required by Louisiana law. I accept responsibility for providing accurate information to the staff regarding any physical or medical condition I may have, knowledge or ability with respect to the activities and any other information which may affect my safe participation. I further understand that it is my sole responsibility while at McGee's Swamp Tours to adhere to all restrictions; including medical and non-medical restrictions pertaining to program participation and that McGee's Swamp Tours cannot monitor or track my compliance. I understand that it is my sole responsibility to understand and adhere to all restrictions.

Participant Printed Name

Participant Signature & Date

PARENT OR GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR PARTICIPANT UNDER AGE 18:

As the parent or legal guardian of the participant whose name appears above, I have read and understand the information provided in this acknowledgement that summarizes the potentially dangerous elements of the adventure, educational, or recreational activities at McGee's Swamp Tours as well as liability limitations, restrictions and responsibilities pertaining to me as a participant as required by Louisiana law. I accept responsibility for providing accurate information to the staff regarding any physical or medical condition I may have, knowledge or ability with respect to the activities and any other information which may affect my safe participation. I further understand that it is my sole responsibility while at McGee's Swamp Tours to adhere to all restrictions; including medical and non-medical restrictions pertaining to program participation and that McGee's Swamp Tours cannot monitor or track my compliance. I understand that it is my sole responsibility to understand and adhere to all restrictions.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

LIFE JACKET REQUEST

Due to the size of swamp tour our boats, the U.S. Coast Guard does not require our guests to wear a life jacket. However, if you require your student/child to wear a life jacket, we will have one available for them. Lifejackets are kept aboard the tour boat for all guests.

Please Check Below:

- ☐ Yes, I want my child to wear a life jacket
- ☐ No, my child is not required to wear a life jacket

Child's name: _____

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Thank you for attending a field trip at McGee's Swamp Tours and/or participating in an educational outreach program.

In order to share the valuable programs being offered to our students, we often consider documenting their experiences with photos or videos. This media release form ensures your agreeance to capture photos of videos of your student/child to potentially be used on our website, flyers, and social media outlets. No names of the student/child will be included.

Please indicate if you give permission for your child's likeness to be taken and shared.

Please Check Below:

- ☐ Yes, I give McGee's Swamp Tours my permission for my child to be photographed or videoed.
- ☐ No, I do not give McGee's Swamp Tours my permission for my child to be photographed or videoed.

Child's name: _____

Parent's name: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Interested in Programs for Your "Science Night" or Other Special Events?

We can partner with you to select and create programs that fit with special events of all kinds. Please contact the Educational Outreach Director, Gina Beckman, at: gina.beckman@scouting.org or 337-235-8552.

Involved with a Scout Group?

Through our partnership with Louisiana Swamp Base, Scouting opportunities of all kinds abound!

Check out the Swamp Base website for more information at www.swampbasebsa.org

