Bus Driver Instructions

Georgia Nature Center • 3001 Salem Road • Watkinsville, GA 30677 • Phone: 706-769-9696

WARNING: Do not use MapQuest, Google or other sites to get directions to our center. Most of these provide wrong directions to our center, and will cause you to get lost and be late. Make sure all drivers use only directions printed using the web page below for extremely accurate directions and travel time. The teacher arranging this trip may have already used this web page to print directions for you.

GET DIRECTIONS FROM OUR WEBSITE HERE: www.NatureCenter.com/directions

Are you coming from the WEST and getting off of I-20 at Madison Exit 114?

1) If getting off at exit 114, directions will say take "ramp right." This only means the ramp is on the right side of I-20. Once on the ramp, follow the next direction which says "Turn LEFT" onto US-129 NORTH. Follow signs toward Athens. (Do NOT turn south on US-129.)
2) After getting off I-20, the next step says "Turn right onto US-129 Bypass." This is easy to miss. Turn RIGHT at the Rite Aid pharmacy on the right, directly across from Lowe's. Then continue straight about 15 minutes until you turn RIGHT onto Salem Road in Farmington. (You will see a large "Georgia Nature Center" highway sign about 50-feet to the right of US-129 where you need to turn.)

Are you coming from Augusta or another location EAST of the nature center?

Do not use GPS if coming from Augusta, or other areas EAST of the center. While GPS is usually a great way to find the center, some GPS units used from this direction take you on roads with one-lane bridges impassable by buses. Be sure to print directions from our website.

Please Drive Slowly When You Are Getting Close to the Nature Center.

Bus drivers who drive too quickly will pass right by our entrance signs, and it will be very challenging to find a safe place to turn around. The Georgia Nature Center entrance signs are difficult to see if you are driving too quickly. Drive slowly while on Salem Road!

Free Tour, Free Snacks, Free Drinks - For Bus Drivers Only!

You are welcome to join students on their tour of the nature center. You will be able to see the Clean Energy Exhibition, Organic Farm, Tornado Alley Nature Trail, the Next Generation Home and Carnivorous Plant exhibits. Even if you don't join the tour, please walk down our driveway about 5 minutes and you will find our covered picnic area on the left. Visit the gift shop there and help yourself to any snacks or drinks you want for free from the two large coolers in our gift shop. No need to ask! All snacks and drinks are always free for bus drivers.

Parking Our parking area is small, however, we can fit up to seven full size charter buses as long as you park your bus properly. Entrance Sign First 3 Buses In: Park as Close to Road/Trees As Possible. Step 1) Pull in and around following this arrow. 1st Bus 2nd Bus 3rd Bus 5th Bus 4th Bus TURN OFF ENGINE AS SOON AS YOU PARK OR STUDENTS WILL NOT 6th Bus BE ABLE TO HEAR TOUR GUIDES. (If you plan to leave again, wait until students are gone to restart the bus.) 7th Bus Step 2) BACK UP into the parking area so your bus is parallel to Salem Road and facing the direction

you came in from so you can exit easily.