

Mountain Biodiversity Course at Highlands Biological Station

Day 1: Appalachian Historical Geology and Regional Biogeography.

We will take a field trip to Whiteside Mountain to investigate historical geology and biogeography of the Southern Appalachians. We will also test student-generated hypotheses using termites, as well as explore the way different organisms use particular habitats.

Day 2: Biodiversity of the Appalachians

We will take a field trip to Standing Indian in the Nantahala National Forest to explore salamander diversity, ecology, and evolution.

Day 3: Biodiversity of the Appalachians

We will examine the diversity and abundance of arthropods in different habitats in the southern Appalachians and quantify these using very simple statistical techniques.

Day 4: Biodiversity of the Appalachians

We will examine the diversity of plants and plant communities in the southern Appalachians using an experimental approach.

Day 5: Ecological Principles and Conservation Biology

One area of concern in conservation biology is the effect of habitat size and amount of edge habitat on habitat conservation. We will study edge effects and effects of habitat size in a plant community near Highlands.

Residence at Highlands Biological Station

The Highlands Biological Station can house up to 36 people in five residences. Rooms accommodate two or three persons, with shared baths. Blankets, bed linens, and towels can be supplied at additional cost. For those bringing their own bedding, it is advisable to bring two blankets as nights are cool and rain is (normally) frequent in the summer months. There are two laundry rooms with washers and dryers on the HBS campus. One is located on the west side of the Sam T. Weyman building, which was once the main laboratory at HBS and now functions as a dining hall; another is adjacent to the kitchen in Valentine House. All residences with the exception of Wright and Deacon Cottages are equipped with kitchens.

Residents of these cottages and larger groups staying in different residences but wishing to prepare group meals use the Weyman building. The Station has not served meals since 1972, but refrigerators, stoves, and kitchen appliances and utensils are provided. Grocery stores and restaurants are located within a half-mile of the Station.

For more information visit www.wcu.edu/hbs