

The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery

Visitor Education Center



Teachers' Packet

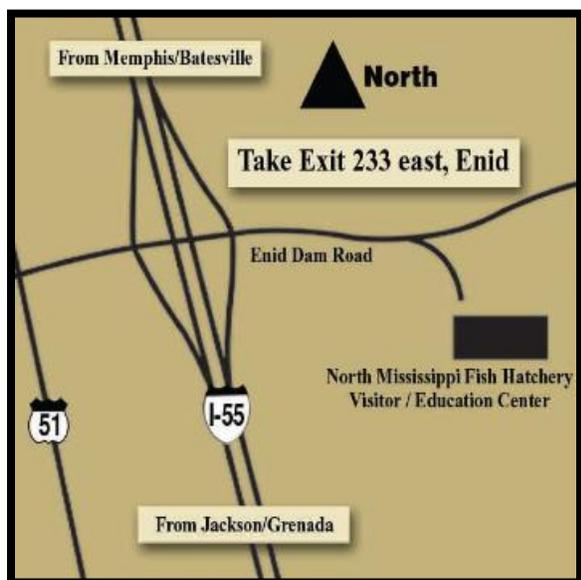


North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Visitor Education Center

The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Visitor Education Center in Enid provides an educational and entertaining experience that promotes freshwater sport fishing, encourages conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources and offers information about the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP). The complex is located on 58 acres and is less than a quarter mile from Interstate 55. The facility is operated by the MDWFP and is easily accessible to Mississippi residents and out-of-state visitors.



The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is one of two state hatcheries managed by the MDWFP. The hatchery produces and stocks a variety of sport fishes into Mississippi's public waters. The Visitor Education Center at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. The Center features a native habitat area, 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, an art gallery celebrating Mississippi's natural resources, and the world record white crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.



The facility is located below Enid Dam in Yalobusha County, Exit 233 East off I-55.





Educational Groups

Educators have many opportunities at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Visitor Education Center (NMFH VEC). Educational groups have taken advantage of guided tours, programs and hands-on activities provided by the Center. For teachers bringing classes for a guided tour, the facility offers activities and tours for all ages and abilities.

Activities for younger groups include turning students into **schools of fish**. Students become a native fish species and learn about "themselves" including their habitats, diets, life spans, and record sizes. These "fish" also learn whether or not they are raised at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery and about predators they face in the wild.

Other activities require students to test their knowledge. Students become **fishing detectives** or "time travelers" as they try to solve scavenger hunts that take them traveling through the exhibits from fishing past to fishing present. These same detectives turn into **miniature biologists** and learn about fish production in the Hatchery's two 80-foot raceways. Students learn about moving fish between the ponds, raceways and hatchery and about equipment used to spawn various types of fish.



Interesting



Hands-On

Fun



Surprising





More Information

Biology classes visiting the NMFH VEC, gain knowledge of the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau's role in enhancing Mississippi's fish populations and learn about hatchery operations. The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is equipped to produce multiple cool and warm-water species that include northern largemouth bass, southern walleye, paddlefish, alligator gar, white crappie, black crappie, Magnolia crappie, grass carp, bluegill, and redear sunfish.

These students learn about developmental stages of fish raised here and about the Hatchery's work with species that may become threatened in the near future (southern walleye, paddlefish, alligator gar).



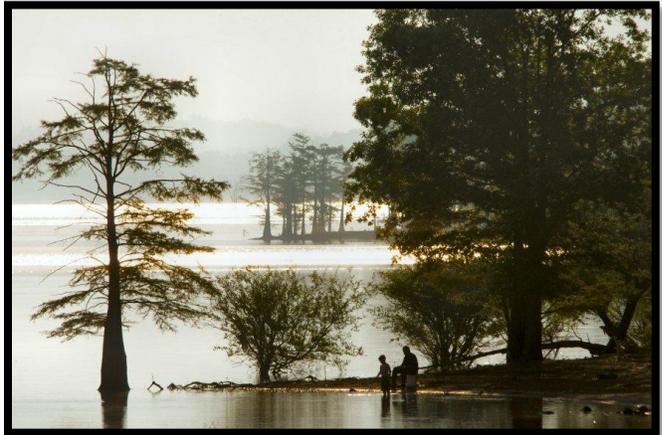


Enid Lake



Enid Lake is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Water is supplied to the hatchery by two ground water wells and a pipeline from Enid Lake. The construction of the Enid Lake Project began in 1947 and ended in 1952.

Although originally created for Flood Risk Management, the Enid Lake Project now offers many recreational and educational opportunities for visitors.



Groups enjoy the fishing spots, hiking trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds after a tour at the Hatchery and Education Center.



Contact Information

North Mississippi Fish Hatchery and
Visitor Education Center
P.O. Box 100
457 CR 36
Enid, Mississippi 38927
Phone: 662-563-8068
Fax: 662-563-5634
www.mdwfp.com



Hours of Operation

March - October

Open Tuesday thru Saturday - 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
Closed Sunday & Monday

November - February

Open Monday thru Friday - 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Closed Holidays

Admission

Adults (age 18-59) - \$2.50
Adults (age 60+) - \$2.00
School Groups (per student) - \$2.00
Children ages 3-17 - \$2.00
Children under 3 - No charge
School Teachers with classes, bus driver
and chaperone - No charge
Active Military - No Charge



**To schedule a guided tour, call the Visitor Education Center, or schedule
a group online at**

<http://www.mdwfp.com/applications/nmfh/groupregistration.aspx>.



Teachers' FAQs

Question #1:

What if my class has been to the Hatchery and Education Center before?

Answer:

The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery and Visitor Education Center (NMFH VEC) is focused on increasing students' knowledge of Mississippi's natural resources and offers educators unique learning experiences for students. For details on spawning schedule and special programs contact the NMFH VEC.

Question #2:

What happens if it rains?

Answer:

Unless teachers have planned a picnic and hike, the weather does not greatly affect the NMFH VEC tours.

Question #3:

What if my class wants to have a picnic lunch?

Answer:

The NMFH VEC is adjacent to Enid Lake, which has many picnic areas near playgrounds and hiking trails.

Question #4:

What if parents want to accompany a group?

Answer:

Parents/Guardians/Grandparents are welcome to tour with a group. Admission price does not increase but remains \$2.50 per adult and \$2.00 for seniors.

Question #5:

How long is the tour?

Answer:

Length of tour varies from 45 min. to 1 ½ hrs. Please call the NMFH VEC for details.



NORTH MISSISSIPPI FISH HATCHERY