



Curriculum & Activity Overview

Our curriculum is designed to reinforce science concepts learned at school through experiential education since studying the natural environment cannot always occur within the classroom setting. We also offer some non-science based activities that provide students with additional skills, knowledge, and a well-rounded education experience.

Daytime Classes (morning or afternoon)

AWSM / Team Building

The AWSM lesson provides an introduction to outdoor school by focusing on the essential elements necessary to sustain life: Air, Water, Sunlight, and Minerals. The second half of the lesson is teambuilding in which students are provided with challenges they must complete as a group. These challenges help students learn to live in community with one another by developing skills such as cooperation, communication, and trust.

- CA Science Standards (NGSS) – ESS 3.A and ESS 3.C

Botany (Tremendous Trees)

Students develop an understanding of the role of producers in the community by carefully observing some of the local trees and plants. They learn the roles and parts and how they help these living organisms survive. Students will develop an understanding of how plants grow, interact with the environment, and reproduce.

- CA Science Standards (NGSS) – MS-LS1-4

Ecology (Understanding Animals)

Animals are specifically adapted to their habitats. Through exploring the local area and observing a variety of consumers, the students can understand and appreciate the connection between structure and function in animals. Students will develop an understanding of food relationships and energy flow in food webs, which illustrate the resource dependency within an ecosystem.

- CA Science Standards (NGSS) – 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1, and MS-LS1-4

Geology (Rocks that Roll)

This class leads students to an appreciation of the importance of rocks and minerals to the ecosystem, and introduces them to the layers of the earth and plate tectonics. Students observe different types of weathering and erosion, and gain an appreciation for how the earth was formed.

- CA Science Standards (NGSS) – 5-ESS2-1

Exploration (Investigating the Environment)

This class provides an investigative hike, focusing on the concept that each part of an ecosystem is important to the whole. Students use their senses as they explore their surroundings, developing an awareness of the various components of the ecosystem and their interdependence. Students also discover the many natural resources the ecosystem provides.

- CA Science Standards (NGSS) – LS1.B

Survival (Lost and Found)

In this lesson, students discuss reasons why people become lost, and develop skills to prevent a search and rescue situation. Students learn ways to increase their chances of surviving in the wilderness, and being rescued in an emergency situation.

Sustainability (Environmental Stewardship)

In this lesson, students will learn about alternative forms of energy and resource conservation. Students are challenged to examine their impact on the environment, their role as stewards, and their specific responsibilities to preserve resources.

- CA Science Standards (NGSS) – ESS3.C

Evening Activities (after dinner)

Dance Night / Opening Campfire

The first half of this activity is a dancing lesson, which allows students to learn several basic dances. Some of these basic dances include the: Cupid Shuffle, Cha-Cha Slide, Cowboy Macarena, Electric Slide, and more. During the second half of the activity, the students enjoy a campfire with staff led: songs, skits, and stories. This activity often provides a great lead in for worship/chapel time, and is a great choice for the first night of the program.

Night Hike (Nocturnal Games)

The night hike introduces students to the world of nocturnal animals, focusing on how different senses allow animals to live in the darkness. By leaving the lights of camp, students discover more about their own senses. This is accomplished through active games based on animals' nocturnal behavior and design.

Astronomy (Investigating the night sky)

The amazing view of the heavens provided by a camp setting introduces students to Astronomy. Students learn characteristics of some of the basic components of the universe. Students learn about the moon, stars and planets through a variety of interactive activities.

Skit Night (Closing Campfire)

The closing campfire is a fun way to end a week of outdoor school. Each cabin/group of students prepares a three-minute skit to perform. The skits will typically involve a fun twist on something the students learned during the week. In between student skits, the staff will perform skits as well. This activity can be a fun lead in to a time of sharing and chapel time, and is a great choice for the final night of the program.