

American Outdoor Schools



American Outdoor Schools' 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. Students can increase their knowledge of the outdoor world through direct observation and exploration.

The Discoverers curriculum focuses on using the senses to observe and understand the natural community and its various components.

5th GRADE "DISCOVERERS"

Connecting With Our Community: This class provides an introduction to the outdoor school week by focusing on the diverse components of the natural world. Developing a sense of community among students is the first step in relaying this concept. Various sensory and exploratory activities allow the students to become aware of the diversity in the natural community, and recognize their role within it. CA Science Standards 2, 6

Understanding Animals: There are many different kinds of animals, each adapted to its habitat. Through exploring the camp community and observing a variety of consumers, the students can better understand and appreciate the connection between structure and function in animals. Students also learn how animals can be classified, and explore the amazing diversity and complexity of nature. CA Science Standards 2, 6a

Asking The Birds: Students examine the structural features of birds' feathers, beaks, and feet, and conclude by dissecting an owl pellet. These activities allow students to observe and understand the how the various, unique adaptations help birds survive. CA Science Standards 2, 6a

Tremendous Trees: Students develop an understanding of the role of producers in the community by carefully observing some of the local trees. They learn the role of each part and how it helps the plant survive and provide food for the rest of the community. CA Science Standards 2a, 2e, 2f

Lost and Found: Using teamwork and problem-solving skills, students serve as a member of a search team to find a "missing person." They discuss reasons people become lost, develop skills to prevent a search and rescue situation, and learn ways to increase their chances of being rescued in an emergency. CA Science Standards 6

Nocturnal Games: This evening class utilizes the nighttime environment to help students develop an appreciation and enjoyment of the darkness. This is accomplished by active games based on nocturnal animals and their behavior, as well as a time away from the lights of camp. CA Science Standards 6a

Wet and Wild – the Cycle of Life: This class examines the water cycle and the importance of water for life in the community. Activities include a student simulation of the water cycle and a thorough investigation of the diverse life in a riparian environment. CA Science Standards 1g, 2a, 3b, 3c, 3de, 3e

Creepy, Crawly Creatures: In this class, students are introduced to the largest class of living creatures: insects. Students discover the vital role of insects and their amazing diversity through collection, observation and identification. Emphasis is placed on classification of insects and a structural comparison to other arthropods. CA Science Standards 6a

Working Together For Our Community: Using observation games, discussions, and stories, the students are challenged to apply their knowledge about the natural community to develop a sense of personal responsibility for taking care of the earth. CA Science Standards 3d