

WPR OUTDOOR EDUCATION HANDBOOK

PHILOSOPHIES AND GOALS OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

2

Outdoor education is the teaching of concepts, skills and attitudes that can best be taught in the natural setting. This context for instruction uses the resources beyond the classroom as a stimulus for learning and as a way of combining practical experiences with theoretical knowledge.

The direct approach to learning involves the student with first-hand experience with people, places, and things that enrich the school curriculum. Ultimately, it is hoped that the student will develop a better understanding of the interrelationships of all living and non-living things and the functioning of the complex world in which they live.

The following list of goals includes those identified through research as well as those identified by practitioners in the field of Outdoor Education. Program goals should be unique to each group of students and teachers and should provide the basis for the resident outdoor education experience.

- Realization of the potential of the individual
- Development of awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the natural environment
- Develop an appreciation for the wide use of leisure time
- Promotion of democratic human relations and procedures through outdoor learning and group living experiences
- Permit an atmosphere conducive to aesthetic development
- Develop social responsibility
- Develop self-reliance
- Work with teachers and share experiences in an informal setting
- Develop the ability to adjust to a new environment and understand the area socially, culturally, and ecologically.
- Integrate learning processes- in school and out of school
- Enrich learning through direct experiences- develop process skills of science
- Develop creativity
- Provide spiritual development as well as social development
- Promote cooperation
- Foster an attitude of inquiry
- Give the opportunity for success-oriented activities
- Provide an opportunity to apply concepts learned in school to a new setting