

WPR OUTDOOR EDUCATION HANDBOOK

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

3-5

The following list of activities are offered as part of the Outdoor Education Program. With a two-night stay, schools have the option of choosing 7 different daytime activities. With a one-night stay, 3 daytime activities are offered. Evening activities begin at 7:00, after the evening meal.

DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

Field Studies: The WPR site has deciduous forests, pine forests, meadows and fields. Natural features such as outcrops of dolomite and sandstone, a water formed canyon, meandering streams, erosion banks, natural springs and ox-bows are found on the 200-acre site. Concepts such as food chain/food web, adaptation, habitat, interdependence and energy transfer can be applied to the study of a field or forest ecosystem. Field studies introduce concepts and include the use of basic process skills of observation, classification, inference, data collecting, etc.

*CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.RP.1 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.EE.9

**4-LS1, 4-ESS2, 5-LS2, MS-LS1, MS-LS2

Aquatic Studies: This field study emphasizes the effects of water on the landscape. Geologic features are studied first hand and students learn to interpret the landscape by observing natural phenomena and making inferences. Some organisms common to a fresh water environment can be studied in the stream and at the natural springs.

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.3

**4-LS1, 4-ESS2, 5-PS2, 5-LS2, 5-ESS2, MS-LS2, MS-ESS2

Project Wild: Through simulations and group games, students are introduced to concepts relating to wildlife ecology such as population density, carrying capacity, predator/prey and camouflage. The effects of human activity on wildlife habitats is a key focus of the program.

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.7 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.5.MD.1 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.5.MD.2

*CCSS.MATHEMATICS.5.G.1 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.EE.9 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.SP.4

**4-LS1, 4-ESS2, 5-LS2, MS-LS1, MS-LS2

Wilderness Survival: This activity is designed to engage students in problem solving and reaching consensus. Students will focus on the basic needs of humans as they work cooperatively through a simulation which requires them to consider survival in the wilderness.

**3-5-ETS1, 5-PS3, MS-ESS3

***SEL 1A

Quarry/Fossil Study: A visit to the Ordovician dolomite quarry for fossil hunting is the highlight of this activity. The introduction includes an explanation of the rock formation and an introduction to the types of fossils found here. Safety is emphasized as children learn how to use hammers and goggles in their search for fossils.

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.4

**4-ESS2, 5-PS2, MS-LS4, MS-ESS1, MS-ESS2

Cemetery Study: Mt. Zion Cemetery is used to study math, social studies, science and language arts. Children are involved in finding, recording and processing data. The use of the 150+ year old cemetery requires the utmost consideration by teachers & students.

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4, *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5

**4-ESS2

Orienteering: Students receive a basic introduction to the use of the compass for finding direction and the pace for determining distance. Simple courses, complete with stories and group problem-solving activities, are followed by small groups of students.

*CCSS.MATHEMATICS.4.MD.1 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.5.MD.1 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.5.MD.2

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.RP.1

**5-PS2, 5-ESS1

***SEL 1A-C, 2C-D, 3B

Initiative Tasks: Group problem solving activities emphasize cooperation, patience and persistence. Small groups of students are given problems to solve. Emphasis is given to planning and cooperating. Students analyze their performances and suggest ways to improve them.

**3-5-ETS1, SEL 1A-C, 2C-D, 3B

***SEL 1A-C, 2C-D, 3B

Tree Study: Project Learning Tree activities are used to investigate the properties of trees and to help students realize the importance of trees in the natural environment and as a valuable resource to our society.

*CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.RP.1 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.EE.9

**4-LS1, 4-ESS2, 5-LS1, 5-LS2, MS-LS1, MS-LS2

Birding: Students will use their powers of observation, data collecting, and sharing information to understand that birds have various adaptations that make them well suited to eat specific foods and live in specific habitats.

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.3 *CCSS.MATHEMATICS.6.RP.1

**4-LS1, MS-LS2

Language Arts: The outdoor environment helps to foster creativity for creative writing.

Horsemanship/Ride: Students are given an introduction to horsemanship which includes trail etiquette and safety. The trail ride is geared to "first-time" riders.

Sense Walk: Students use their sense to explore their daytime environment. This activity is hands-on and is designed to encourage an appreciation of nature and increase the wonder of their surroundings.

Cross-Country Skiing: During this wintertime activity, students learn the basics of skiing cross-country and practice on level ground.

Activities built into every schedule include:

Free Time (average times are 7:30-8:00am 4-5:30pm): During this time, students are free to enjoy activities such as basketball, kick ball, volleyball, visit the critter corral animals, or just simply bond with one another. We also offer a corn maze in season.

Journaling (average time 6:15-6:45pm): This is an opportunity for students to write about the activities they experienced during the day.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Hayrides: Children ride in a wagon filled with hay, pulled by a farm tractor.

Country Line Dancing: This activity gives students a chance to let loose and get a feel for western style dance. A Ranch staff will lead the group through one or two simple line dances, at a pace that beginners or experienced line dancers will enjoy.

New Games: Evening games involve active play, generally in a non-competitive structure.

Ranch Bingo: This activity offers the group an opportunity to review material covered during the daytime activities through a fun and engaging game of bingo. Prizes are given!

Campfire Sing-a-long and Stories: Students sit around a campfire and sing silly songs, they can participate in skits, and stories can be told by adults.

Birds of Prey: Atwood Environmental Center, from Rockford, IL, brings a variety of non-releasable birds to deliver a powerful presentation. This activity is offered at an additional cost.

Night Walk: This is a sensory activity that includes experimenting with sight and sound. Conditions permitting, students also discover the night sky and animals.

*Common Core alignment through English Language Arts Standards and Mathematics Standards

**Next Generation Science Standards (the basis for Illinois State Science Standards)

***Illinois Social/Emotional Learning State Standards