



YMCA Camp Duncan Outdoor Environmental Education Class / Curriculum Electives

Animal Senses Students will learn how animals use their senses and how animals are able to adapt to environmental changes. After discussion, students will have the opportunity to explore their own senses, and be challenged to imitate some animals in order to find direction, food, and safety. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Birding Birds common to YMCA Camp Duncan and the Illinois area will be discussed throughout the class. On a hike around camp, students will locate, identify, and discuss various birds and their habitats. Students will then have the opportunity to make a homemade bird feeder. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Bubble Mania: Students will discuss the science of bubbles and specific characteristics of bubbles. Various bubble solutions and bubble makers will be made. Students will then be able to create bubbles and compare what solutions and makers work best and why. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*



Creatures Discussion of the wildlife at YMCA Camp Duncan and the rest of the United States will help students identify which creatures are dangerous and which are not. They will also discuss tracks, habitat, and other signs of creatures. A hike around camp will help to identify things discussed. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Creepy Crawlies Students will discuss what makes an insect an insect. Discussion will include habitat, food, body structures and life cycles. Students will then be able to explore camp's environment in order to find, locate and identify various insects. Offered spring and fall. *1 hour*

Cultures Students will discuss the culture and way of life in other countries. They will learn about some of the traditions, languages, landscapes, and habits of 5 different countries on 5 different continents. Activities include playing traditional games. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Environmental Issues Students will discuss current threats to the environment covering both local and global issues. Students will also participate in various hands-on activities around the camp that will reinforce this knowledge and give them the opportunity to offer solutions to these problems. *1 hour*

GPS Scavenger Hunt – Students will briefly discuss how to use a compass and then learn how to navigate around camp using a hand-held GPS unit. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Orienteering Class will begin with a discussion about the importance of maps and it will continue with instruction on how to read and use compasses. Students will then put their new knowledge into action using compasses on our orienteering course. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Outdoor Living Skills This class will prepare students for outdoor recreation and will discuss survival living outdoors. Students will gain experience in building fires. The different types of fire lay and how each are used will also be discussed. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Pioneering Students will learn about and experience what life was like over 150 years ago, when the early settlers came to this area. They will engage in discussion about pioneer life, comparing their lives to the lives we lead now. Students will then get to make a candle using dipping wax and wick. Offered all seasons. Candles cost is \$1 per person. Class is available without candle making. *1 hour*.

Star Lab The night sky, in our indoor planetarium, will be discussed throughout this class. Students will learn the location of some commonly known constellations; Greek mythology and Native American legends may also be included in discussion. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Terrific Trees Students will learn about the different parts of trees, their most common uses & different techniques of identifying the types of trees at camp. A self guided scavenger hunt will then help students learn more about trees. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Volcanoes Students will discuss volcanoes; where they are, how they are formed, what they do and how they impact people's lives. Students will then build their own volcano and watch it erupt. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*



Water Ecology A field study of our YMCA Camp Duncan lake and its individual values and inhabitants. Students will discuss the food cycle, and different aquatic environments. A presentation will be followed by a visit to the lake to gather water samples for observation under a microscope. Offered fall / spring season. *1 hour*

Wilderness Survival The four things essential for survival will be discussed and learned. The students will be presented with a survival situation, in small groups they will need to discuss and select the essential items needed for the group's survival. Students will then discuss basic first aid. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Wonders of Weather Students will discuss the elements of weather and then use various tools to create their own forecast. They will learn how to use equipment to read temperature, air pressure, wind speed, wind direction, and rain accumulation. Students will also discuss clouds. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Woodland Ways Experience the customs and lifestyles of Native Americans specific to this area. Games, crafts, hunting, and gathering will be discussed. The Native American land ethic will be high emphasized, and will provide the underlying theme for our program. Students will partake in a drumming ceremony. Offered all seasons. *1 hour*

Team Building Opportunities

Climbing Tower Students will learn about safety equipment and the procedures needed in order to do a safe climb on our 45-foot tower. Students will set personal goals for their climb and they will offer support for their classmates. Offered spring and fall. *1 – 2 hours*

Group Initiatives Games, Challenges, and ice breakers make up this class which is a great precursor to the Teams Course. *1-2 hours*

Rope Games: Using nothing but ropes in this unique team building class, students will develop problem solving and communication skills through various games and challenges. *1 hour*

Teams Course Students will venture together through a trail of challenges, which can only be accomplished when the group works as one. Teamwork, communication, trust, planning, and problem solving will be necessary for the group to succeed. Offered all seasons (some elements limited in winter due to safety considerations). *1 – 2 hours*

Educational Recreation Time

Program Offerings

Camp Led Crafts

Leather Crafts
Candle Making
Bead Making
* Fee of \$1 or \$2 for crafts

Camp Led Activities

Wagon Rides
Archery
Boating
Parachute Games

Group Led Activities and Crafts

Tye-Dying
Nature Sculpture
Night Hike
Scavenger Hunt



All Camp Activities

Program Offerings

Campfire
Drumming Circle
Music Mania*

Talent Show
Capture the Flag

Mission Impossible*
Muckman Suitcase

* Please note, some games require additional staff or chaperone volunteers from your group.