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Curriculum Planning Guide

These class summaries are designed so you can get an idea of what classes, games, simulations, and activities are offered at Camp Weaver. Each topic has symbols next to it for easy reference as to which classes are active, instructive, investigative, or hands-on. Take a few moments to look over this helpful and informative packet to decide which classes would best fit the needs of your students. Each class is one hour and fifteen minutes long unless otherwise specified.

Key

 - Hands On;  - Investigative;  - Instructive;  - Active

Forest Ecology Topics

Professor Hike

Become a professor and teach about turkey tail fungus, forest succession, and invasive species. In this activity, the students teach their peers about forest ecology. Also known as an each-one-teach one, the professor hike provides the student with an opportunity to work on their speaking skills in a non-intimidating setting. After learning from their instructor/naturalist, students will be given the opportunity to teach a fact about forest ecology to their peers.

Tree Species ID (Dichotomous Key)

Come and meet a tree! Hike the tree identification trail and 'leaf' the exploring to us! Students learn about differences in leaves and how to identify trees using a dichotomous key (a key that allows you to pick from a pair of characteristics, until you have narrowed down the choices to the correct tree). This class works best when foliage is still on trees, but an adapted version of this class is available for winter.

Wildlife Ecology Topics

Predator Prey Relationships

You're a lion hunting in the savanna. You spot your prey, a herd of zebras, ahead of you through the thick grasses. You creep towards them, careful not to let your scent give you away. You get closer...closer...and then pounce!

This is just one of the many exciting games students may experience. The connections between predator and prey animals are illustrated in a series of active games. This is a high-energy class where students take on the roles of animals in different stages of the food chain. This is a great class choice if you are interested in providing a chance for your students to expend some of their excess energy.

Animal Adaptations

Who's hiding behind that tree? I can see you! Too bad you don't have a prehensile tail. Using a series of activities and games, students get a hands on lesson about how animals must adjust to survive in their ecosystem. After learning about our own adaptations, students will discover what makes each animal uniquely adapted to their own environment.

Plant Ecology Topics

Ethnobotany

Can you make root beer out of sassafras roots? Explore Camp and the Organic Garden for edible parts of plants. Find out what part of the plant is used for eating and what our ancestors used for medicine. Students will get a chance to taste various plants while learning about where food comes from.

Organic Garden

Get your hands in the dirt and find our worms singing the decomposition blues. Depending on the time of the year, naturalists choose from a variety of gardening activities to get students involved hands on in the garden. The garden is an ideal place for learning about plant parts, soils, and invertebrates.

Water Topics

Aquatic Habitat and Organism Search

Make a big SPLASH and jump into the water cycle. Explore with us as we plumb the depths of the lake and our various waterways by using nets and big rubber boots. Don't forget your bright orange life-jacket! In this hands-on investigative study, students explore the lake and other natural bodies of water for a diversity of aquatic species. Students are introduced to a biotic index and discover how the organisms they find in the water can be used to indicate the health of the waterway.

The Water Cycle

Boogie down with us and take a trip as a drop of water! Through a game of over-sized dice, the students take on the role of a water droplet and travel through the water cycle. Students explore differing routes water can take and learn a song called the water cycle boogie to help them remember the concepts of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

Earth Science Topics

Geology

Rock n' roll! Sign up for our geology class and make the earth shake. In this class, students are introduced to tectonic plates, rock types, rock formation and composition. Rocks can be tested for calcium; students may adopt a pet rock, play the game rock-it-y-rock-rock or learn more about North Carolina rocks and minerals. Each activity gives the student a memorable way to learn about geology.

Climate and Sustainability

It's hot! It's cold! It's wet! It's dry! It's our climate. In this exciting class, students have the opportunity to learn about our current climate, and ways to help protect the environment. Students will play participate in hands-on activities aimed at teaching them the value of renewable resources. We will also experiment with the latest technology that can harness the energy around us in clean, environmentally friendly ways. This activity prepares future generations to be stewards of our our natural environment.

Outdoor Skills

Dutch Oven Cooking

Want to peek inside and see what's happening underneath the lid? Is it done yet? Students use math, science and cooperative learning to cook and enjoy their very own meal! How many briquet's go on top of the oven? Students collaborate to prepare a meal for themselves and classmates to enjoy in the outdoors. This class gives students a hands on experience in outdoor cooking while practicing patiently awaiting their delicious creation!

Maps

Don't lose your way! Discover the nuts and bolts of maps. This class familiarizes students with different types of maps and their features. After a session inside, students test their map skills with a map hunt around Camp. This is a popular class that leaves students wanting more.

Compasses/Orienteering Frisbee Golf Course

Still lost? Pick up a compass, put the red in the shed and figure out how to get to the next tee! In this class students are introduced to the parts of a compass, how it works, and how to take a bearing. After practicing with a compass, students learn about pacing and then spend time on the Weaver Frisbee Golf Orienteering course testing their skills. This activity is recommended for 5th grade and up.

Canoeing

What floats your boat? After learning safe and proper canoeing techniques, students get the opportunity to test their canoeing skills on Turtle Lake. A naturalist will be in the water with the students assisting and playing games aimed at increasing comfort and technique in a canoe. This class is not recommended from mid November to mid March due to cold weather/water

temperatures. If chosen during this time, it is subject to cancellation when the combined air and water temperatures do not equal 100 degrees.

? **Survival**

Do you have the attitude it takes to survive in the woods? Learn the skills necessary to build a fire, shelter, and help signals. After survival instruction, students will get an opportunity to practice these skills under the watchful eye of a naturalist.

Others

? **Rigamajig**

The rigamajig creates playful, cooperative learning community, through means of collaborative building and child-directed play with a large scale building kit. This interactive class fits with the principles of STEM and STE(A)M education, which focuses on science, technology, engineering, math, and art through hands-on inquiry-based learning to provide children opportunities for creativity, innovation, collaboration, and critical thinking. Students will make friends and share resources "Trade you this pulley for that canvas bucket!", "Want to help me make a fort?", "Is that a giraffe?", and "Hey, will you hold this while I connect it?" are commonly heard amongst students during a build session.

? **Mini-Farm**

Do you have what it takes to become a farmer? Where do eggs come from? What are those chickens doing? Students will have the opportunity to become a farmer and learn the anatomy of the animals. Identify foods that are required to care for the animals in the organic garden and understand common objects used on a farm. This class is a great introduction to ethnography, "study of behavior" using observations of farm animals!

? **Team Building Challenges**

Do you want to be a Samurai in Training? Or do you think your group has the courage to take on the Toxic River Challenge? This series of games and initiatives is designed to build a sense of unity among students. Activities will focus on trust, leadership, and communication. Students learn to work together to achieve a goal and to confront issues as they arise. This class includes the use of props and portable presentation of these principles.

? **High Ropes Course**

On belay. Belay is on. Climbing. Climb on! Push yourself outside of your comfort zone in the high adventure activity. With a practice of challenge by choice, naturalist help guide students to set goals and step outside of their comfort level to accomplish some challenging high ropes elements. Safety is

the primary focus as students are roped in harnesses to help them reach new heights. Additional fees may apply for this activity. Availability is determined by group size and length of trip.

Evening Programs

Campfire

Come and join us for friendship, fire, fabulous songs and skits! This entertaining evening program turns two of your naturalists into comedians as they perform skits and teach songs that students will be singing for weeks to come. The campfire program involves some students and adults in skits and engages students throughout the entire program. The campfire is usually held at the Amphitheatre, but can be moved inside in the event of bad weather.

Night Hike

How good is your eyesight in the dark? Come discover the mystery and surprise of the woods at night. This popular evening program gives students the opportunity to experience Camp Weaver's nature at night. Through a series of activities, students will learn many interesting facts about nocturnal animals, the structures of the eyes, how humans and animals use our senses, and will do a short solo hike in a supportive, safe environment.

Astronomy

How hot is a blue star? Where do constellations come from? Come and find out the answers to these questions as we present clear, concise information about astronomy through crafts, stories, trivia questions, and games. Students will participate in rotating activities that leave them with an incredible introduction to astronomy. If the skies are clear students will star gaze and our knowledgeable naturalist will point out constellations telling mythological stories associated with the constellations.

Pioneer Night

Do you have the skills to survive in the eighteenth century? Come join us as we take you back in time to forge your own tools at our very own Blacksmith Forge, make your own candles, cook over a fire, demonstrate a black-powder rifle, and play games without batteries! Students experience hands on what it was like to live before the digital age and take home a new perspective and appreciation for the world around them.