

Class Selection 2022

Our experiential teaching allows students to do rather than being told. Trained instructors frame each lesson and students participate in the activities, ending with a time of reflection. Instructors then help students identify what they learned through questions.

Bird of Prey

5-PS3-1 Energy

Warm Beach Camp is a fascinating place to study and observe birds of prey. We have observed Bald Eagles, Osprey, Red Tailed Hawks, Barn and Screech Owls in the estuary and upper Warm Beach campus. During this class we look at characteristics that define Birds of Prey, and the characteristics of Raptors and Owls like wing span, wing silhouettes and calls. The Owl class students will dissect owl pellets to determine which prey type animal the owl ate. Students will be able to identify Bald Eagle calls as we usually have two nesting pairs on site.

Estuary Habitat Survey – Canoe the Estuary

5-PS3-1 Energy, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1 Ecosystems, 5-ESS2-2 Earth's Systems

Students collect information about the estuary including water temperature, salinity, depth and turbidity. After an estuary briefing, and utilizing pictured animal and plant cards, students will take an inventory of what they find. Students then can identify the plants and animals that make up and flourish in this unique habitat. The class can be taught in canoes if the tide permits canoeing. Students will receive canoeing and safety instructions and are supervised by Warm Beach lifeguards. This class can also be taught by walking out to the tidelands. If you prefer to walk, we encourage you to wear boots or shoes that can get muddy.

Human Impact Studies

5-PS3-1 Energy, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1 Ecosystems, 5-ESS2-2 Earth's Systems

Activities focus on themes that explore and discuss the relationship between farming, urban development, and habitat management. Warm Beach Camp and all neighboring people use the land in a variety of ways. This class looks at the impact and levels of pesticides, animal waste, fertilizers, etc. have on the water in the wetland area. The students are directed through water quality tests including dissolved oxygen, nitrates/or phosphates, pH and others.



Outdoor Education

Forest and Soils

5-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

The Instructor leads students on a walk into a forest area to observe differences between conifer and deciduous trees. Students will learn to identify our native Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, and Big Leaf Maple trees. After establishing each student's hypothesis, small student groups will test the soil beneath at least one of those trees. Students learn how to perform tests for: pH, temperature, porosity, soil core and determining the amount of light that reaches the forest floor. We then compare and contrast the small groups' data to check their hypothesis. When time permits, additional forest activities are led.

Wetlands

5-PS3-1 Energy, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1 Ecosystems, 5-ESS2-2 Earth's Systems

Salt marsh is the predominant wetland at Warm Beach Camp, although there is a unique cirque wetland too. Students will explore and examine wetlands to identify their characteristics. Through this lesson students realize the tremendous value of wetlands to coastal areas. The class dissects a wetland plant to discover their adaptations to this wet habitat. They explore the wetlands as a habitat for birds while walking and from behind the bird blind, in addition to noticing reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

Game of Life

5-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics, 5-PS3-1 Energy

The Game of Life is a predator-prey simulation, which models the animal food/energy web and the transfer of energy from the sun through the web. Students are divided into the "eating" types: Herbivores, Omnivores and Carnivores. They forage for "food" and "water" while trying to survive in the Northwest forest. After the simulation(s), students reflect on what happened: Did they survive? What strategies were used? How was the simulation real and not real? They review food chains, and both behavioral and physical adaptations. Students usually discover how difficult survival in the wild can be!



Outdoor Education

Pioneer Skills Challenge

Note: All students from the school do this experience at one time, in small groups.

This class is a unique experience in which students are challenged to homestead a land segment of our camping grounds as though they are pioneers in the 1800's. Each small student group works with a teacher or chaperones (who will have a relatively active role). Materials and a list of the individual pioneer tasks will be presented to each group at the Skills Challenge start. Group tasks include: Building a fire, sewing a journal binding, milking a "cow," building a shelter and more!

Habitat Restoration Project

3-5-ETS1-1, 3-5-ETS1-2, 3-5-ETS1-3 all Engineering Design

In 2022, project options include removing invasive plant species, caring for eroded areas, planting trees and trail improvements. We have a limited option of building and maybe installing bird houses and or bat houses. These projects require more adult supervision from the school as students use tools to complete the projects. Typically, this is scheduled post Cooperative Challenge or Team Building if teachers choose either of those classes. That allows direct application of learning about group work.

Orienteering including Compass Lesson

Introduction to the sport of Orienteering. Starting with a short activity on how to use a compass, we move to map instruction using our Camp's contour maps. This includes how to orient maps with and without a compass. The students, with chaperones, go out in small groups to locate each of the 10 Orienteering course markers. The emphasis is on topographical maps and finding locations using baselines and landmarks.

Climbing Tower Note: Climbing Tower is closed at this time.

Our 40' Climbing Tower is three-sided with varying degrees of climbing challenge. Students choose their level of challenge and choose when they will stop climbing. Classmates encourage and cheer each other on as Warm Beach facilitators belay climbers in a way that teaches safety, new skills and outlook. When students climb, they come to more fully understand the meanings of determination, grit and perseverance. Each participant is celebrated for their accomplishments in climbing. Typically, students climb more than once.



Outdoor Education

Cooperative Challenge or Team Building*

*Note: Team Building requires more time, so it accounts for 2 classes.

A Warm Beach Challenge facilitator leads small groups of students through a sequence of progressively more difficult challenges (group puzzles). Through these challenges, participants learn the value of listening, how to communicate ideas, to work in positive cooperation with others and be encouraging. These activities give students skills they can apply to future situations where strategic planning is needed to accomplish a goal.

Team Building, a longer time investment, provides a deeper and richer experience with more development in skills and team bonds. We highly recommend Team Building for schools doing Outdoor Education in the fall. The class and teacher will enjoy the benefits all year long.

Horse Assisted Learning

\$20 per student

Horses provide unique nonverbal feedback that facilitates social, physical and cognitive skill development in people. The class is a safe and supportive atmosphere where students learn skills in problem solving, asserting themselves, handling frustration, boundary setting, leadership, confidence, and relationships.

This is an “unmounted” class, where students do not ride the horses. They observe the horse herd behavior, meet and observe a horse and then lead a horse in the arena through a simple obstacle course. Students work in partner pairs to encourage and observe.