Warm Beach
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Outdoor School

Classes Offered

The program's experiential teaching allows students to learn through hands-on classes. Trained Outdoor School Instructors frame each lesson, students participate in the activities, and class ends with a time of reflection. Instructors help students identify what they learned through interactive reflections.

The school's Coordinator / Teacher will work with the Outdoor Education Manager in choosing classes and building your schedule together. This document includes the classes offered at Warm Beach Camp and how they meet fifth grade NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) in Washington. These classes are adapted for other grade levels and state standards are available upon request.

Bird of Prey

WA State Standard 5-PS3-1 Energy

Warm Beach Camp is a fascinating place to study and observe birds of prey. Past students have observed Bald Eagles, Osprey, Red Tailed Hawks, Barn and Screech Owls in the estuary and upper Warm Beach campus areas. During this class we look at characteristics that define Birds of Prey, and the characteristics of raptors and owls like wingspan, 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.

Climbing Tower

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1

Our 40' Climbing Tower is three-sided with varying degrees of climbing challenges. Students choose their level of challenge and 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 accomplishment. Typically, students climb more than once.

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Cooperative Challenge OR Team Building

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 4&6

Note: "Team Building" is more in depth requiring 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 group 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 School in the fall because the class and teacher will enjoy the benefits **all** year long.*
Closed-toed shoes are required to be worn for this class.

Estuary Habitat Survey- Canoe the Estuary

WA State Standards 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, salinities, depth and turbidity. After an estuary briefing, and utilizing pictured animal and plant cards, students will take an inventory of what they find. Students can then identify the plants and animals that make up and flourish in this unique habitat. If the tide permits the class can be taught in canoes. Students will receive canoeing and safety instructions and will be supervised by 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.

Forest and Soils

WA State Standard 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 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 ***soil*** tests for: pH, temperature, porosity, soil core and determining the amount of light that reaches the forest floor. We then compare the small groups' data to check their hypothesis. When time permits, additional forest activities are led.

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Game of Life

WA State Standards 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, while carnivores are after them. After the usual two simulation rounds, 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!

Habitat Restoration Project

WA State Standard 3-5-ETS1-1, 3-5-ETS1-2, 3-5-ETS1-3 all Engineering Design

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

Horse Assisted Learning (Additional $21 per student)

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1&3

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 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.

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Living History Skills Challenge (1850s to 1899)

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 4, 5, & 6

Note: All students from the school do this experience at one time, in small groups of about 10.

This class is a unique experience in which students are challenged to homestead a land segment as though they are pioneers in the 1800's. We acknowledge our local tribes' careful use of their land and sea. Each small student group works with a teacher or chaperones (who will have a relatively active role). Materials and a list of the individual 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!

Nature Discovery Trek

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1

Choose your level of steepness – flat, some ups and downs or very down and up to the estuary. These walks invite students to observe, relax and be in nature. Discovering whatever delights them or catches their attention. Trek naturalist instructors have many discovery activities in their backpacks for students to have structured fun playing, writing poetry, or learning what part of stinging nettles one can touch, what good is a banana slug, what is that animal track there, and more! During berry season, Berry Treks are available. Tell us what you'd like to learn, see, or do and we'll do our best to make it happen!

Orienteering (Includes a *basic* compass lesson)

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 4, 5, & 6

Introduction to the sport of Orienteering. Starting with a short activity on how to use a compass, we move to map instruction using 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.

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Outdoor Survival

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1

Preparation is the key to surviving many things. Students will identify ten essentials to take on walks or hikes outside and why they are essential. Prevention includes understanding layering clothing and clothing fabrics that if wet will keep a person warm. If lost, what to do first. Shelter building, map and compass work and fire building basics. All is done experientially, hands-on, so students are engaged.

Water Ecology

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

How do we know water is safe for critters and humans? In this class, students will study the water quality of two small streams on site. One is impacted by running through agricultural ground. The other is impacted by the rain washing off roads before entering Canyon Creek with its elevation drop through the Warm Beach Camp canyon. After getting water samples directly from both streams, students will perform water quality assessments using chemistry and sampling aquatic macro invertebrates (insects / bugs). Most of the focus will be testing the pH, Phosphate and or Nitrate and Dissolved Oxygen levels of the water. Then comparing with established healthy levels.

Some Aquatic macro invertebrates will be sampled and put back into the water alive, after identifying them. [The presence of some bugs indicates healthy surface waters; other insects indicate somewhat polluted water, and the final category indicates very polluted water.

Wetlands

WA State Standards 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.

Outdoor School

To book your group's stay, contact the Warm Beach Camp guest service staff at:
guestservice@warmbeach.com | 800.228.6724

For more information about the Outdoor School program, contact:
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