

Description of Courses and Activities Offered

1) Nature Observation Class: *Introductory class designed to accclimate students to the outdoor environment, initiate the concept of Intelligent Design through presentation of the "William Paley Watchmaker Argument", and focus attention on the unique aspects of each of our five senses. The students are led through exercises that enhance sensory effectiveness in wilderness settings. Characteristics of specific habitats are observed (i.e.: chaparral, mixed coniferous, etc.) and the terms "biotic", "a biotic", "predator", and "prey" are introduced.*

5th grade

-Investigation and Experimentation 6a

6th grade

-Ecology (Life Sciences) 5e

-Resources 6b

2) Team Challenge: *A series of team building group initiatives at ground level, and up to 18" above, designed to provide students with the opportunity of experiencing the transition from working as an assembled group of individuals into a problem solving, cooperative, supportive, creative, and coordinated "team". Correct "spotting" techniques and basic team initiative/ropes course safety rules are thoroughly reviewed and practiced. These activities have the added benefit of providing a "real-time" experience in working together as the "body of Christ".*

5th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1

-Self Responsibility 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4

-Social Interaction 5.5 and 5.6

-Group Dynamics 5.7

6th grade

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.9 and 1.10

-Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

7th grade

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.4 and 1.6

-Movement Concepts 2.2 and 2.5

-Self Responsibility 5.1

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

8th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1 and 2.3

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 2.4

-Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2

-Social Interaction 5.4

-Group Dynamics 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7

3) Riparian Studies Class: *The unique properties of water are introduced and its importance to all of life. After a description of the chemical composition of water students will conduct their own water surface tension test. Our Riparian Habitat is observed from several different vantage points as the various “cycles” of this ecosystem are observed and discussed. Students divide into smaller research groups to perform 4 different chemical tests on water samples from Lake Vera and our two feeder creeks (Brush Creek and Flock Creek) then, invertebrates and aquatic animals are collected and identified. The data from these exercises is recorded and then shared between research groups as the students are introduced to the concept of Intelligent Design within an ecosystem.*

5th grade

- Physical Sciences 1a, 1b, and 1h
- Earth Sciences 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, and 4b
- Investigation and Experimentation 6c, 6e, 6f, 6g, and 6h

6th grade

- Shaping Earth’s Surface 2a, and 2b
- Heat (Thermal Energy) (Physical Sciences) 3a
- Ecology (Life Sciences) 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, and 5e
- Investigation and Experimentation 7a, 7b, 7d, 7e, and 7h

7th grade

- Structure and Function in Living Systems 5a, 5b, and 5f
- Investigation and Experimentation 7a, 7c, and 7e

4) Bouldering: *Beginning with an introduction to Flock Climbing knots and knot tying the students are then guided through a series of basic Flock Climbing techniques while safely on a “pull-break, pinch-slide” belay. Climbing on established routes to the top of our 20’ granite boulder the climbing techniques of “smudging”, “laying back”, and “mantling” are introduced and practiced, concluding with a short rappel back to the ground level. Strengthening of personal self confidence as well as learning to encourage, support, and help others are stressed in this activity.*

5th grade

- Movements Concepts 2.1
- Self Responsibility 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4
- Social Interaction 5.5 and 5.6
- Group Dynamics 5.7

6th grade

- Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.9 and 1.10
- Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2
- Social Interaction 5.3
- Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

7th grade

- Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.4 and 1.6
- Movement Concepts 2.2 and 2.5

Bouldering 7th grade CA curriculum standards continued:

- Self Responsibility 5.1
- Social Interaction 5.3
- Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

8th grade

- Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 2.4
- Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2
- Social Interaction 5.4
- Group Dynamics 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7

5) Ornithology Class: *Students will explore the Riparian Habitat that borders Brush Creek with its rich variety and diversity of bird life. Bird shelter, feeding, nesting and species interaction is introduced and discussed. At the "Classroom-in-a-Box" students see the details of feather design using our mounted bird collection and learn about the nature of bird flight. Utilizing our private collection, students will investigate the differences and the complexity of design of bird's nests. Concluding with a visit to our Bird Blind students will be able to observe and identify several different indigenous species in their natural environment.*

5th grade

- Investigation and Experimentation 6a and 6g

6th grade

- Ecology (Life Sciences) 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, and 5e
- Resources 6b
- Investigation and Experimentation 7b

7th grade

- Cell Biology 1a and 1f
- Evolution 3b and 3e
- Structures and Function in Living Systems 5a, 5b, and 5g
- Physical Principles in Living systems (Physical Sciences) 6h
- Investigation and Experimentation 7a

6) Climbing Wall: *While safely on "team belay" students face the challenge of climbing this 24' vertical surface on man-made climbing holds. The concept of "climbing with your feet" is introduced as our trained instructors guide and encourage the students through this personal self confidence and team building exercise.*

5th grade

- Movement Concepts 2.1
- Self Responsibility 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4
- Social Interaction 5.5 and 5.6
- Group Dynamics 5.7

6th grade

- Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.9 and 1.10
- Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2

Climbing Wall 6th grade CA curriculum standards continued:

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

7th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.2 and 2.5

-Self Responsibility 5.1

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

8th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1 and 2.3

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 2.4

-Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2

-Social Interaction 5.4

-Group Dynamics 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7

7) Trees Class: *Following our trail that borders Rock Creek, and beyond, the students are introduced to the trees which are found in the Chaparral, Riparian, and Mixed-Coniferous Ecological Zones of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges. The parts of a tree, including the function of each, are identified and discussed as are the interrelationship with the other life forms of this habitat. Students will investigate large diameter tree rounds and take professional "core samples" to determine rates of growth and related environmental conditions present in the past as the students are introduced to the concept of Intelligent Design within an ecosystem.*

5th grade

-Physical Sciences 1a

-Life Sciences 2a, 2e, 2f, and 2g

-Investigation and Experimentation 6a, 6f, and 6g

6th grade

-Ecology (Life Sciences) 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5e

-Resources 6b

-Investigation and Experimentation 7b

7th grade

-Cell Biology 1a and 1f

-Structure and Function in a Living System 5a and 5f

-Investigation and Experimentation 7a

8) Entomology Class: *Posters and models are used to illustrate insect identification. Several professional insect collections are on display and used for an introduction to insect, and insect order, identification and classification. Students revisit the concept of the Evidence of Intelligent Design within a specific life form and are introduced to the terms "consumer" and "decomposer" within the web of life. Students are led on an insect hunt and participate in collecting and mounting insects for their very own insect collection.*

Entomology Class CA curriculum standards continued:

5th grade

- Life Sciences 2b
- Investigation and Experimentation 6a

6th grade

- Ecology (Life Sciences) 5b, 5c, 5d, and 5e

7th grade

- Structure and Function in Living Systems 5a and 5b
- Physical Principles of Living Systems 6h

9) Vertical Flaypen: *While safely on "team belay" students face the challenge of climbing this 60' vertical surface using man-made climbing holds. The concept of "climbing with your feet" is introduced as our trained instructors guide and encourage the students through this personal self confidence and team building exercise.*

5th grade

- Movement Concepts 2.1
- Self Responsibility 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4
- Social Interaction 5.5 and 5.6
- Group Dynamics 5.7

6th grade

- Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.9 and 1.10
- Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2
- Social Interaction 5.3
- Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

7th grade

- Movement Concepts 2.2 and 2.5
- Self Responsibility 5.1
- Social Interaction 5.3
- Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

8th grade

- Movement Concepts 2.1 and 2.3
- Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 2.4
- Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2
- Social Interaction 5.4
- Group Dynamics 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7

10) Archery Class: *Students are introduced to the bow and arrow, its history and proper use. Emphasis is on safety as students are given the opportunity to test their skills on the Archery Range.*

5th grade

- Movement Concepts 2.1
- Body Composition 3.7

6th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5

7th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.2, 2.3, and 2.5

8th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 2.4

11) Compass Orienteering Class: *After an introduction to the proper use of the compass and location of basic coordinates, students proceed in teams of two to navigate their way around a course of multiple stations. Before, and after, the successful completion of this course, students are introduced to topographical maps of the area and given a series of tasks to complete which will familiarize them with these navigational tools and symbols.*

6th grade

-Investigation and Experimentation 7f

12) Zip Line: *While in a climbing harness and safely on belay students ascend 40' to the Zip Line launch platform mounted to one of our Ponderosa Pine Trees. Our Zip Line instructor assists each student in preparation for their launch beginning a 200 yard elevated "zip" through the forest canopy: an experience that no one will forget!*

5th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1

-Self Responsibility 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4

-Social Interaction 5.5 and 5.6

-Group Dynamics 5.7

6th grade

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 1.9 and 1.10

-Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

7th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.2 and 2.5

-Self Responsibility 5.1

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

8th grade

-Movement Concepts 2.1 and 2.3

-Combinations of Movement Patterns and Skills 2.4

-Self Responsibility 5.1 and 5.2

-Social Interaction 5.4

-Group Dynamics 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7

13) Wilderness Rescue: *Students are introduced to basic First Aid and Rescue techniques that are unique to the wilderness environment. All students will have the experience of practicing such activities as sling making and how to build a stretcher using only their clothing and tree branches. Skills related to helping and services to others are stressed.*

5th grade

-Social Interaction 5.5 and 5.6

-Group Dynamics 5.7

6th grade

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

7th grade

-Social Interaction 5.3

-Group Dynamics 5.4 and 5.5

8th grade

-Social Interaction 5.4

-Group Dynamics 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7

14) Stalking and Tracking: *Exploring a variety of trails and along the perimeters of our Riparian Habitats, students are introduced to the basic skills and techniques of identifying, tracking, and stalking animals that are indigenous to the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges. Diversity of animal life, various gaits, associated behaviors, and interaction are explained as animal prints are located, studied, and discussed.*

5th grade

-Investigation and Experimentation 6a, 6c, 6f, 6g, and 6h

6th grade

-Ecology (Life Sciences) 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, and 5e

-Investigation and Experimentation 7e and 7h

7th grade

-Structure and Function in Living Systems 5g

-Physical Principles and Living Systems 6h

-Investigation and Experimentation 7c

15) Herpetology Class: *In the Herpetology Center students will see several species of snakes, lizards, and amphibians indigenous to the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges and Foothills. A wide variety of Herpetology facts will be explained and discussed using the actual species for illustration. Students will be allowed to handle the animals, to a limited degree, under strictly controlled conditions. The concept of the Evidence of Intelligent Design within specific life forms is revisited and the terms "predator" and "prey" within the web of life are defined and discussed.*

5th grade

-Life Sciences 2a

-Investigation and Experimentation 6a