



YMCA Camp Duncan

Outdoor Environmental Education Class / Curriculum Electives

Animal Senses Students will discuss the five senses and learn how and why certain animals rely on and utilize those senses. Through a series of sensory games and activities – students will be challenged to imitate animals in order to find food, direction and safety.

Birding Birds common to YMCA Camp Duncan and the Illinois area will be discussed in the class. On a hike around camp, students will locate, identify, and discuss various birds and their habitats.

Bubble Mania Students will discuss the science of bubbles and specific characteristics of bubbles. Students will then create various bubbles using different bubble makers.

Creatures 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 will give students the opportunity to see and witness creatures in nature.

Creepy Crawlies Students will discuss what makes an insect an insect. The students will then become bug detectives as they hike around camp searching for the hidden creepy crawlies.

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 six different countries. Activities include playing traditional games. (England, South Africa, Brazil, Australia, China, India)

GPS Scavenger Hunt Students will briefly discuss compasses, satellites, the four cardinal directions and then learn how to navigate around camp using a hand-held GPS unit.

Hiking to Health Students will participate in a 50 minute hike. Along the hike – students will discuss the following: benefits of hiking, National Parks, heart health, and various plant / animal facts.

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.

Outdoor iExplore This class will be taught using iTouches. Students will learn and discover various apps that can teach them about the great outdoors. Stars, weather, plants and more will be discussed.

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. Students will then get to make a candle. Candles are an additional cost of \$1.00 per person.

Recycle, Rethink, Reuse Students will discuss current threats to the environment covering both local and global issues. Students will also participate in various hands-on activities that will reinforce this knowledge and give them the opportunity to offer solutions to these problems.

Star Lab See the night sky in our indoor planetarium! Students will learn the location of some commonly known constellations and stars; Greek mythology and Native American legends will also be discussed.

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.

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.

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. Students will spend time at the lake to gather water samples for observation under a microscope.

Wilderness Survival The four things essential for survival will be discussed and learned. The students will work to build fires, solve survival situations, and if time permits build shelters.

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

Woodland Ways Students will discuss Native Americans from the Plains and Woodland areas and some of the traditions of their culture. The Native American land ethic will be emphasized and will provide the underlying theme for our program. Students will partake in a drumming ceremony.

Team Building / Group Work

Connections Students will use PVC pipes and connectors to build and construct various towers, equations, statues, boxes and more.

Climbing Tower Students will learn about safety equipment and the procedures needed in order to do a safe climb on our 50-foot tower. Students will set personal goals for their climb and will offer encouragement for their classmates.

Duncan Detectives This is YMCA Camp Duncan's version of an escape room. Students will work together in small groups to find all of the clues and unlock the deed to camp.

Group Initiatives Games, challenges, and ice breakers make up this class which is a great precursor to the Teams Course.

Rope Games Using nothing but ropes - this unique team building class will develop problem solving and communication skills.

Teaming with Tarps Students will use tarps to work together to complete various challenges.

Teams Course Students will venture together through a trail of challenges, which can only be accomplished when the group works together. 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).

Recreation / Crafts

Crafts

Candlemaking (\$1)
Leather Crafts (\$4)
Tie Dye

Camp Activities

Blobbering (summer only)
Archery
Parachute Games
Boating
Campfire
Drumming
Scavenger Hunt
Night Hike
High Ropes (Additional Fee)
Black Hole

Recreation Activities (self led)

Ga Ga
4 Square
Volleyball
Frisbee Golf
Soccer
Basketball
Hiking
Playground

