

Sharpe Reservation Day Programs

All day programs are hands-on and based on the concept of experiential education.

Outdoor Classes:

Animals of the Forest: Step into the sleeping forest as we focus in on the plants and trees and how they create the ideal habitat for its residents. Explore animal adaptations that ensure the animals survival through the seasons. To enhance your animals of the forest experience, a second lesson option could be:

Make Tracks: Students make an animal track using Plaster of Paris that they can take home. The tracks are made using rubber molds based on the animals found here at Sharpe. *A \$15.00 materials fee will be charged, only time for one class per day.*

Birds in our Backyard: This class introduces students to the birds that inhabit our forests. Bird adaptations, feeding patterns, identifying features, migration, and bird fun facts. If time allows, students will learn about the use and care of binoculars, basic bird songs and calls, and field observation. (Partially indoors)

Fresh Air Farm Hike: With a visit to the Fresh Air Farm, students will learn about domestic livestock and organic gardening. They will learn the origin of basic foods and other household products, as well as principles of composting and sustainable living. *(October only).*

Finding your Way: Students will learn to read a map and complete an orienteering adventure through Camp Hidden Valley. This lesson will include the fundamentals of maps, topography, and directional points.

Fishing (seasonal): Students will learn the art of fishing with a simple bamboo fishing pole. They will learn about the different characteristics used to identify fish and then identify the fish they catch using a dichotomous key. There will be discussions about the role fish play in an aquatic ecosystem along with the ecological effects of overfishing, and what we as individuals can do to reduce them.

Group Dynamics: Small groups will participate in active games and tasks involving problem solving ideas that develop cooperation and trust.

Hike: Explore the trails of Sharpe Reservation while learning about leave no trace principles and best practices for hiking preparedness and safety.

Pond Study: Students will discover the interdependence of living things as they catch, observe, and release the creatures that make ponds and streams their home. Students

will determine the health of the pond based on the variety of species they identify by using dichotomous keys and field guides.

Primitive Skills: A twist on wilderness survival, this class will focus on primitive tools and their uses, and may include fire-making methods, ropemaking (cordage) and primitive hunting techniques. *Recommended for grades 5 and up.*

Sensory Trail: Students will be engaged in a blindfolded adventure that focuses on sensory awareness and development.

Survival: Students will learn and prioritize some basic skills for staying alive in the wild, including building a simple shelter called a “debris hut”.

Indoor Classes:

Dirty Water: Students will learn about the effects of human activities on the environment. They will study a simulated historical reconstruction of the pollution of the Hudson River, attempt a hands-on cleanup or remediation effort, and decide the impact on plants, animals, the environment, and other human activities.

Papermaking: Students will learn the history of papermaking and will practice the techniques of papermaking using recycled paper and natural materials. The finished product will be theirs to keep.

Planetarium: Look up at the night sky in our 48-seat planetarium. All shows will point out familiar constellations and current objects visible in the sky (such as: planet locations, comets, meteor showers and other celestial events). After a 30-minute show students head outside to either compete in space trivia or create planospheres. *(Partially outdoors)*

Wild Weather: Students will become meteorologists and learn about what makes weather. Students will participate in experiments to understand the forces that create weather and how we measure and forecast weather. Students will give a weather report at the end of class.

Worms, Worms, Worms!: A hands-on look at worms and worm behavior will be included in an inquiry-based lab session. Students will observe firsthand the importance of decomposers and their place in the Web of Life.