

Northern Lakes Impact Center

Education – Inspiration – Motivation



Outdoor Education Curriculum Guide

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Welcome to the Northern Lakes Impact Center!

The Northern Lakes Impact Center is dedicated to providing quality Environmental Education, Teambuilding and training programs. The leadership of the Impact Center has been designing quality Outdoor Environmental Education classes, historical reenactments and teambuilding programs for over 20 years. Our curriculum is currently in use at camps, schools and other environmental centers around the country. Come see what we can do for your school!

The Northern Lakes Impact Center does not own or operate its own camps; instead, we partner with camps that have the facilities we require to enable us to provide programs that meet the needs of our clients. Each camp we work with is personally visited and assessed based on rigorous criteria to guarantee that we can provide a safe, comfortable, educational experience for students, chaperones and teachers.

At the Northern Lakes Impact Center, we do not believe that “one size fits all”. Our goal is to create programs that meet the special needs of your students. Don’t see a class that would help reinforce your classroom instruction? Then let us know and we will see if we can create one for you! Would you prefer another Main Event rather than the Evening Classes, let us work out a schedule that best matches your educational objectives!

The Impact Center’s comprehensive curriculum focuses on educational concepts geared to meet the Michigan Goals and Objectives for Science Education, the Minnesota Academic Standards and the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. We also provide historical re-enactments that support your Social Studies curriculum. All classes are written to provide hands-on, interactive lessons that promote learning and retention among students in a safe, fun “camp” environment.

In addition to environmental studies, schools can choose to include social outcomes in their curriculum. With classes like Climbing Tower, High Ropes, High Teams, Initiatives, Low Ropes, Real Rock Climbing, River Canoe Trips and many more, schools can design programs that will teach students conflict-resolution skills, enhance self-esteem and develop leadership potential.

The Northern Lakes Impact Center also offers a wide-range of Educational Trips, programs for youth at-risk and families at-risk and much more.

The staff of the Northern Lakes Impact Center are willing to work with your school to tailor a program to meet your specific goals and objectives. For more information about the Northern Lakes Impact Center or its programs, please contact us at (715) 203 - 0505, by email at program@northernlakesimpact.org or visit us on the web at www.northernlakesimpact.org. We look forward to creating a program to meet your needs.

We invite you to come and see what we can do for your organization.

Sincerely,



Maria Rudesill
Director, Northern Lakes Impact Center

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Main Events are the main classes offered through the NLIC program. These are typically two hours long – unless otherwise specified – and are designed to meet specific state and interpersonal educational objectives. **Short Courses** are little “mini classes” that occur on every day other than arrival/departure days. These cover a wide-range of educational and recreational activities suitable for groups of all ages. **Evening Classes** occur each night. Most classes are one hour in length – unless otherwise specified – and cover a wide-range of educational and recreational activities. Schools may generally select two Evening Classes for each night of their stay.

Don't see a class listed that you need for your students? Please contact the Northern Lakes Impact Center to discuss having a custom-made class to meet your educational, social or recreational needs. (All special classes require notice at least one month prior to the start date.) Please note that classes may be rearranged to meet the needs of your school. Main Events can be scheduled in the evening, schools may opt to switch Short Courses for Evening Classes, etc. Please contact the Northern Lakes Impact Center for more information.



Main Events – Earth Science



Earth Science 101

Students will learn to develop an appreciation and understanding of the makeup of the earth, ranging from the geological strata to the layers of the soil. With introductions to plate tectonics, glaciation and other forces that shape our land features, students will understand how the ground beneath our feet influences life. We will also discover the effect of human activity on soil degradation.

Grades: 5+

Seasons: All (limited program in winter)

Key Concepts:

- Define “soil”.
- Erosion and soil conservation.
- How layers in the earth develop over time.
- Human impact on ecosystems
The forces responsible for past changes in the earth.
- The four layers of top soil.



Farm Field Trip

Students will have the opportunity to take a trip to a local farm to see modern agricultural practice in action and to learn how farmers work with nature to solve everyday problems. Topics of the field trip can include: animal husbandry, daily farm life, environmental protection, erosion control, historical methods of farming and soil conservation. Reservations must be made at least two months in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Schools are responsible for securing transportation to and from the farm. There is an additional \$100.00 fee paid directly to the farmer to help cover program costs.

Grades: All

Seasons: All (limited program in winter)

Key Concepts:

- Animal adaptations.
- Food production.
- Food supply and demand.
- Historical and modern farming practices.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Soil conservation.
- Water and wind erosion.



Geology

Let’s talk rocks! Rocks? How exciting can that be? Just wait and see! From common stones to precious gems, we will introduce students to the wide-world of...the world! Rocks and minerals *are* the ground beneath our feet! But it’s not just enough to talk about them; we have a rock collection with hundreds of specimens to study and we will learn even more by exploring the grounds around us for hidden treasures!

Grades: 5+

Season: All (limited program in winter)

Key Concepts:

- Define “minerals”.
- Define “rocks”.
- Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary.
- Learn to identify and classify rocks and minerals based on characteristics.
- Nature observation.



Ice Age Impact

Many of our current land features were created thousands of years ago! Learn how glacial periods carved the landscape, changing not only the physical characteristics, but the ecosystems as well. Students will explore the natural area around them to see if they can still see signs from past glacial times.

Grades: All

Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Climate change and its impact on the environment.
- Define “glacier”.
- Define “ice age”.
- Forces responsible for past changes in the earth
- How layers in the earth develop over time.

Main Events – Environmental Studies



Animal Habitats

What is a habitat? That simple question begins our discussion of the basic needs of all animals and starts us on our exploration of the world around us. We will study animals of all shapes and sizes – from aquatic to avian – as we search for animals and their homes.

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Basic needs for survival and how different animals meet those needs.
- Define “ecosystem”.
- Define “habitat”.
- Using basic needs as a means of finding animals for observation.



Aquatic Ecology

Explore the beautiful and sensitive aquatic life in a variety of ecosystems. Learn how micro- and macroscopic creatures can be used as an environmental indicator of the health of an ecosystem. Students will have the opportunity to collect water samples, study the biotic (living) factors and witness how life on a small scale is important to the entire food chain.

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Define “ecology”.
- Define “invertebrates”.
- Food chains.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Nature exploration and identification.
- Pollution and its effects on ecosystems.



Bird Biology

Students will be introduced to different adaptations of birds and will contrast them with other animal groups through demonstrations and observations in the field. Using binoculars and field guides on a nature hike, we will explore up-close our fine, feathered friends.

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Animal adaptations.
- Animal habitats.
- Animal identification.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Nature exploration and identification.



Canoe Explorers

Starting with lessons in boating safety, steering and how to work with your partners, we will give students the opportunity to learn an ancient skill. When they have mastered the basics, we will set out to retrace the route of the Native Americans and explorers as we talk about land use, conservation and changes in ecosystems over time.

Grades: 3+
Seasons: Fall, Spring (weather is a limiting factor)

Key Concepts:

- Define “ecosystems”.
- Define “ecotone”.
- Define “succession” as it relates to ecosystems.
- History of canoe exploration.
- Teamwork.



Concept Paths

Learn the “Seven Secrets of Life” from the internationally-recognized environmental education program, “[Sunship Earth](#)”, by Steve van Matre. *Concept Paths* covers food chains, soil and water cycles, biological diversity within species and ecosystems, change, interrelationships, behavioral adaptations and more. This Main Event lasts 2.5 hours and must be done as an all-camp activity.

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Behavioral adaptations to the environment.
- Commensalism, mutualism, parasitism and predator/prey.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Habitats and ecosystems.
- Soil and water cycles.

Main Events – Environmental Studies (continued)



Discovery Hike (With Meal)

All of the staff employed by the Northern Lakes Impact Center share a love of the outdoors and each has their own special area of study. The *Discovery Hike* allows our staff to teach to their strengths, sharing their knowledge with students as they explore the natural world. For some added fun, this program can include an optional Wilderness Meal where students are able to cook over an open fire.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Acclimatization.
- Nature discovery.
- Outdoor cooking.
- Teamwork.



Enrichment Class

Do you want to give your students a chance to explore their own areas of interest in greater depth? The *Enrichment Class* is offered as an all-camp activity that allows students to choose which class they attend. Class choices may be selected by teachers from the list of courses in this catalog, recommended by Northern Lakes Impact Center staff or created to meet a specific need. (Please notify us at least one month in advance if you would like special curriculum developed for your students.)

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Exploration and discovery.
- In-depth specialization.
- Nature study.
- Personal decision-making.



Environmental Engineers

An Environmental Engineer is a person who specializes in the study of pollution – among other things – and who seeks to find better ways of doing things in order to lessen our impact on the environment. Students will become Environmental Engineers as they perform chemical tests on local water sources to determine the health of the ecosystems. As we learn about past mistakes, we can learn how to protect the natural world for the future.

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic chemistry.
- Pollution and its effects on the environment.
- The Water Cycle.
- Water and its uses.



Explorations

Many of the original naturalists developed their artistic skills so that they could share the beauty of nature with others. In *Explorations* we will carry on this tradition! Leaf rubbings, sketches of wildlife, photography, stories and poems will enable our explorers to not only see nature, but to bring back a journal full of memories to share with others. (Actual *Explorations* picture shown at left.)

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Artistic interpretation.
- Creative writing.
- Nature exploration.
- Phenology

Main Events – Environmental Studies (continued)



Forest Study

Designed for our younger students, Forest Study provides a general overview of the information contained in our *Animal Habitats* and *Plants and Trees* Main Events. Students will have the opportunity to search for animal signs, identify various plants and trees and explore the natural world around them.

Grades: K-4
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Animal habitats.
- Ecosystems.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Nature exploration and identification.
- Plant habitats.



Insect and Spider Ecology

Time to get up close to the largest group in the Animal Kingdom! And, while spiders may not be part of the *Class - Insecta*, they are still in the “creepy-crawly” group, so we’re including them, as well! By practicing catch-and-release techniques, students will become familiar with insect and spider identification, learn about their habitats and discover their importance in the food chain!

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Food chains and food webs.
- Habitats.
- Nature exploration and identification.
- Understanding of, and appreciation for, insects in the environment.



Invasive Species

The war is on! The enemy is already here and even though we are fighting against them, they are still receiving aid and comfort from ordinary citizens – many times without their knowledge! Who is this enemy? It’s invasive species! Students will learn about the dangers posed by invasive species to native plants and animals, discover how ecosystems change over time and how to combat these trespassers on a personal and public level.

Grades: 5+
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Define “invasive species”.
- Changes in ecosystems
- Habitats.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Limiting factors and population control.



Pathfinders

This is a first-time, outdoor experience for our younger students. *Pathfinders* will have the opportunity to do some basic Teambuilding games, learn simple environmental concepts and have fun as they explore the natural world around them. (This class can be done as either a Main Event or a half-day program.)

Grades: K – 2
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Acclimatization.
- Creative play.
- Introduction to environmental concepts.



Plants and Trees

Why do trees lose their leaves? How can I tell the different types of trees? We will cover this and much more as we learn about plants and trees and their importance in the “web of life”. This class is also available in winter as we study plant survival and adaptations to cold climates and how to identify a tree without leaves.

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “coniferous”.
- Define “deciduous”.
- Changes in ecosystems.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Habitats.

Main Events – Environmental Studies (continued)



Prairie Walk

The prairie was a native ecosystem that rapidly disappeared with the arrival of farmers and the steel plow. Now, thanks to conservation efforts around the Midwest, the prairie has made a comeback. Students will have the opportunity to visit our restored prairie and learn about the unique plants and animals that call this habitat home. For our Fall schools, students will be invited to help harvest seeds which the school can take back as a souvenir.

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Changes in ecosystems.
- Conservation and restoration.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Native ecosystems.



Predator / Prey

Welcome to the ultimate game of survival! This is an all-camp activity that uses role-playing to help students understand the complexities of the food pyramid and the basic needs for survival.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Carrying capacity.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Limiting factors.
- Predator / Prey relationships.
- Teamwork.



River Canoe Trip

Climb aboard and retrace the route of the Voyageurs! We are going to go on a scenic 2-hour trip down a major waterway: either the beautiful St. Croix River (ARC) or the mighty Wisconsin River (Crescent Lake). Discussion on the river can include: history and impact of rivers on the Upper Midwest; current problems facing rivers; and more. ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: 5+
Seasons: Early Fall and late Spring

Key Concepts:

- Changes in ecosystems.
- Endangered/protected species.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Invasive species.
- Teamwork.
- Wildlife diversity.



Sensory Walk

The *Sensory Walk* includes many activities designed to help participants concentrate on senses other than the one they rely on most: sight. Come and explore the world around you in a whole new way! As we go, we will see how scents, sounds and touch can help us develop a more complete picture of the natural world.

Grades: K – 8
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Acclimatization.
- Basic survival skills.
- Nature awareness and exploration.
- Sensory exploration.



Snow Study

How many words do the Eskimos have for snow? Is it true that no two snowflakes are the same? These questions and more are answered as we wade through the white stuff! From the formation of snowflakes to its importance in the environment, we will have fun exploring the winter wonderland. (Adequate snow base is required; please select a backup option in case of poor conditions.)

Grades: All
Seasons: Winter

Key Concepts:

- Acclimatization.
- Adaptations.
- Nature exploration and identification.
- Water cycle.
- Wildlife in winter.

Main Events – Environmental Studies (continued)



Wastewater Management

Everybody goes...um...to the bathroom. But, have you ever stopped to consider what happens after you flush the toilet? Let's learn the steps water takes to go from the ground to the bathroom and back to the environment! (Be prepared for some potty language as part of this class.) ☺

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Recycling and reclamation.
- Water Cycle.



Weather and Climate

Observations and data collection from weather instruments at our station and a series of activities will guide students to predict a 24-hour forecast. In addition, students will understand the difference between weather and climate. Schools may also choose to videotape a “weather report” by their students to take back as a souvenir of their trip. (A shorter version of this class is available as a pre-breakfast option.)

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “climate”.
- Define “weather”.
- Folklore methods of forecasting the weather.
- Understand how basic instruments can forecast the weather.
- Understand the difference between climate and weather.



Wetland Wonderland

Bog, fen, marsh or swamp? No matter what it is (or what you call it) wetlands are home to a wide diversity of living things. We'll jump right in – not literally – to our investigations; exploring the wildlife that is unique to the wetlands area. We'll also use observations gathered from the surrounding ecosystems to determine the overall health of the wetland and to forecast its future.

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Define “ecosystems”.
- Define “ecotone”.
- Define “wetland”.
- Define “succession” as it relates to ecosystems.
- Human impact on ecosystems.



Wildlife In Winter

Study first-hand the adaptations of animals as they prepare to face winter in the Upper Midwest. We will explore the forest, fields, lakes and streams looking for signs of animals in their homes as we discuss the specialized behaviors that enable animals to survive under a foot – or more – of snow!

Grades: All
Seasons: Winter

Key Concepts:

- Define “hibernation”.
- Define “torpor”.
- Adaptation.
- Food chains.

**If you can't come to one of our partner facilities,
let us bring the program to you!**

Main Events – Living History



1850's School House

Let's explore modern education in America – from over 150 years ago! Learn what it was like to attend school in a one-room school house. In this class, students will experience a day in the life of children from another time, complete with games, lesson plans and even discipline! With hands-on activities, we will compare the educational systems of then and now!

Grades: K – 6
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Compare the past and the present.
- Discuss American culture from an historical perspective.
- Understand how information changes over time.
- Understand how the need for education has changed.



Archaeological Dig

It's time to dig up the past! Using grid patterns, brushes and other tools students will participate in an archaeological dig. Real items will be buried in the area under excavation, allowing students to not only find "treasures" but also piece together the past. (Due to the size of the excavation and the number of props, this needs to be done as a Main Event.)

Grades: 3+
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Define "archaeology".
- Understand how changes in the environment affect human civilizations.
- How scientists observe and document their findings.
- How scientific investigations are based on past discoveries.



Horseback Riding

Saddle up and get ready to ride! We are going to talk about the history of horses in the Upper Midwest. From their use as transportation to bring pioneers and settlers to the region to their work on farms to their service in the military, horses have had a profound impact on the development of the region. But, don't think that this is going to be simply a lecture because we are going to saddle up, mount up and ride the trails as we see nature from a unique perspective. ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: 5+
Seasons: Early Fall and late Spring

Key Concepts:

- Acclimatization.
- Explain the role of horses in the exploration of the Great Lakes region.
- Explain the role of horses in the economy of the Great Lakes region.



Lewis and Clark

With the Louisiana Purchase, a new frontier opened up for the United States. Come retrace the steps of the "Corps of Discovery" and learn about their explorations and adventures! Students will have the opportunity to use technology from the 1800s to create maps, complete journals and change their world. This is history in a hands-on way!

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- American life and culture of the 1800s.
- Expansionism and its impact on American history.
- Influence of minorities on American history.
- Native American culture and relationships.
- Science and technology of the 1800s.

Main Events – Living History (continued)



Lumberjacks

The timber industry has played a critical role in shaping the Upper Midwest history and still plays a vital role in the economy today. Learn about the first logging camps, the tools of the trade and how techniques have changed over the years. Students will have the opportunity to use actual tools used for hundreds of years as they try their hand at being Lumberjacks. Schools can even include a log-rolling competition for additional fun! (Recommended as an all-camp activity.)

Grades: 3+

Seasons: All (limited program in winter)

Key Concepts:

- Define “lumberjacks”.
- Explain the role of the timber industry in settling the Great Lakes region.
- Explain the role of timber in the economy of the Great Lakes region.
- Understand how the timber industry impacts the environment.



Maple Syrup / Sugar Shack

I know what you’re thinking – why is *Maple Syrup* in the “Living History” section? Because the process of making maple syrup is ancient! While no one knows when the first maple syrup was made, it has been used for hundreds of years by Native Americans. We are going to explore the history, folklore and skills required to make maple syrup – a process which has remained essentially unchanged for centuries! ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: All

Seasons: January – April (depending on when the sap runs)

Key Concepts:

- Cultural awareness.
- Food production.
- Hands-on exploration.
- Storytelling.



Image courtesy of www.firstpeople.us

Native Americans of the Great Lakes Region

Native Americans were the first environmentalists in the United States. Learn about the history and culture of the tribes that lived in this area, their contributions to the development of this region and their views about the natural world. Students will have the opportunity to create Native American crafts, sample staple foods and learn other skills that were necessary for surviving in this area. (This can be done as a Main Event or as an all-camp activity.)

Grades: All

Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Cultural awareness.
- Explain how Native Americans influenced the development of the Great Lakes region.
- Explain the diversity of tribes and their cultures in the Great Lakes region.



Pioneers and Settlers

From the life of the pioneer, exploring the uncharted territories, to the settlers who came after, students will get to experience the life of those who “tamed” the land. With hands-on opportunities to use hand tools, cook over the fire and create crafts, students will have a better understanding of the hardships faced by those who came to live in the New World. (This can be done as a Main Event or as an all-camp activity.)

Grades: All

Season: All

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation for modern conveniences.
- Cultural awareness.
- Understanding of daily life of pioneers and settlers.
- Understanding motivations of those who first came to the Upper Midwest.

Main Events – Living History (continued)



Primitive Hunting

Explore the history of hunting from the skill of the throwing stick to the science of the atlatl to the precision of the throwing tomahawk. We will discuss the basics of tracking, play a Native American stalking game; and then practice with tools used for hunting for thousands of years. (This class is led by carefully trained staff and we only use “standard” targets – no animal shapes, silhouettes, etc.)

Grades: All
Season: Fall and Spring

Key Concepts:

- Basic human needs.
- Biomechanics.
- Cultural awareness.
- Primitive technology.
- Skill-building.
- Understanding the history and traditions of native peoples.



Storytelling

Learn the traditions of an ancient art. All cultures tell stories and by studying American Folklore, Native American Tales, Voyageur Bragging and more, we can be a part of that history. For added fun, students will be able to develop their own stories to share with their classmates. This class is ideal for winter use as we gather around the fire, sip hot cocoa and share with each other.

Grades: All
Season: All

Key Concepts:

- Cultural awareness.
- Encourage public speaking.
- Understanding the history and development of stories, legends and myths.



Traditional Thanksgiving (Main Event)

Learn the true history of a national holiday! Discover who the “Pilgrims” really were, what they wore and how they lived. See the struggles they faced as they tried to survive in the New World; and find out how the Native Americans demonstrated the highest level of friendship and goodwill to the suffering colonists.

Grades: All
Season: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic human needs.
- Separating fact from tradition.
- Understanding peaceful cross-cultural interactions.
- Understanding the origin and development of myths.



Voyageur Rendezvous

Get ready to be transported back in time to experience first-hand the life of a Voyageur fur trader. With basic skills like bragging, crafts, flint and steel fire making, games, songs and trading, students will learn how people’s attitudes and behaviors during the fur trade era have affected the environment in the Great Lakes region. (Recommended as an all-camp activity.)

Grades: All
Season: All

Key Concepts:

- Explain the role of the fur trade in settling the Great Lakes region.
- Explain the role of the fur trade in the economy of the Great Lakes region.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Understanding daily life of fur traders.

Are you looking for a class to meet your educational objectives? Much of the curriculum at the Northern Lakes Impact Center has been requested by our participating schools. Given at least one month of notice, we will design a program to meet your specific needs and key it to your state’s guidelines.

For more information, please contact us at (715) 203 – 0505.

Main Events – Outdoor Skills



Archery

Bows and arrows represented a leap in technological advancement for primitive societies. With the development of the bow, hunting was accomplished more easily, providing the basis for larger populations. We will explore not only the history of archery, but students will also have the opportunity to develop their skills on our Archery Range.

Grades: All

Seasons: All (limited program in winter)

Key Concepts:

- Build self-confidence through skill-building.
- Explore and develop skills in archery.
- Understanding how primitive cultures developed advanced tools.
- Understand the development of bows throughout history.



Compass

It's time to find your way – old school! We will study the history of the compass and how it helped with the science of navigation, the causes and changes in the earth's magnetic field and some of the folklore methods of finding directions. Then with our trusty compasses in hand, some basic math and geometry skills and a little bit of teamwork, we will challenge students to navigate our compass course.

Grades: 3+

Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic geometry.
- Basic math and calculation.
- Cardinal directions.
- History and use of compasses.
- Magnets and magnetism.



Cross-Country Skiing

Experience the joy and beauty of winter while practicing a human-powered sport that is healthy, safe and fun. Students build a relationship with the outdoors that can be reflected in choices of activities throughout their lives. (Adequate snow base is required; please select a backup option in case of poor conditions.)

Grades: 3+

Seasons: Winter

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation of the outdoors.
- Healthy activity choices.
- History and development of cross-country skiing.
- Human adaptation to the environment.



Geocaching

Using the latest technology, your students will have the opportunity to plot, map and find their way through our Geocaching Course. It's our own version of a high-tech scavenger hunt that requires students to work together to find the treasure.

Grades: 5+

Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic orienteering skills.
- Cardinal Directions.
- Nature observation.
- Teamwork.
- Understanding technology and how it can be of benefit.



Geodesic Domes

Students will learn basic geometry, including: angles, geometric shapes and more. We will discuss the strengths and weakness of shapes as they relate to building. Then, with the aid of simple knots and sturdy tree limbs, they will proceed to build their own geodesic dome for use as a playground or a shelter.

Grades: 5+

Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic construction techniques.
- Basic geometry.
- Basic survival skills.
- Knot tying.

Main Events – Outdoor Skills (continued)



Minimal Impact / Living Lightly

This class is designed to foster a respect and appreciation for outdoor areas and the environment. Students will learn how to enjoy the natural world while reducing their effect on their surroundings. Techniques taught can include campsite set-up, fire building, food preparation and visual and social impacts.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation of the outdoors.
- Healthy activity choices.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Outdoor skills.
- Recognition of and appreciation for natural areas.



Orienteering

Learn the useful skill of reading a map! We will discuss all components of maps, including contour lines, orientation, scale, symbols and more. Then, utilizing different types of maps, we will take the students out, get them “lost” and see how well they learned the lessons of the class as they follow our Orienteering Course.

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic orienteering skills.
- Basic survival skills.
- Parts of a map.
- Understanding that it *is* okay to stop and ask for directions...
- Using landmarks to determine direction.



Outdoor Survival

This class teaches students the basics of survival with an emphasis on a positive mental attitude, teamwork and creative problem-solving. We will cover fire building, shelters, signaling, weather forecasting and much more. Schools may even choose to include a discussion of wild edibles, with common plants sampled by students.

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation and respect for the outdoors.
- Basic survival skills.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Preparation and prevention.



Snowshoe Travels

Let's get out and explore winter! We will discuss the history and development of snowshoes, their practical use and then we will go on a nature hike around the property. While we walk, we will discuss wildlife in winter, adaptations and more! (Adequate snow base is required; please select a backup option in case of poor conditions.)

Grades: 5+
Seasons: Winter

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation of the outdoors.
- Healthy activity choices.
- History and development of cross-country skiing.
- Human adaptation to the environment.



Tracking

Want to know what an animal is thinking but you're not Dr. Doolittle? We can help! Come and learn the art of tracking; an ancient skill that is still practiced today. By exploring the tracks (and scat!) of animals, applying the Scientific Method and a little careful study, you can learn a lot about where it came from, what it is doing and how it is feeling.

Grades: All
Seasons: All (may be unavailable if ground conditions are poor)

Key Concepts:

- Animal habitats.
- Animal populations within a given ecosystem.
- Basic discussion of animal physiology.
- History and use of tracking.

Main Events – Seasonal Programs

International Christmas



How did the Christmas Tree become a part of Christmas? What is the most popular Christmas Carol of all time? So, how do they celebrate Christmas in other countries? The answer to these and many other questions are answered in our International Christmas program! This program is adaptable for all ages and can be used as a Main Event or as a half-day program. (Available in the month of December only.)

Grades: K – 6
Season: December only.

Key Concepts:

- Cultural awareness.
- Differences in perspectives.
- How traditions develop.
- Origins and history of contemporary Christmas celebrations.

Traditional Thanksgiving (Day Program)



Why did the Pilgrims come to the New World? What were the challenges they faced? How did the Native Americans help the Pilgrims? We will answer these questions and more as we explore the history and mythology of the first Thanksgiving Feast in America! With games, food, crafts and tools, we will have fun as we celebrate this popular holiday. (The Traditional Thanksgiving Day Program with a full thanksgiving feast is available in the month of November only.)

Grades: K – 6
Season: The Day Program is available in November only.

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation for modern conveniences.
- Cultural awareness.
- Hands-on exploration.
- Understanding of daily life of pioneers and settlers.
- Understanding of motivations for the first Thanksgiving in America.

Western Christmas



Recommended for our younger students, this program will take children through an exploration of a “Cowboy Christmas”. Activities include western games, crafts and even a hayride in the snow! As part of our wrap-up, we will gather around the campfire for some hot chocolate, Christmas cookies and carols! This program can be used as a Main Event or as a half-day program. (Available in the month of December only.)

Grades: K – 3
Seasons: December only.

Key Concepts:

- Fun and recreation.
- Teamwork.

Main Events – Teambuilding



Bouldering

Get ready to challenge your climbing skills in a whole new way! If you've been climbing before, you know that the goal is "up". In bouldering, however, the goal is "sideways". Be prepared to build muscles you've never used, develop patience and practice problem-solving as you and your spotters attempt to make it as far as you can! ***There is an additional fee for this program if we travel offsite.***

Grades: All (younger students will need help from chaperones)
Seasons: All (limited program in winter on real rock surfaces)

Key Concepts:

- Confidence.
- Encouragement.
- Overcoming obstacles.
- Perseverance.
- Personal goal-setting.
- Self-esteem.
- Teamwork.



Build-A-Boat / Build-A-Sled

Use your wits, creativity and the best engineering skills you have to build a boat (or sled) out of the most basic building materials! Can you create your masterpiece in a limited time? You can if you and your teammates work together to get the job done! When the building time is over, we are putting your construction to the test by competing in sled races or journeying to the waterfront for the Northern Lakes Regatta. (Can be used as a Short Course activity, as well.)

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All (limited program in late Fall and early Spring)

Key Concepts:

- Communication.
- Confidence.
- Conflict-resolution.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Encouragement.
- Leadership skills.
- Self-esteem.
- Teamwork.



(Towers vary by facility.)

Climbing Tower

Build self-esteem, confidence, interdependence and teamwork skills with this high adventure activity. Students are given a safety briefing and then encouraged to set their own personal goals. Trained Facilitators will lead the activity and will process the experience afterward. Schools are strongly encouraged to select *Initiatives* or *Low Ropes* prior to this activity. Weather permitting, we will guarantee that all students who wish to climb will have the opportunity. ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Confidence.
- Encouragement.
- Overcoming obstacles.
- Perseverance.
- Personal goal-setting.
- Self-esteem.
- Teamwork.

No Picture Available
(Courses vary by facility.)

High Ropes Course

Challenge your students to practice individual goal-setting as they learn about encouragement and peer support. Students are encouraged to expand their comfort level as they challenge obstacles ranging from 15 to 50 feet above the ground! The High Ropes Course is not recommended for groups over 150 students. At least one adult from the school must be present at all times to assist NLIC Staff. Schools are strongly encouraged to select *Initiatives* or *Low Ropes* prior to this activity. ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All (weather is a limiting factor)

Key Concepts:

- Confidence.
- Encouragement.
- Overcoming obstacles.
- Perseverance.
- Personal goal-setting.
- Self-esteem.
- Teamwork.

Main Events – Teambuilding (continued)

No Picture Available
(Courses vary by facility.)

High Teams Course

Learn about teamwork from high above the ground with our High Teams Course program. These individual obstacles range from ground level to over 40 feet in the air! Unlike the High Ropes Course, however, these obstacles are not something that can be done by individuals – instead, the team needs to work together to be successful and safe. At least one adult from the school must be present at all times to assist NLIC Staff. Schools are strongly encouraged to select *Initiatives* or *Low Ropes* prior to this activity. ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All (weather is a limiting factor)

Key Concepts:

- Confidence.
- Encouragement.
- Overcoming obstacles.
- Perseverance.
- Personal goal-setting.
- Self-esteem.
- Teamwork.



Real Rock

Want to take your Teambuilding program to a whole new level? Then let us take you rock climbing on a real rock face! With top-roping led by qualified staff members, you can challenge yourself to climb to new heights. As time allows, we will also provide instruction in belaying – holding on to the safety rope – and can allow students to keep each other safe. ***There is an additional fee for this program.***

Grades: 5+
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Communication.
- Confidence.
- Encouragement.
- Leadership skills.
- Overcoming obstacles.
- Perseverance.
- Personal goal-setting.
- Responsibility
- Self-esteem.
- Teamwork.



Slacklining

Not all high adventure needs to be high off the ground! Welcome to slacklining – an extreme sport that doesn't require extreme gear! We string a 1" and/or a 2" line between trees and you simply have to walk across it. Students will have the opportunity to develop their balance, muscle coordination and strength as they challenge the line. (This can also be done as a Short Course or Free Time activity.)

Grades: All
Seasons: Fall, Spring

Key Concepts:

- Communication.
- Confidence.
- Encouragement.
- Overcoming obstacles.
- Perseverance.
- Personal goal-setting.
- Self-esteem. Teamwork.



Team Challenge

We provide you with the challenge and a box full of raw materials – some useful and some not – and you need to work together to make it happen! Using the same resources, built a chemical rocket that will fly 20 feet in the air; a car that is self-powered; or slime that can crawl on its own! This takes creativity, teamwork and a hefty dose of imagination to come up with a solution that will work!

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “failure”.
- Define “success”.
- Communication.
- Conflict-resolution.
- Cooperation.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Leadership skills.
- Teamwork.

Main Events – Teambuilding (continued)



Teambuilding 101 (Initiatives)

Welcome to Teambuilding at its most basic level! From a definition of Teambuilding to hands-on, minds-on problem-solving activities, students must work together to be successful. With core concepts of communication, cooperating and trust, your students will learn valuable life-lessons as well as skill that can be implemented in the classroom environment. Our *Initiatives* program provides the same level of challenges as *Low Ropes*, but typically has less physical challenges involved.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “failure”.
- Define “success”.
- Communication.
- Conflict-resolution.
- Cooperation.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Leadership skills.
- Trust.



Teambuilding 102 (Low Ropes)

This program offers a combination of mental and physical challenges designed to promote teamwork by developing the “3 C’s” that are critical for any team: Communication, Cooperation and Caring/Trust. This class is recommended for all groups as an opening activity to help promote a positive environment and to lay the foundation for further team-oriented activities.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “failure”.
- Define “success”.
- Communication.
- Conflict-resolution.
- Cooperation.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Leadership skills.
- Trust.

In addition to the activities listed above, the Northern Lakes Impact Center offers even more Teambuilding activities! They include:

At-Risk / Adjudicated Youth Programs
Community Treasure Hunts
Crisis Simulations
Mystery Weekends
Structured Teambuilding
Teacher In-Services
Teambuilding For Physical Education
Teambuilding Training For Teachers
Vision Casting
Waterfront Teambuilding
Wilderness Trips

Call (715) 203 – 0505 to set up a Teambuilding Program for your organization!

Short Courses

Eco Games



Eco-Games are environmentally-themed games. Through these fun, active group games students will learn and understand a key ecological concept. These can be played as a large group activity or with small groups in a rotation format. These games stress cooperation, rather than individual achievement.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Concepts vary depending on the games selected.

Egg Landers



Our space program is in trouble! (By “ours” I mean NLIC’s.) Your students are chosen to help us design a “Lander” which is capable of bringing an egg safely down on the surface of an alien planet. Using nothing but the most state-of-the-art building materials (soda straws and tape), each team must construct a protective vehicle, which will shield their egg from heights of four to 40 feet!

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic physics.
- Communication skills.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Pre-planning.
- Teamwork.

Environmental Dutch Auction



Students are sent out as crews with a garbage bag and told simply to gather what they think they’ll “need”. When everyone is reassembled, the group is then asked to bring up different objects, ranging from 112 dead pine needles to their best Elvis impersonator. If they have the object or can use their imagination to create it, they get points. The team with the highest score wins!

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Creativity.
- Public speaking.
- Teamwork.

Fire-building 101 – Modern Techniques



A traditional part of camp is the evening campfire. But how do you build a fire? What are the common layouts for a fire? What are the three things a fire needs to burn? What are the three types of fuel? What do you do if it’s wet outside? All this and more will be answered as we work to build our own fires. (Groups may choose to cook over their fires after they have been constructed.)

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic chemistry.
- Basic survival skills.
- Teamwork.

Fire-building 102 – Primitive Techniques



You’ve proven you can build a fire with matches. But what if you didn’t have any? Can you build a bow drill? Do you know how to start a fire with flint and steel? Let’s find out! (Groups may choose to cook over their fires after they have been constructed.)

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Basic chemistry.
- Basic survival skills.
- Teamwork.

Short Courses (continued)



Friends of the Northern Lakes Service Project

The *Friends of Northern Lakes Service Project* promotes stewardship of the Northern Lakes community by assisting with seasonal, conservation or clean-up projects around the buildings, grounds or office. This can be selected as a large group project or as a Main Event. Some preparation of students prior to the trip will be necessary. Please call in advance to discuss available projects.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Giving back to others.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Teamwork.



Lorax

A humorous puppet presentation of the Dr. Seuss story narrated and presented by Northern Lakes staff to increase student awareness of the need for conserving our natural resources and how they can do so in their daily lives.

Grades: K – 6
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Conservation.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Personal responsibility.
- Pollution.



Model Planets

This program is designed to be used in conjunction with the Main Event, *Concept Paths*. Each Crew Group organizes their own planet, building examples of EC-DC-IC-A. Then, a Planetary Commissioner will quiz students to determine how well they understand these concepts and to decide if their planet will survive. Upon completion of the activity, students will make their own necklaces representing the “Seven Secrets of Life”.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Behavioral adaptations to the environment.
- Commensalism, mutualism, parasitism and predator/prey.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Habitats and ecosystems.
- Soil and water cycles.



Nature Arts and Crafts

From natural plant dye tie-dyes to photo-paper collages, our trained staff will offer students a new way to explore the beauty of the natural world. These hands-on crafts projects can be tailored to groups of all ages, and provide a wonderful souvenir to remember your time at camp.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Artistic interpretation.
- Creative writing.
- Nature exploration.
- Phenology.



Phenology

Phenology is the study of cyclic events of nature - usually the life cycles of plants and animals - in response to seasonal and climatic changes to the environment. Students go on a nature hike looking for evidence of seasonal changes in our ecosystems. From the first robin of spring to geese flying south, we will document their observations in our “Phenology Journal”.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Changes in ecosystems over time.
- Journaling observations.
- Nature exploration and identification.
- Understanding natural cycles.

Short Courses (continued)



PIT

Students learn about food chains in this exciting, fast-paced activity. Based on the original card game, “Pit”, this game involves students in the quest for a complete food chain. Students approach the "pit" and exchange cards with other crews. Pit Police (the staff) supervise all trades and monitor the game. When a group has all food chain cards in their proper order, they win!

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Following directions.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Teamwork.



School-Led Activities

Many schools have requested a short block of time to reconnect with their students. Usually, teachers that select this time plan activities that reinforce some of the key concepts being covered or choose to lead the students on a walk or play organized games.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Concepts vary depending on the activities selected.



Solitude Experience

Solitude Experience offers students an opportunity rarely found in this modern world: the chance to stop and reflect on the beauty of nature. Students are encouraged to sit back and simply study nature up close and personal. A journal page is provided for students to draw or describe anything they have never noticed before.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Journaling observations.
- Nature awareness and exploration.



Super-Duper, Crazy Fun Review Game

Welcome to the new Japanese-esque Game Show! With our wild host in zany costumes leading you through a series of questions and adventures; we will review the important information in the classes your students participated in. This class is recommended as a wrap-up prior to departure on your final day. (Buckets of slime and mud pits are optional.)

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Concepts vary depending on the activities selected.



Survival Simulation

This is a specific Teambuilding event where students are challenged to survive the activity as a group. In preparation, students are taught about the basic needs for humans to live and basic survival techniques such as first aid, shelter-building, signaling. Then they are given a series of timed tests during which they must remember their training!

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation and respect for the outdoors.
- Basic survival skills.
- Creative problem-solving.
- Preparation and prevention.
- Teamwork.

Evening Programs – General Classes



Astronomy

Come and take a tour of the universe we live in! Students will have the opportunity to learn more about the wonders of space exploration and actually touch a meteorite! To finish our evening program, schools may select *Nightwatchers* and tour the universe through our telescopes!

Note: There are four main themes that can be taught in the Astronomy class. Teachers may choose any combination of the following: “Basic Background”, “The Solar System”, “Deep Space” and “It’s The End Of The World...”

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Compare and contrast.
- Define and explain the major categories of celestial bodies in the universe. (E.g. planet)
- History of astronomy.
- Modern advancements in astronomy.
- Space exploration.



Campfire

A fun, relaxing event with songs, skits and stories. Schools may choose to have students prepare their own materials and may even opt to have their own campfire without Northern Lakes Staff. Please contact Northern Lakes Impact Center to determine what format of programming is best suited to meet the needs of both your school and your students.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Fun.
- Performance arts.



Constellations

Long ago, before the invention of the television, electricity or any of our other modern conveniences, people looked up to the sky and saw wonders! The stars told stories; epics, tragedies, heroes and villains were all above them. Gather round and listen to the tales from the Greeks, Native Americans and other cultures as we explore the universe as they did.

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “asterism”.
- Define “constellation”.
- Cultural awareness.
- History of astronomy.
- Performance arts.



Doc’s Old-Fashioned Snake Show

It’s time to learn the truth about these feared animals! Our trained staff will explain characteristics of snakes, why snakes are critical to the success of our ecosystem, and some of the common myths about our slithery friends. Students will understand the difference between “poisonous” and “venomous” snakes and ways to identify snakes that may be dangerous, all in a hilarious interactive format.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “poisonous”.
- Define “venomous”.
- Acclimatization.
- Conservation and protection.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Predator-Prey relationships.
- Roles of animals within an ecosystem.

Evening Programs – General Classes (continued)



Free Time

Outdoor Education Instructors, Teachers and Chaperones will open different program areas to give students a chance to explore the “camp” side of their experience. Activities can include Archery, Arts and Crafts, Basketball, Bouldering, Canoeing (weather permitting), Fishing, Foosball, Hay Ride, Ping Pong, Sledding, Tubing, Volleyball and much more! Please contact Northern Lakes for details and restrictions.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Concepts vary depending on the activities selected.



Ghost Stories / Seaweed Sally

What really lurks in the dark? Find out about “Seaweed Sally”, the Northern Lakes resident ghost! Gather around the campfire in the dark of a night and get set for one of the creepiest stories that we tell. This story is only provided at the request of the school and will ONLY be told on the night prior to departure. Other less-frightening stories are also available. For more information, please contact the Northern Lakes Impact Center.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Performance arts.
- Traditional camp activity.



Journey Home

This class is only available to schools who have selected the Main Event *Concept Paths*. The students are gathered and sitting quietly around a campfire when a staff member, dressed as a Native American, tells a story about a special necklace which contains the “Seven Secrets of Life”. This makes an excellent wrap-up to the Sunship Earth curriculum.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Behavioral adaptations to the environment.
- Commensalism, mutualism, parasitism and predator/prey.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Habitats and ecosystems.
- Soil and water cycles.



Lip Sync / Talent Show

We will provide the music and the stage; your students get to provide their creativity! Students can bring costumes and props, if desired. Prizes can be awarded at the discretion of the school, but the real reward is the time of fun and fellowship with other students. (We strongly encourage teachers to screen all acts prior to their presentation.)

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Fun.
- Performance arts.

Evening Programs – General Classes (continued)



Night Hikes

Explore the night through your senses of hearing, touch and smell; comparing and contrasting night versus day vision. Learn the tricks of making lightning in your mouth, making heads disappear and even how to “fly”! We can also teach stories of the constellations, moving like the Native Americans and much more. The assistance of teachers or parents is required.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Acclimatization.
- Basic astronomy.
- Basic biology.
- Basic chemistry.
- Basic physics.
- History and traditions.



Nightwatchers

On the first available night, we will take students out to explore the universe through telescopes, binoculars and with their own eyes. From planets, nebulas, galaxies and much more, students are exposed to the beauty and grandeur of the universe in which we live! (Weather permitting.)

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Compare and contrast.
- Define and explain the major categories of celestial bodies in the universe. (E.g. “planet”)
- History of astronomy.
- Modern advancements in astronomy.
- Space exploration.



Pioneer Country

Get set to build your homestead, pioneers! Students are divided into “families” and must work together to survive in the wilderness. Students must gather gold, furs and skins, exchange them for money, and purchase the items they need to survive. Families learn to depend upon each other, but beware: if you don’t work together, your family may not survive out on the frontier!

Grades: 3+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Appreciation for modern conveniences.
- Cultural awareness.
- Understanding of daily life of pioneers and settlers.
- Understanding motivations for those who first came to the Upper Midwest.
- Teamwork.



Raptors

Have you ever met an owl face-to-face? What about a hawk? A falcon? Discover what a raptor is, hear their stories and learn what you can do to ensure they remain a significant part of the ecosystem. The class is presented in a lecture format with live raptors brought in for students to observe. ***There is an additional fee paid directly to the Raptor Center.***

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “raptors”.
- Conservation and protection.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Predator-prey relationships.
- Roles of animals within an ecosystem.



School-Led Activities

Many schools have requested a short block of time to reconnect with their students. Usually, teachers that select this time plan activities that reinforce some of the key concepts being covered or choose to lead the students on a walk or play organized games.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Concepts vary depending on the activities selected.

Evening Programs – General Classes (continued)



Photo from
"Gone with the Wind"

Square Dance / Virginia Reel

Get ready for a good, old-fashioned hoedown! Using modern music and some golden oldies, we will have your students dancing the Virginia Reel, a basic form of square dancing. Students will have a positive experience, an energetic workout and a lot of fun as we dance the night away!

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Cultural awareness.
- Understanding of daily life of pioneers and settlers.
- Understanding how traditions develop over time.



Staff Hunt

Prepare for a wild game of hide-and-seek! Students are brought indoors where the rules of the game are explained. During this time, the staff, teachers and chaperones sneak out into the forest to find their hiding places. When the rules are finished and the students divided up into teams, the game begins! Camouflage is encouraged!

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Camouflage.
- Fun.
- Teamwork.



To Tell The Truth / Liar's Club

Based on the old game show, *To Tell The Truth* starts with the same odd story being told by everyone on our panel. In *Liar's Club*, we hold up an odd-looking object and tell students what the object is and what it is used for. In both games, students are allowed to ask questions and then must vote, as a team, for who they think is telling the truth! But watch out: maybe nobody is right!

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Fun.
- Public speaking.
- Teamwork.



Town Meeting

Lofton, a real estate developer, wants to purchase the camp and turn it into condominiums. Students are divided up and assigned to represent different groups in the debate and arguments to either sell or keep the camp are constructed by each group. A spokesperson is nominated to state the differing views to the Town Council. (This is presented as a real-life scenario to encourage student participation; this sometimes creates an emotional response on the part of the students.)

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Conservation and protection.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Land use.
- Personal decision to get involved in the community.
- Public speaking.

Evening Programs – Interpretive Slideshows



Bats

Do all bats have rabies? Are bats really blind? Find out the answers to these and many other questions about one of the most misunderstood animals on the planet. Learn about bat habitats and their importance in the ecosystem. In closing, take a tour of our “bat boxes” to see how humans and bats can help each other.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Conservation and protection.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Predator-Prey relationships.
- Roles of animals within an ecosystem.



Creation Vs. Evolution

In our society, there is a conflict between science and religion. Many scientists claim that evolution has replaced creation; that the facts are indisputable. But are they? How firm of a footing do either theories have? Are they really in conflict with each other? Come and join us as we explore the debate, learn the opposing viewpoints and decide for ourselves.

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Define “fact”.
- Define “theory”.
- Creation.
- Evolution.
- Scientific Method.



Global Warming: Fact or Fiction?

Any time you open a newspaper or turn on the news, the top stories are screaming about global warming and its impact on ecosystems. We are a world in crisis! But, can we believe the hype? Are we in peril or is the picture incomplete? We will explore both sides of this issue, examine the data and draw our own conclusions.

Grades: 5+
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Data collection and interpretation.
- Discussion of opposing viewpoints.
- Historical data used as a prediction of current and future events.



Owls

Skull-piercing talons, 270-degree head rotation, silent flight and much more! Who are we talking about? Find out about the nocturnal lives of owls around the world and their unique abilities. To wrap up, students will have the opportunity to dissect owl pellets and reassemble the skeletons of prey animals. An optional activity, weather permitting, is to take students to our “owl circle” to see if we are visited by our nocturnal neighbors!

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Conservation and protection.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Predator-prey relationships.
- Roles of animals within an ecosystem.



Wolves of the Upper Midwest

An interpretive slide show presenting information about wolves in the Great Lakes region. This program focuses on history, folklore and traditions of the wolf. We will also discuss human-wolf relationships, their near extinction and the comeback they have made through wildlife management.

Grades: All
Seasons: All

Key Concepts:

- Changes in ecosystems.
- Conservation and protection.
- Human impact on ecosystems.
- Predator-prey relationships.
- Roles of animals within an ecosystem.

Curriculum Guide By Location – Association Retreat Center

Main Events

Earth Science

Earth Science 101
Farm Field Trip
Geology
Ice Age Impact

Environmental Studies

Animal Habitats
Aquatic Ecology
Bird Biology
Concept Paths
Discovery Hike (with Meal)
Enrichment Class
Environmental Engineers
Explorations
Forest Study
Insect and Spider Ecology
Invasive Species
Pathfinders
Plants and Trees
Predator / Prey
River Canoe Trip
Sensory Walk
Snow Study
Wastewater Management
Weather and Climate
Wetland Wonderland
Wildlife in Winter

Living History

1850's School House
Horseback Riding
Lewis and Clark
Lumberjacks
Native Americans of the Great Lakes
Pioneers and Settlers
Primitive Hunting
Storytelling
Traditional Thanksgiving
Voyageur Rendezvous

Outdoor Skills

Archery
Compass
Cross Country Skiing
Geocaching
Geodesic Domes
Minimal Impact / Living Lightly
Orienteering
Outdoor Survival
Snowshoe Travels
Tracking

Teambuilding

Bouldering
Build A Boat / Build A Sled
Real Rock
Slacklining
Team Challenge
Teambuilding 101 (Initiatives)
Teambuilding 102 (Low Ropes)

Short Courses

Eco Games
Egg Landers
Environmental Dutch Auction
Fire-building 101 – Modern
Fire-building 102 – Primitive
Friends of NLIC Service Project
Lorax
Model Planets
Nature Arts and Crafts
Phenology
PIT
School-Led Activities
Solitude Experience
Super-Duper, Crazy Fun Review Game
Survival Simulation

Evening Programs

General

Astronomy
Campfire
Constellations
Doc's Old Fashioned Snake Show
Free Time
Ghost Stories / Seaweed Sally
Journey Home
Lip Sync / Talent Show
Night Hikes
Nightwatchers
Pioneer Country
Raptors
School-Led Activities
Square Dance / Virginia Reel
Staff Hunt
To Tell The Truth / Liars Club
Town Meeting

Interpretive Slide Shows

Bats
Creation vs. Evolution
Global Warming: Fact or Fiction?
Owls
Wolves of the Upper Midwest

Curriculum Guide By Location – Crescent Lake

Main Events

Earth Science

Earth Science 101
Farm Field Trip
Geology
Ice Age Impact

Environmental Studies

Animal Habitats
Aquatic Ecology
Bird Biology
Canoe Explorers
Concept Paths
Discovery Hike (with Meal)
Enrichment Class
Environmental Engineers
Explorations
Forest Study
Insect and Spider Ecology
Invasive Species
Pathfinders
Plants and Trees
Predator / Prey
River Canoe Trip
Sensory Walk
Snow Study
Weather and Climate
Wetland Wonderland
Wildlife in Winter

Living History

1850's School House
Archaeological Dig
Lewis and Clark
Lumberjacks
Maple Syrup
Native Americans of the Great Lakes
Pioneers and Settlers
Primitive Hunting
Storytelling
Traditional Thanksgiving
Voyageur Rendezvous

Outdoor Skills

Archery
Compass
Cross Country Skiing
Geocaching
Geodesic Domes
Minimal Impact / Living Lightly
Orienteering
Outdoor Survival
Snowshoe Travels
Tracking

Seasonal Programs

International Christmas
Traditional Thanksgiving
Western Christmas

Teambuilding

Bouldering
Build A Boat / Build A Sled
Climbing Tower
Slacklining
Team Challenge
Teambuilding 101 (Initiatives)
Teambuilding 102 (Low Ropes)

Short Courses

Eco Games
Egg Landers
Environmental Dutch Auction
Fire-building 101 – Modern
Fire-building 102 – Primitive
Friends of NLIC Service Project
Lorax
Model Planets
Nature Arts and Crafts
Phenology
PIT
School-Led Activities
Solitude Experience
Super-Duper, Crazy Fun Review Game
Survival Simulation

Evening Programs

General

Astronomy
Campfire
Constellations
Doc's Old Fashioned Snake Show
Free Time
Ghost Stories / Seaweed Sally
Journey Home
Lip Sync / Talent Show
Night Hikes
Nightwatchers
Pioneer Country
Raptors
School-Led Activities
Square Dance / Virginia Reel
Staff Hunt
To Tell The Truth / Liars Club
Town Meeting

Interpretive Slide Shows

Bats
Creation vs. Evolution
Global Warming: Fact or Fiction?
Owls
Wolves of the Upper Midwest

Curriculum Guide By Location – Lake Beauty

Main Events

Earth Science

Earth Science 101
Farm Field Trip
Geology
Ice Age Impact

Environmental Studies

Animal Habitats
Aquatic Ecology
Bird Biology
Canoe Explorers
Concept Paths
Discovery Hike (with Meal)
Enrichment Class
Environmental Engineers
Explorations
Forest Study
Insect and Spider Ecology
Invasive Species
Pathfinders
Plants and Trees
Prairie Walk
Predator / Prey
Sensory Walk
Snow Study
Weather and Climate
Wetland Wonderland
Wildlife in Winter

Living History

1850's School House
Horseback Riding
Lewis and Clark
Lumberjacks
Maple Syrup
Native Americans of the Great Lakes
Pioneers and Settlers
Primitive Hunting
Storytelling
Traditional Thanksgiving
Voyageur Rendezvous

Outdoor Skills

Archery
Compass
Cross Country Skiing
Geocaching
Geodesic Domes
Minimal Impact / Living Lightly
Orienteering
Outdoor Survival
Snowshoe Travels
Tracking

Seasonal Programs

International Christmas
Traditional Thanksgiving
Western Christmas

Teambuilding

Bouldering
Build A Boat / Build A Sled
Climbing Tower
High Ropes Course
High Teams Course
Slacklining
Team Challenge
Teambuilding 101 (Initiatives)
Teambuilding 102 (Low Ropes)

Short Courses

Eco Games
Egg Landers
Environmental Dutch Auction
Fire-building 101 – Modern
Fire-building 102 – Primitive
Friends of NLIC Service Project
Lorax
Model Planets
Nature Arts and Crafts
Phenology
PIT
School-Led Activities
Solitude Experience
Super-Duper, Crazy Fun Review Game
Survival Simulation

Evening Programs

General

Astronomy
Campfire
Constellations
Doc's Old Fashioned Snake Show
Free Time
Ghost Stories / Seaweed Sally
Journey Home
Lip Sync / Talent Show
Night Hikes
Nightwatchers
Pioneer Country
Raptors
School-Led Activities
Square Dance / Virginia Reel
Staff Hunt
To Tell The Truth / Liars Club
Town Meeting

Interpretive Slide Shows

Bats
Creation vs. Evolution
Global Warming: Fact or Fiction?
Owls
Wolves of the Upper Midwest

Curriculum Guide By Location – On The Road (Portables)

Main Events

Earth Science

Earth Science 101
Farm Field Trip
Geology
Ice Age Impact

Environmental Studies

Animal Habitats
Aquatic Ecology
Bird Biology
Canoe Explorers
Concept Paths
Discovery Hike (with Meal)
Enrichment Class
Environmental Engineers
Explorations
Forest Study
Insect and Spider Ecology
Invasive Species
Pathfinders
Plants and Trees
Prairie Walk
Predator / Prey
River Canoe Trip
Sensory Walk
Snow Study
Wastewater Management
Weather and Climate
Wetland Wonderland
Wildlife in Winter

Living History

1850's School House
Lewis and Clark
Lumberjacks
Maple Syrup
Native Americans of the Great Lakes
Pioneers and Settlers
Primitive Hunting
Storytelling
Traditional Thanksgiving
Voyageur Rendezvous

Outdoor Skills

Archery
Compass
Cross Country Skiing
Geocaching
Geodesic Domes
Minimal Impact / Living Lightly
Orienteering
Outdoor Survival
Snowshoe Travels
Tracking

Teambuilding

Build A Boat / Build A Sled
Real Rock
Slacklining
Team Challenge
Teambuilding 101 (Initiatives)
Teambuilding 102 (Low Ropes)

Short Courses

Eco Games
Egg Landers
Environmental Dutch Auction
Fire-building 101 – Modern
Fire-building 102 – Primitive
Friends of NLIC Service Project
Lorax
Model Planets
Nature Arts and Crafts
Phenology
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Red italics indicate classes that require access to specialized areas (e.g. a prairie) to be successful. Please contact us to confirm if an area will be acceptable for the program. Within reasonable limits, our staff can utilize any “green areas” – including athletic fields – to make our classes work.

Free Time / Break Time Activities

Free Time

Free Time Activities vary depending on the facility. The following is a simple guideline. For more information about a particular facility, please contact the Northern Lakes Impact Center at (715) 203 - 0505 or by email at program@northernlakesimpact.org.

- Archery
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Basketball
 - Boating*
 - Broomball
 - Climbing Tower
 - Cross-Country Skiing
 - Fishing
 - Football
 - Frisbee Golf
 - Hayrides / Wagon Rides
 - Ice Skating
 - Lawn Games (e.g. croquet)
 - Nature Hike
 - Pontoon Boat Rides
 - Riflery
 - Sledding
 - Snowshoeing
 - Soccer
 - Swimming*
 - Tetherball
 - Tubing
 - Volleyball
- ...And more!

*There is an additional fee for aquatic Free Time activities to cover the cost of a Lifeguard.

Break Times

During your stay at the Northern Lakes Impact Center, short recreation periods are scheduled before and after every meal. **Break time supervision is the responsibility of the teachers and chaperones.** It is suggested that adults prepare and plan for this time to make it more worthwhile for students. Each separate area where students will be playing must be supervised by at least one adult. The following are some of the options and equipment available for recreation activities; games are limited only by your imagination!



Typical Recreation Areas:

Athletic Field
Basketball Court
Horseshoe Pits
Nature Walk Areas
Playground Equipment
Sledding / Tubing Area
Tetherball
Volleyball Courts
Waterfront (Lifeguard Required)



Typical Recreation Equipment:

Basketballs
Broomball
Cones / Markers
Footballs
Frisbees
Playground Balls (rubber)
Sleds / Tubes (children can bring their own)
Soccer Balls
Volleyballs

Instructors and Instruction Style

Our Instructors

All Northern Lakes Impact Center Instructors are carefully selected to provide you with the best quality of program. All Outdoor Education Instructors are required to have either a four-year degree, be involved in an Internship/Practicum program through an approved college or university or have extensive background and experience in Outdoor Education.

All of our staff are required to have certifications in CPR and First Aid, with preference given to staff with more advanced medical training. Staff members in charge of Ropes Course events are required to complete an in-house training program to insure safe, effective programming for our Climbing Tower, High Ropes and Low Ropes Courses. Most staff will have advanced certification through an Association for Challenge Course Technologies (ACCT) vendor (or other governing organization) to operate the Ropes Courses.

Currently, our senior staff consists of three Red Cross Instructors for AED, CPR, First Aid, Lifeguard and Wilderness First Aid. We also have two Ropes Course Trainers and one Ropes Course Builder/Inspector.

All staff members are required to complete a background check prior to beginning employment and, as per the terms of their contract, prohibited from the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs for the duration of the Outdoor Education season.



Instruction Style

All students are divided up into Crew Groups by the school, with an optimum number being around 20 students per group. (Based on our experience, less than 12 students may provide insufficient challenge on teamwork-oriented activities and over 20 students may be too many for some of the aquatic Main Events.) Please contact us if you have any questions.

One Northern Lakes Instructor is assigned to each Crew Group. Their job is to keep track of students during activities, make certain that journals are filled out appropriately, if required, and to provide a “crew captain” during learning activities like group games.

Each Instructor is also responsible for teaching a Main Event that is within their area of specialty, thereby allowing all students to interact with all of the Northern Lakes Instructors. This guarantees the best quality of instruction for your students.

Notes:



Northern Lakes Impact Center
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