

PARADISE FARM CAMPS LESSON OPTIONS



At Paradise Farm Camps, teachers can choose from a variety of Outdoor Education programs designed to engage students in learning beyond the classroom. Whether exploring nature through Ecology Education, building communication and collaboration through Team Building, or fostering confidence and resilience in Outdoor Adventures, each program offers hands-on experiences that connect students with the environment and with each other.

ECOLOGY EDUCATION LESSONS

Ecology Education at Paradise Farm Camps invites students to step outside the classroom and into the living laboratory of nature. Through hands-on exploration and interactive lessons, students discover the intricate connections between plants, animals, and their environments. From studying forests, wetlands, and ponds to investigating food webs, population dynamics, and the impact of human activity, each activity fosters curiosity, teamwork, and environmental awareness. By engaging their senses, asking questions, and connecting what they learn to real-world ecosystems, students gain a deeper understanding of the natural world and their role in protecting it.

TEAM BUILDING

Classes can choose a full or half day teambuilding option. Students will work together in small groups of 10 to 14 students with one instructor to overcome team challenges. All the while they will focus on developing the positive attributes of a strong team, such as communication, cooperation, trust, and problem solving.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Outdoor Adventures at Paradise Farm Camps inspire students to challenge themselves, build confidence, and develop teamwork skills through exciting hands-on experiences in the great outdoors. Including

- Rock Climbing
- Archery
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Orienteering



ECOLOGY EDUCATION LESSONS

ANIMALS & HABITATS

- **Animal Communities** - Students will explore a variety of Pennsylvania's natural habitats on a guided nature hike, discovering the living and non-living features that make each unique. By the end, they'll be able to identify native animals and understand their roles within different ecosystems.
- **Bird Safari** - Students explore bird anatomy and adaptations, then head out on a guided hike to identify local species by sight and sound. By the end, they'll understand how a bird's beak and feet relate to its behavior and habitat.
- **Colorful Confusion** - Students examine animal pelts and images and play interactive games to explore camouflage and color. By the end, they'll understand why animals use color in nature and how it influences natural selection.
- **The Fallen Log** - Students will study a very specialized ecological niche, that of a fallen rotting log. In so doing students will be able to identify several decomposers and understand their very important role within the food web.
- **Forest Habitat** - This activity gives students a hands-on opportunity to study a forest habitat and compare it to their own, helping them understand the various factors that combine to create a complete ecosystem.
- **Skullduggery** - Students will explore the adaptations of various animal skulls using their senses and communication skills, learning about skull structure and function while practicing precise, cooperative descriptions.
- **Grasshopper Gravity** - Students will study the parts of grasshoppers and other insects by capturing and inspecting live specimens. Through this study students will be able to observe and describe the relationship between structure and function.
- **Garbanzo Bugs** - This population simulation helps students understand population dynamics, carrying capacity, and limiting factors, while integrating math skills through computation and estimation.

WATERFRONT & WETLANDS

- **All About Wetlands** - Students will explore a wetland habitat through interactive games and activities, gaining an understanding of its unique features, wildlife, and ecological functions.
- **Pond Study** - Students will examine a pond as a closed ecosystem, exploring species interactions within the food web, and learn to identify and classify organisms as producers, consumers, or decomposers.
- **Stream Study** - Students will explore a stream habitat hands-on, learning how organisms adapt to aquatic environments and how to assess water quality by identifying resident macroinvertebrates.
- **Wetland Envirosapes** - Students will use Envirosapes© and their own models to explore watersheds and wetlands, learning how human activity and pollution affect these systems and how to distinguish between point and nonpoint source pollutants.
- **What A Boat** - Students will explore the complexity of wetlands by building and floating boats from natural materials, learning to identify wetland plants and understand the role of buoyancy in these ecosystems.

TREES & OTHER PLANTS

- **Leaves & Seeds** - Students will hike through the forest collecting samples of seeds and leaves. They will then learn to use a dichotomous key to determine their origin.
- **Trees are Tops** - In this introductory activity, students will explore the importance of trees, learning to determine a tree's age from its rings and identify the plants and animals that depend on them while observing signs of a healthy forest ecosystem.
- **Trees in Trouble** - Students will hike to identify and assess "trees in trouble," learning to recognize warning signs of health issues and determine their causes, potential solutions, and long-term outlook.

LARGE GROUP & WRAP UP ACTIVITIES

- **Predator Prey** - In this active large-group simulation, students will explore predator-prey relationships and observe how population changes in one species affect others within a connected food chain.
- **Hooks & Ladders** - In this large-group simulation, students will experience the life cycle of migratory fish, learning about the natural and human-made challenges they face and actions that can support their survival.
- **Our Journey** - In this culminating activity, students work in teams to create posters showcasing what they've learned and experienced at Paradise Farm Camps, then share their reflections and teamwork growth in a celebratory "poster parade."
- **Park Ranger** - Perfect for younger students, this high-energy tag game invites participants to imagine themselves as native Pennsylvania animals, reinforcing their understanding of animal adaptations while having fun outdoors.