

Alley Park Outdoor Education 2011 Course Selections

In an effort to provide courses that meet or closely follow the academic content standards, we have reviewed and updated our courses. We have also added new courses that are marked with an asterisk*.

***Acoustic Ecology.** Enter a world where listening is an art and the voice of the planet is music. Students will discover the hills are alive with the sounds of nature. This class will help students identify sounds and vibrations and how these sounds affect wildlife.

Alley Park Hike. A ½ day nature awareness hike into the woods at Alley Park. This will give students a chance to see a lot of the park, while learning about woodland ecology, habitats, ecosystems, edible plants, natural hazards, and how and why the natural environment is important. Participants (including adults) need to wear a backpack with a lunch, extra drinking water, a poncho or rain jacket, and pencils or pens, and a steno pad or composition book for journaling activities.

Archery. Step onto the archery range and learn the skills needed to shoot a bow and arrow. Students will learn the parts of a recurve bow and the safety rules in order to try their luck. Our certified archery instructors will get students set to hit the target!

Awesome Amphibians. Frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, and mudpuppies live in water and on land. Learn about these awesome creatures, their metamorphosis and their habitats. Expect students to “hop” into action as they catch flies with their tongues. How many will survive?

Bird Basics. Walk like a bird, eat like a bird and talk like a bird! Explore the world of our feathered friends and why they are so unique. Students will venture through Alley Park learning bird sounds and will be taught how to use field guides and binoculars to identify birds and their habitats.

Canoeing. Students will learn basic safety and paddling skills through active involvement. Certified ACA tandem canoe instructors will teach the SmartStart Paddling Orientation Course.

***Chain Reaction.** A new class focused on the food chain and food webs. Students will be actively involved in passing the energy and learning to identify the roles of producers, consumers and decomposers in an ecosystem. Activities will take the students outside to discover the different types of symbiotic relationships among organisms.

Fishing. Students will learn about fish habitat and how to use a rod and reel. Spend time to acquire a taste for a lifetime leisure activity.

Grossology. The world is full of truly gnarly, nasty, gross things. This class is an icky concoction of some of the really gross things in nature. Students will learn the scientific facts about this nastiness so they can dazzle their friends and family about such things as poop and slime or passing gas.

Hug-A-Tree. Investigate the towering trees of Alley Park as you explore the parts of a tree. Learn how a tree can be an ecosystem and a habitat. Use tree cookies to determine environmental changes and even weather patterns. Students will adopt-a-tree and become a tree while hiking the trails.

Insect Safari. Get ready for a wildlife adventure without having to travel to distant lands. Students will use sweep nets to find invertebrates under foot, under logs and rocks, in the meadow and lake. Students will sort, classify and compare their findings as they learn more about these creatures and their habitats.

***Making Sense of It.** Students will use their 5 senses in this class as they explore and observe natural habitats. A class focused on Language Arts. The students will be involved in journaling, creative writing and poetry.

***Molecules in Motion.** Ever had a close encounter with a water molecule? Students will model the effects of heat energy on water's physical states (solid, liquid, gas). They will learn the importance of water in the earth's ecosystem.

***Mouse Roulette.** A lively investigation of food chains, competition for resources and adaptations for survival. This class is great paired with owl pellets or alone.

Orienteering. Experience a form of land navigation that provides the suspense and excitement of a treasure hunt. The object of orienteering is to locate control points by using a map and compass, and to navigate a course through the woods. Students will develop skills in using a compass, following a bearing, pacing, thumbing, map reading and decision-making.

Outdoor Cooking. Some of the best camping memories are made sitting around a campfire eating the meal you've prepared outdoors. In this class, students will be cooking outdoors over an open fire, charcoal cooker, box oven, and more. Students will be eager to enjoy the food they have prepared.

Owl Pellets. Students will construct a simple food chain. Using dissecting tools, they will investigate actual owl pellets, reconstruct prey skeletons and hypothesize food sources of the prey.

Paper or Plastic? Students will be amazed at what they can create using recycled materials, not to mention that they will be helping the environment. Students will investigate the papermaking process and making their own paper to take home. Students will use plastic to create a take home craft as well.

Patterns in Nature. Students will be introduced to Fibonacci numbers and how they relate to nature. They will find, and predict, numerical patterns in pinecones, flowers, fruits, and plants while on the trail at Alley Park.

Pond Study. Using magnifiers to conduct investigations of the water ecosystem, students will list and record the numbers of macroinvertebrates and other animals found in the littoral zone.

Radical Reptiles. Cold blooded, scaly skinned, backboned reptilians. Students will have the chance to learn about, observe, and touch live reptiles. They will be able to name the reptile families and list their characteristics.

River Tracks. What animals and plant life will you find in the Hocking River ecosystem? Students will identify and cast tracks they find along the way.

Rock and Roll. Students will be introduced to rock types, uses, origins, collecting, polishing, and those rocks commonly found in Ohio and Alley Park. What is a rock hound? Learn this and more! Students will do their own dig for rocks, crack open a geode, and choose a piece of flint to take home.

Soil Study. Where does soil come from? Where does it go? Erosion, run off, and top soil will be explored. Why is soil important? What can we do to help care for this very important natural resource?

Spider's Secrets. Spiders are everywhere. There are more than 30,000 different kinds living around the world. In this class, students will find out about the amazing secrets of spiders. Students may even get to taste one.

Squirrel Olympics. Adaptations, habitat, predator/prey, and rodents are topics we'll explore as students "become" squirrels in this action-packed class.

Campfire/Cookout Lunch. A campfire is lit for your lunchtime needs. Students will have the opportunity to roast hot dogs and marshmallows. All food is provided by the school or students. The campfire, roasting sticks, and supervision is provided by the Alley Park Staff.

Coming Soon.....with the completion of the Log Cabin we will be adding a pioneer unit onto our course offerings in the future. (Classes in history of our country, bread baking, Indian lore, pioneer cooking, candle making, survival skills, gardening, and more)