

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Classes offered in any season

Alpha-Beta – Designed by the Peace Corps, this game prepares new volunteers for what they may experience when they are sent to a country with a culture very different from their own. The students are divided into two groups; each group role-plays the culture of the planet it represents. During the game, the students are sent to “the other planet,” where they can experience what it is like to be in a place where the culture is very different. Even if the students in the class have never been to a foreign country, this experience can be related to many things the students may experience in their everyday lives.

Creative Drama – Through a series of activities and role-playing situations, students will gain an understanding of the various forms and components of drama. Throughout the session, students will have opportunities to serve as both the performers and the audience members. Their final project is to create a skit as a team, and possibly perform it at the campfire.

CSI: Tracking– Students will learn to use cognitive reasoning skills to decipher animal tracks and signs and the story they tell. They will learn about how animals walk and how it affects the tracks they leave. After some introductory activities the students will be led in teams to a complex animal track crime scene. They will have to work together and use what they just learned to solve the crimes.

From Roots to Leaves– a tree class that will study internal function and identification of the local trees at camp. This class is fun and interactive. Students will gain knowledge of the inner workings of trees as well as how to determine the age of a tree. They will then experience tree identification using a dichotomous key.

Initiatives – Students take on the challenge of U-Nah-Li-Ya’s initiatives course through a variety of team-building and trust-building exercises. Each one of the obstacles presented to the students during this adventure offers a unique problem that the group must solve as a whole. The course is designed to promote self and group confidence, as well as communication and cooperation skills. For safety reasons, an adult from the group is required to be present for this class.

Natural Senses – This session revolves around an environmental teaching approach called *Acclimatization*. Developed by Earth Educator Steve Van Matre, *Acclimatization* is the process of becoming re-acquainted with our environment through experiential sensory awareness activities. Students will use seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting to become physically involved with discovering the North woods.

Orienteering – The sport of orienteering was invented in Sweden in the year 1918. Its participants must use compasses to find their way through a series of targets. Students will begin the class by learning the parts and the use of a compass. These skills are then put to use on the orienteering courses set up around camp.

Outdoor Living Skills – Learning proper outdoor skills may come in handy on a camping trip or even in a survival situation. Our instructors follow the rule of, “Take only memories, leave only footprints,” in their minimum-impact camping demonstrations. Students can then apply these skills to constructing their own life-sized natural shelters and building “friendly” fires, as well as developing other hands-on skills.

Predator-Prey – The students will understand the characteristics and relationships between predators and their prey through a series of introductory activities and discussions. The class then culminates with a camp-wide game, where the students role-play animals that are struggling to survive in the world of “eat or be eaten.” Depending on your group size, this class may be delivered as one session taught to the entire group.

Wolf ecology– Students will learn about the history of wolves and their relationship with people from the time of the first European settlers in American up to today. They will come to realize the importance of opinions being rooted in scientific evidence as we explore human-wolf relationships, wolf pack structure, and the effects an apex predator has on an environment. This will be done through a mixture of discussion, interactive games, and a short video.

Classes offered only in Fall and Spring

Burma Bridge – As the name suggests, this type of rope bridge comes from the country of Burma, a very mountainous country near Nepal, the home of Mt. Everest. The Burmese people found it easier to cross ravines by assembling and using temporary rope bridges rather than going down into the ravine and climbing the other side. With only a few pieces of rope, students will work together with the instructor to build a Burma Bridge of their own. Once it is complete, they will then get to cross it! For safety reasons, an adult from the group is required to be present for this class.

Canoeing & Voyageur History – Instruction in basic paddling skills for flatwater canoeing is combined with the history of the French-Canadian voyageur, a colorful figure in the history of the Great Lakes. Students will learn the parts of a canoe, the proper way to enter and exit a canoe, and the strokes needed to maneuver a canoe through the water. For safety reasons, an adult from the group is required to be present for this class. **Available provided that there is no ice on the lake.**

Eco-Encounters – Ecology is the study of how organisms living together within a certain area interact with each other. Through a potpourri of activities and games, students will become aware of the many ecological systems of the Northwoods and what roles they serve in this environment. Students may find themselves playing the part of a hungry fox, a migrating loon, or a growing tree, or they may be able to taste some of the little known delicacies of nature.

Primitive Fishing – With its many rivers and lakes, Wisconsin and fishing have always been synonymous. Today, many people enjoy it for recreation, and there is a whole variety of basic and technical equipment that you can purchase for this sport. Before all of this equipment was invented, though, how did the early people of Wisconsin use to fish? The instructor will demonstrate the different historical methods of fishing that have been used by the Native Americans and the pioneers. There will also be a discussion on the physical anatomy of different types of fish, and why knowing this information will help people become better fishermen. Students will then make their own “primitive” fishing equipment and try their luck with it on the water.

Rock Climbing – This session will allow students to learn the techniques and participate in the challenge of safe rock climbing and belaying. This will allow confidence building and group support. For safety reasons, an adult from the group is required to be present for this class.

Water, Water, Everywhere – Even though two-thirds of the Earth is covered by water, it is still a limited resource that we must protect. Why? This question will be answered through experiments, demonstrations, and discussions about water. We will also explore and identify what kind of life is present in our bodies of water here at U-Nah-Li-Ya through hands-on discovery.

World Games – Known globally as the “Great Melting Pot,” the United States can claim citizens from almost every ethnic group in the world. Many of these people brought games with them that have evolved into games that we know and play today. Students will take a world tour during this session as they learn about a variety of countries and participate in games that maybe their own ancestors played in their homelands.

Classes offered only in Winter

Snowshoe Hike – Students may discover winter in Wisconsin’s Northwoods on a guided snowshoe hike led by one of our instructors. Snowshoes allow you to “float” on top of unpacked snow (where they work best), so expect to go off of the trail as you explore the beauty and stillness of our winter woodland. **Available provided that there is snow on the ground.**

Cross-Country Skiing – Many of us do not realize that winter is one of the best times to enjoy the outdoors. Cross-country skiing is a way for people to stay healthy and experience the beauty of the winter wonderland at the same time. Our instructors will take the students through a series of lessons (including how to properly fall down and get back up) that will cater to even those who have never been on skis before. After practicing a few basic skills, the students will be led on a short skiing excursion through the North woods. For safety reasons, an adult from the group is required to be present for this class. **Available provided that there is snow on the trails.**