

Day Class Descriptions

Day Classes Led by Wahsega's Staff

1. ARCHERY

Age minimum: 5th grade

Goals: To introduce students to the basic components of a bow and how to properly use a bow.

Methods: Students will be introduced to some basic archery skills (safety, history, and shooting techniques). Students will then use what they have learned to shoot targets on the archery range using compound bows.

Skills: Patience, Listening & Following directions, Processing, Comprehension, Application, Observation

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

2. ASTRONOMY

Goals: To increase the student's knowledge of astronomy concepts and locations of common stars and constellations.

Methods: Students are exposed to asterisms, constellations, stories related to the constellations, significant stars, and planets using our inflatable star lab. Students also discuss the solar system we all call home. They will also learn why and how our very own moon behaves the way it does.

Skills: Observation, Literary Awareness, Creativity and Identification

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

3. TEAM INITIATIVES

Goals: To help students increase personal confidence, build mutual support within a peer group, and aid in understanding the importance of planning and cooperation.

Methods: Students will go through a series of activities designed to give students clearly defined mental and physical problems to solve. The challenges offer students the opportunity to stretch beyond their boundaries in a safe environment, allowing growth in self-awareness and self-confidence. The challenge course elements are designed to force students to plan and work together as a team to solve the specific problems presented.

Skills: Leadership, Cooperation, Coordination, Mutual respect, Discipline, Patience, Listening, Processing, Oral communication, Following directions

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

4. ENTOMOLOGY

Goals: To discover how diverse the insect kingdom is, become aware of the traits that enable insects to survive in their habitats and understand the role of insects in relation to other living things.

Methods: Students learn the characteristics and body parts of insects. Students participate in a lubber grasshopper dissection. Also, students explore different habitat areas around Wahsega observing, collecting and gathering information about insects.

Skills: Observation, Identification, Classification, Comparing Similarities and Differences, Matching, Processing Skills, and Problem Solving Skills

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

5. FOREST ECOLOGY

Goals: To help students understand and appreciate the relationships and inter-dependency that characterizes a forest ecosystem.

Methods: Students will participate in a group discussion exploring the implications of community. While hiking on a trail, students will participate in activities that illustrate the life cycles that exist in the forest and search for signs of the members of that community.

Skills: Observation, Identification, Classification, Comparing & Contrasting, Analyzing, Processing Skills, Problem Solving Skills, Comprehension, and Sensory Awareness Skills

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

6. Geocaching: GPS Course

Goals: To introduce students to the use and benefits of the Global Positions Systems (GPS units) through fun geocaching courses located throughout the center.

Methods: Students will be instructed on how to use Garmin eTrex10 handheld GPS units and independently enter and find waypoints using GPS coordinates.

Skills: Application, Discipline & Patience, Listening & Following Directions, Navigation, Psychomotor Development

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

7. HERPETOLOGY

Goals: To introduce students to characteristics, differences, and roles of reptiles and amphibians.

Methods: After participating in a group discussion to identify characteristics of reptiles and amphibians students will have the opportunity to handle live specimens.

Skills: Observation, Application, Classification, Description, Comparing Similarities & Differences, Reading, animal Handling

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

8. HIGH-ROPES

Goals: To use the high-ropes challenge course to help students in 5th grade or higher identify and then overcome self-imposed limitations.

Methods: The lead teacher will select one high-ropes element from the two available (Zip Line and Climbing Wall). Students will then be instructed in appropriate safety methods and equipment usage before beginning. With the support of their peers and Wahsega staff members, students will be encouraged to accept the challenge presented by the element and then accomplish the goal of the element as set out by Wahsega staff members.

Skills: Identification, Analyzing, Problem Solving, and Comprehension

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

Note: *There are limited slots for Zip Line and Climbing Wall. Teachers must speak with the program coordinator to check availability before selecting this class.*

9. ORIENTEERING

Goals: To introduce students to the proper use of the compass and the proper pacing technique.

Methods: Students will listen to a mini-lecture describing compass parts, how to take a bearing, and proper pacing techniques, then participate in activities practicing these skills.

Skills: Application, Estimation, Computation, Listening & Following Directions, Measurement, Psychomotor Development

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

10. PIONEER LIFE (Not scheduled with gold panning)

Goals: Through observation and participation students explore the life of the Pioneers of North Georgia.

Methods: Students will participate in a group discussion about the effects of Europeans in Georgia on Native Americans. In addition they will use tools of the early settlers to explore the nature of daily life during this time period, pan for gold, make candles, and end class with a discussion on technological

advances and how their life might be different if they were alive during the time of the Georgia gold rush.

Skills: Coordination, Discipline & Patience, Listening, and Following Directions

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

11. STREAM ECOLOGY

Goals: To aid students in their understanding and appreciation of the importance of the water cycle; recognize differences in the life stages of aquatic animals as they grow and discover the diversity of animals that live in a stream. Students also learn to distinguish the difference between healthy streams and unhealthy streams.

Methods: The students will participate in activities that enhance their understanding of the water cycle and aquatic ecosystems; students also capture, identify, and observe stream animals.

Skills: Observation, Inference, Identification, Collecting, Classifying & Categorizing, Comparing Similarities & Differences, Matching, Recognition, and Critter Catching

What to wear: Clothes and shoes that can get wet are strongly suggested. Students have the option of getting into the stream.

12. SURVIVAL

Goals: To teach skills and techniques which help prevent students from getting lost in the woods and what to do if they become lost. Students will learn to set up a survival camp and will demonstrate understanding of basic survival needs and how to fulfill these needs in the wilderness.

Methods: Activities are incorporated into discussion about how not to get lost and the five basic survival needs. Students decide what items and methods should be utilized. Students are challenged to construct a survival shelter.

Skills: Problem Solving, Inference, Observation, Psychomotor Development, and Cooperation

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

13. WILDLIFE

Goals: To help students understand some of the natural processes that affect the wildlife of the Chattahoochee National Forest, their habitat and how human activity affects wildlife.

Methods: Students will participate in activities that enhance their understanding of the essential components of habitats, the importance of good habitat for animals, what limiting factors affect animals and the importance of predator/prey relationships.

Skills: Generalization, Psychomotor Development, Graphing, Application, Comparing Similarities & Differences

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

Day Classes – Teacher-Led Options

14. DISCOVERY HIKE – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: Students will explore characteristics of organisms found in the forest around Wahsega and consider their interactions with each other and the environment.

Methods: A hike along a trail in the national forest is marked by several stopping points, each presenting students with a question or challenge.

Materials: Hiking guide for group leader, worksheets, pencils

Skills: Observation, Compare/contrast, Analyzing, Identification and Comprehension

What to wear: Closed-toed shoes are required. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

15. GOLD PANNING (Not scheduled with pioneer life) – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Goals: To introduce students to the early history of Georgia and the role of gold in the relations

between Native Americans and colonists.

Methods: After a brief discussion about Georgia's pioneer and gold rush history, students have the opportunity to pan for gold.

Skills: Observation, Compare/contrast, Analyzing, and Comprehension

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.

16. WILDERNESS ART – ONLY TEACHERS FROM THE SCHOOL TEACH THIS CLASS

Select an educational and artistic project for your students to complete in this 1 ½ hour class time.

You will need to provide instructions and materials. Work with the Program Coordinator to determine if your project is a good fit for the schedule and facilities.

Wahsega can provide the supplies for Nature Sketching:

Goals: Students use various mediums to explore environmental education concepts.

Methods: Hike out into the woods and choose a natural scene to capture. Using pastels and crayons students will sketch nature scenes.

Materials: crayons, pastels, paper.

Skills: Problem Solving, Hypotheses Formulating and Testing, Aesthetic Sensitivity, and Dexterity

What to wear: Shoes with heel straps. Otherwise, comfortable clothing.