

Taconic Outdoor Education Center

Program Themes

The activities are offered to assist teachers in designing a program that enriches classroom study. Some outdoor activities are dependent on the season and weather conditions. Contact the Program Coordinator for further details.

Science

Forest Ecology - Topics covered may include physical elements that influence growth in a forest, and succession.

Aquatic Ecology - Topics covered may include the water cycle, watersheds, the aquatic community, and special adaptations of aquatic organisms.

Soil Ecology - Topics covered may include the origin of soil, layers of the soil community, the nutrient cycle, animals and insects in the soil and their adaptations to life underground.

Furbearers - Topics covered may include the basic needs of all wildlife, adaptations of wildlife to their particular community, interrelationships among wildlife, and animal signs and tracking (winter activity).

Birds - Topics covered may include identification of birds through size, coloration, flight patterns and songs, and adaptation of beaks and feet.

Environmental Issues - Topics may include acid rain, ozone, water use, garbage problems and endangered species.

Energy Flow - Topics covered may include water, air, soil, and food cycles, and interrelationships among living and non-living within these cycles.

Nighthike - Activities may include stargazing, sensory games and solo walks.

75 Mountain Laurel Lane Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845)265-3773 Fax (845)265-7941

Social Studies

Environmental History - Read the environmental landscape and gain insight into historical and cultural events that shaped the area.

Maple Sugaring - Explore the history of this practice and taste the products of our state tree. Topics covered may include maple tree identification, tapping a tree and boiling sap into syrup.

Outdoor Skills - Topics covered may include basic need for survival, low impact camping skills, shelter building, use of compass and map and how to avoid an emergency situation.

Geography

Map & Compass - Learn to find your way in the forest with the use of a map and compass.

Geology - Topics covered may include reading the area's history in the physical landscape, fossils - their formation and types found, erosion, rock formation and types.

Weather - Topics covered may include the forces that shape weather - wind, humidity, air pressure, temperature, the instruments used to predict the weather and how to use them.

Language Arts

Journal Writing/Nature Poetry - Observing and keeping personal records of an experience or the natural world.

Nature Drawing - Learning to observe and record one's own impressions of the natural world using a variety of artistic techniques.

Problem Solving

Project Adventure - An activity using a low or high ropes course. Program stresses individual participation, group cooperation, safety and problem solving strategies.

New Games - Activities stress physical action and fun without the serious competition.