

CORE CLASSES



Initiatives

This class takes place on our low ropes challenge course. The goal of this class is for students to be able to apply the characteristics of a good team and the characteristics of strong leadership to challenges set by Outdoor Lab Staff. We start the week off with this class to build our teams and set the tone for the week with a deep dive into our core value system of ICARE. **Outdoor Lab staff will teach this class. Teachers will be asked to float and support students on the Initiatives course to make sure they are off to a good start on Day1.**

Archery

A class designed to let students investigate and demonstrate the appropriate use of archery equipment and is aligned with the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP). Students will also be introduced to potential energy, kinetic energy, and friction through experimentation.



Ecosystems

This hike investigates the Montane Ecosystem present at both Outdoor Lab sites. Students will use resources to identify living (biotic) organisms. Students will learn about transfer of energy, as well as other ways abiotic and biotic interactions make the Montane Ecosystem unique. This is an extension of the 6th grade's *Ecology* science unit and aligns with NGSS.

Geology

The Geology hike focuses on the thinnest layer of the Earth, the crust! In this class students get a chance to interact and explore how constructive and destructive forces shape the surface of the earth at Outdoor Lab.

Leave No Trace

This hike introduces students to the seven principles of Leave No Trace. Students will then be given a scenario where they will have to apply the principles and figure out what essential items to bring on a long hike and will be asked to problem solve when things go wrong. 6th graders will then be asked how the principles of Leave No Trace align with the Outdoor Lab mission of stewardship.

Sustainability

This class explores how the breaking down and building up of organic matter demonstrates energy flow and matter cycling. Students will reflect on their own behaviors regarding food waste and how we can be better stewards. 6th graders will also investigate how compostable kitchen scraps can be composted with worms! In the greenhouse, students will explore more about how energy flows through living organisms as well as delve deeper into the process of photosynthesis. This is an extension of the 6th grade's *Ecology* science unit and aligns with NGSS. **Outdoor Lab staff will teach this class; so no teachers or leaders need to be assigned to this core class.**

Site History

Site History explores the unique history of the Outdoor Lab sites. Each historic era is paired with an activity for students to truly empathize and feel what life was like for the people who lived during that time period. In the end, students will be able to identify examples of stewardship in the people who lived on this land before us.

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EVENING PROGRAM

Astronomy

During Astronomy Night, students explore wavelengths of light and how they can be used to understand the characteristics of stars. We will use iPads to help orient us to the night sky and do some stargazing, too. We will also investigate the relative size and distance objects in our solar system using the Planet Walk. 6th Graders will also explore objects in our solar system and objects beyond our solar system using the telescopes in the observatories at both sites.

