



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING

A photograph of a group of children, mostly girls, fishing at a lake. They are standing on a rocky shore, holding fishing rods. The water is calm, and trees are visible in the background.

YMCA CAMP THUNDERBIRD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

SCHOOL PLANNING PACKET

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WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Education Center at YMCA Camp Thunderbird! We are excited to provide your students with an opportunity to experience education in our beautiful natural surroundings.

Booking a field trip with us means your students will be immersed in an interdisciplinary environmental education program. They will acquire practical knowledge and awareness so that they may better appreciate, respect, and discern their role in nature. Our program supplements your school's curriculum through highly engaging activities in truly unique setting.



We work with groups to develop skills necessary to work well together as well as help students identify their leadership abilities through personal challenges, self-expression, and teamwork. We promote positive attitudes, collaboration, and respect for each other and the outdoors.

The YMCA Camp Thunderbird Environmental Education Center strives to create and provide a culture of acceptance, confidence, fulfillment in learning, appreciating nature, and helping others. Most importantly, we have lots of fun!

Please let us know if you have any questions or specific requests. We would love to build a program that's just right for your group.

We can't wait to see you at YMCA Camp Thunderbird!



YMCA MISSION STATEMENT

To put Christian principals into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

YMCA AREAS OF IMPACT

For Youth Development: Empowering young people to reach their full potential.

For Healthy Living: Improving individual and community well-being

For Social Responsibility: Providing support and inspiring action in our communities.

YMCA CORE VALUES

Our core values are the foundation of our program. We strive to incorporate and encourage these values through all of our work. They are Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Faith.

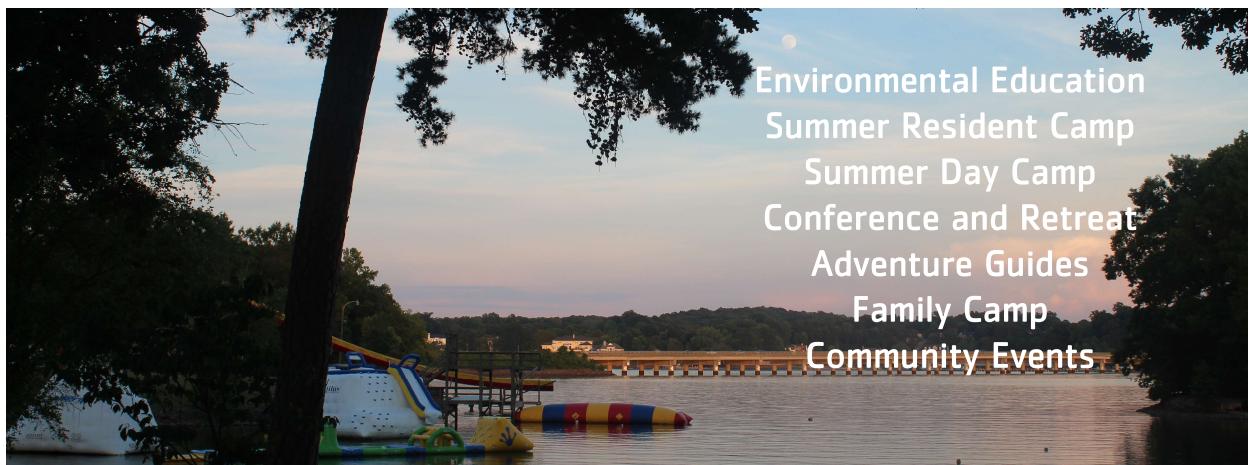
HISTORY

In the early 1930's, "Life Magazine" promoted Fresh Air Camps for children from New York's disadvantaged communities. Observer Charities, Inc., a subsidiary of the Charlotte Observer, organized the Observer Fresh Air Camp in 1936 founded by C. B. Johnson. The camp enjoyed popularity in its beginning days due to press exposure and appeal with the public. In 1946 the camp was gifted to the YMCA of Charlotte and in 1963 its name was changed to Camp Thunderbird.

In the early 1980's, local teachers began using Camp Thunderbird as their "School in the Woods." Providing their own programming, they saw Camp Thunderbird as a place where their students could interact with the environment through sight, sound, touch, taste and smell. The effectiveness of this paradigm shift from traditional classroom learning to "experiential education" prompted a more significant investment of resources into developing a staffed Environmental Education program housed at Camp Thunderbird.

In 1986, under the leadership and vision of Florence and Andy Kane, Camp Thunderbird's Environmental Education Center (EEC) was born to provide nature and outdoor programming for visiting schools. Students now visit the EEC from our local York and Mecklenburg Counties and all the way out to West Virginia and Georgia. The EEC has grown to welcome over 12,000 students annually who choose from over 25 different ecology, history, teambuilding, and adventure education classes.

Today YMCA Camp Thunderbird has a dynamic variety of programs throughout the year, including:



Environmental Education
Summer Resident Camp
Summer Day Camp
Conference and Retreat
Adventure Guides
Family Camp
Community Events

LOCATION AND FACILITY

YMCA Camp Thunderbird sits on 106 acres along the banks of Lake Wylie just 17 miles from uptown Charlotte, North Carolina. Our site is easily accessed from Interstates 77, 85, and 485.

The Lake

The 12,455 acres of Lake Wylie is one of our greatest classrooms. Your students may find themselves exploring for aquatic insects or sharpening their canoeing skills in one of our protected coves. Lake Wylie also offers a great backdrop to your evening campfire, dining experience, or hikes around the site.

The Land

Our forest trails provide a path for discovery where your students will experience real-life examples of the relationship between living and non-living things in this diverse ecosystem. Recreation fields provide ample green spaces to come together for group activities or enjoy unstructured play.

Program Areas

Our center is equipped with heated indoor classrooms, cabins, recreation halls, and a full dining facility. We have an outdoor amphitheater, three outdoor pavilions, low challenge course, and wildlife room.

Cabins

If your group stays overnight at YMCA Camp Thunderbird, you will enjoy our modern accommodations. All cabins have bunk-style beds and are equipped with heat, air conditioning, restrooms, and showers.

Dining Hall

Overnight groups will enjoy a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner in our spacious dining hall overlooking Lake Wylie. For your fearless adult leaders, we have a hospitality station that includes a loaded salad bar and hot beverages such as coffee, espresso, tea and hot cocoa.



DESIGNING YOUR VISIT

Things to consider when planning your trip to YMCA Camp Thunderbird include:

- Which trip option best suits your group's needs?
 - **Trip Option A: Day Trip**
 - Custom timeframe to fit your needs
 - Includes:
 - Hot Lunch (may opt out if desired)
 - 2-4 Activity Blocks
 - **Trip Option B: 2 Days + 1 Night**
 - Start Time: between 12:30-2:30pm Day 1
 - End Time: between 10:30am-12:00pm Day 2
 - Includes:
 - Day 1 – Dinner, S'mores/Snack
 - Day 2 – Breakfast, Bagged Lunch
 - 4-6 Activity Blocks
 - T-Shirt for each student
 - \$75 Premium Activity Credit/Learning Group
 - **Trip Option C: 3 Days + 2 Nights**
 - Start Time: between 12:30-2:30pm Day 1
 - End Time: between 10:30am-12:00pm Day 3
 - Includes:
 - Day 1 – Dinner, S'mores/Snack
 - Day 2 – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, 2 Snacks
 - Day 3 – Breakfast, Bagged Lunch
 - 7-9 Activity Blocks
 - T-Shirt for each student
 - \$150 Premium Activity Credit/Learning Group
- What is most important for your group to experience while they are here?
 - Each group's needs are different – let us know if your priority is to have fun, work on teambuilding, meet educational standards, or something else!
- Which activities do you want your group to experience?
 - We have a large variety of educational and recreational options for you to consider for programs during the day and evenings.



Our pricing is based on learning groups. A learning group includes up to 20 students. Additional students can be added for a fee, but please take into account that having a group larger than 20 can compromise experience. Our absolute maximum per learning group is 24.

	Pricing for Aug, Sep, Oct, Mar, Apr, May			Pricing for Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb		
	Learning Group	Add'l Chaperone	Add'l Student	Learning Group	Add'l Chaperone	Add'l Student
A	\$850	\$18	\$50	\$725	\$12	\$40
A-	\$725	\$12	\$40	\$615	\$10	\$35
B	\$2,165	\$65	\$125	\$1,850	\$50	\$105
C	\$3,235	\$110	\$185	\$2,750	\$90	\$160

We require a ratio of at least 1 adult to attend per 15 students. For every 15 students who come, one chaperone can attend for free. Teachers always attend for free!

Traditional Public Schools designated as Title 1 for the 2025-2026 School year are eligible for a 12% discount on field trip fees. (Food and merchandise excluded)

ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES

- Aquatic Ecology (Grades 5+) – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Aerial Adventure Course* – 1.25 hours ±, \$330 per learning group. •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Alpine Tower* – 1.25 hours ±, \$330 per learning group. •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Alpine Tower + Giant Swing* – 2 hours ±, \$385 per learning group. •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Archery* – 1 hour ±, \$110 per learning group.
- Backyard Biology – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Backyard Games – timeframe flexible, included in package cost.
- Canoeing* (Grades 3+) – 1 hour ±, \$175 per learning group.
- Compass – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Creepy Crawlies – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Eco Heroes – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Environmental Debate (Grades 5+) – 1.5 hours ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Equestrian Introduction* – 1 hour ±, \$110 per learning group (max 20). •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Equine Science* – 1 hour ±, \$190 per learning group (max 20). •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Fire Building – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Fishing – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Forest Ecology – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Future Engineers – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Gellyball* – 1 hour ±, \$110 per learning group.
- Giant Swing* – 1.5 hours ±, \$265 per learning group. •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Low Challenge Course – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Meelewing (Grades 5+) – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Meteorology – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Nature Art – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Pickleball – timeframe flexible, included in package cost.
- Pioneer Life – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Teambuilding Games & Activities – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Tree Climbing* – 1.25 hours ±, \$265 per learning group. •LIMITED AVAILABILITY•
- Water Wisdom – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Wilderness Skills / Survival 101 – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.
- Wildlife Ecology – 1 hour ± per learning group, included in package cost.

**Denotes a premium activity. Trip packages B & C include a credit towards premium activities.*

We can often offer the same activity to more than one learning group at a time. Certain activities can only accommodate one learning group at a time or require a longer timeframe for a larger group to participate. As we learn your preferences, we'll develop a tailored activity schedule for your group!

We do, from time to time, have more than one school with us on the same day(s). It is possible that some activities may be unavailable if they have been previously booked by another school or group. Priority is given to the school that provides us with their requests first and pays their deposit on time.

EVENING PROGRAMS FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS

After dinner is a great time for kids to let loose and have fun! You may plan your own activity, have your students enjoy our recreational areas, or our staff can facilitate an activity for you!

Each of the activities below last about 1 hour and are designed for the entire group.

- Campfire and Skits
- Field Games
- Movie Night
- Wacky Olympics
- Dance Party
- Science Fair
- Owl Prowl/Night Hike

STAFF

At YMCA Camp Thunderbird's Environmental Education Center, we pride ourselves on hiring and training professional staff that provide educational and fun experiences for students. Our diverse team members have education and experience in areas such as biology, conservation, forestry, education, and recreation. They enjoy the high-energy, action-packed environment of working with students in our outdoor camp setting.

Our staff must:

- Undergo a background check prior to employment.
- Complete an in-depth initial training before working with students.
- Participate in ongoing in-services on safety, skills, and teambuilding.
- Be consistently evaluated and coached for continuous improvement.
- Maintain certifications in CPR, First Aid, AED, and Lifeguarding.
- Have a love of working with youth and in the outdoors.



FOOD SERVICE

Meals are served buffet-style, and we encourage creating little-to-no food waste. Our meals are hearty and complimented by a yogurt & fruit bar during breakfast and salad bar during lunch and dinner.

Most dietary restrictions can be easily accommodated with advance notice. Participants with specific needs are also welcome to bring their own food ingredients that our chef team can store in the kitchen and prepare for them prior to each meal. If you have a student who will celebrate their birthday while here, let us know and we'll be happy to recognize them at mealtime with a special treat!

Examples of foods served:

BREAKFAST

- Biscuits
- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage
- Pancakes
- Cereal

LUNCH

- Sub Sandwiches
- Pizza
- Tacos
- Chicken Patty Sandwiches
- Hamburgers

DINNER

- Baked Chicken
- Pork Tenderloin
- Lasagna
- Chicken Tenders
- Roast Beef

SAMPLE OVERNIGHT TRIP SCHEDULE

ARRIVAL DAY:

- 12:00pm – Arrival & Welcome
- 1:15pm – Activity / Class
- 2:30pm – Activity / Class
- 3:45pm – Activity / Class
- 5:00pm – Recreation Time
- 5:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30pm – Recreation Time
- 7:30pm – Evening Program
- 8:30pm – Cabin Time
- 10:00pm – Lights Out

DEPARTURE DAY:

- 8:00am – Breakfast
- 9:00am – Activity / Class
- 10:15am – Activity / Class
- 11:30am – Bagged Lunch & Culmination
- 12:00pm – Departure

FULL DAY:

- 8:15am – Breakfast
- 9:30am – Activity / Class
- 10:45am – Activity / Class
- 12:00pm – Lunch
- 1:15pm – Activity / Class
- 2:30pm – Activity / Class
- 3:45pm – Activity / Class
- 5:00pm – Recreation Time
- 5:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30pm – Recreation Time
- 7:30pm – Evening Program
- 8:30pm – Cabin Time
- 10:00pm – Lights Out

SAMPLE DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

- 9:00am – Arrival
- 9:05am – Welcome & Intro
- 9:25am – Activity 1
- 10:45am – Activity 2
- 12:00pm – Lunch
- 12:45pm – Activity 3
- 2:00pm – Culmination
- 2:20pm – Depart



We know that every school's daily schedule is different – we are happy to modify arrival and departure times, activity timeframes, etc. to fit your schedule!

HOUSING

Students live together in cabin groups of 12-24 individuals. The visiting school's lead teacher is responsible for creating their group's cabin assignments. Each cabin must include at least one teacher/chaperone.

Our cabins are duplex-style with showers and restrooms on each side, air conditioning, heat, and twin-sized bunk beds.

Additional housing for extra chaperones and teachers is available upon request, based on availability.

Groups will be assigned cabins for their stay. If you would like to request specific cabins, please let us know during the planning process. Groups may not change cabins after they have arrived unless it is approved by a YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff member, as we also use some of our cabin space for seasonal staff housing and other visiting groups.

PACKING LIST (OVERNIGHTS)

Please note: students will get dirty at camp! Send clothing that is appropriate for being outside and be mindful of the weather. Students are outside most of the time at camp, and will likely need at least one extra change of clothes.

Bring:

- Sleeping bag or twin bedding
- Pillow
- Pajamas
- Closed toe shoes (1-2 pairs)
- Daily change of clothing
- Heavy and Light layers
- Rainwear
- Hat
- Cold weather accessories for winter
- Plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Shower items & personal toiletries
- Shower shoes
- Towel
- Sunscreen & bug spray
- Water Bottle

Optional:

- Kleenex or Bandana
- Chapstick
- Binoculars
- Flashlight
- Book
- Camera
- Travel Mug (for adults)
- Money for the Camp Store

Do not Bring:

- Electronics & Phones
- Food, Gum, Candy, etc.
- Weapons
- Matches
- Valuables

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- The guiding principle is for chaperones and teachers to be with their group(s) and insist on safe, respectful behavior at all times. Be enthusiastic and supportive of all YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff and encourage students to try new things while they are here with us.
- YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff will expect the chaperones and teachers to maintain and enforce behavioral guidelines for the students at all times.
 - Cabins – an adult will stay in the cabin building with the students throughout the night. At no time should students be in their cabin without an adult – day or night.
 - Dining Hall – adults will accompany students to the dining hall, assist with student organization for meals, and sit with students during meals. We hope that adults will encourage a low-to-zero food waste meal in support of the staff and our environment. Adults will assist in assigning clean-up duties to students after meals.
 - Evening Programs and Activities – an adult will accompany children to all classes, activities, and programs.
 - Recreation Time – adults are asked to supervise students during recreation time.
- A minimum of one adult per 15 students is required on site.
- Participants will provide their own linens for overnight use.
- There can be no food or candy in cabins.
- Quiet hours are between 10:00pm and 7:00am. All students must be in their own cabins during that time.
- Cabins must be cleaned before breakfast on the day of departure.
- Students are not permitted in or near the lodging of other schools.
- The following items are not permitted on our property at any time: pets, alcohol, drugs, tobacco in any form, firearms, ammunition, flammable liquids, explosives, and poisonous substances.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES, CONTINUED...

- Groups and individuals are not permitted on our docks without YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff. All water activities must be pre-arranged with a Camp Thunderbird Director or Coordinator. Lake swimming is not permitted.
- Fires are only permitted in designated fire pits. All fires must be prearranged with a Camp Thunderbird Director.
- All vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas – a fire lane must be maintained.
- Schools are responsible for the storage of and dispensation of all medications while at YMCA Camp Thunderbird and for providing an on-duty adult with current certification in age-appropriate First Aid and CPR/AED.
- YMCA Camp Thunderbird does not provide accident or medical insurance for visiting groups.
- The school is responsible for assigning students to their cabin and learning groups before arrival at camp.
- Schools will be charged for any new damages to buildings and equipment or excessive cleaning needs.
- **The school is responsible for bringing signed YMCA Camp Thunderbird waiver forms for every student, teacher, and chaperones in attendance.**
- Schools must provide certificate of insurance six weeks prior to visit.
- Students may not use phones during programming.

GROUP BOOKING POLICIES

Deposit

YMCA Camp Thunderbird requires a 30% deposit, based on the contracted price for your visit.

Contract & Payment Schedule

- Contract must be signed via digital signature within one week of receipt.
- 30% deposit due within 30 days of receiving the contract.
- Final updates due by 2 weeks prior to arrival.
- Final payment of 70% (or remaining balance) due 5 days prior to arrival.

Attendance Guarantee

- Increases in the number of participants will result in a total cost increase.
- The minimum final invoice will be based on the number of learning groups / participants.
- Any decreases in the number of students and/or adults must be received and confirmed by YMCA Camp Thunderbird in writing at least three weeks prior to the program start date to reduce final payment amount due.
- You may increase your numbers at any time if space is available. Please contact our team to confirm availability.

Cancellation and Refund Information

- YMCA Camp Thunderbird contracts its staff well in advance of a visiting group. Our staff size and salaries are based on the number of participants and the arrival and departure times shown in your contract.
- All cancellations will lose their deposit.
- Groups that cancel within 90 days of the scheduled arrival date will be billed for 50% of their scheduled participants.
- Cancellations due to travel advisories or school closures are not subject to the 50% payment. Deposits may be applied to a rescheduled trip for up to a year.

Communication

Please let us know what your needs, challenges, and changes might be. We very well may be able to work with you in extenuating circumstances.

ACTIVITY & CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Roll up your sleeves as you and your students explore one of our lake's coves. Many discoveries await as you explore a major component of the Lake Wylie food web. Upon exploring the water, students will learn to use what we find to give us information about the health of the lake.

NC standard: LS.4.1, ESS.4.3.1, ESS.4.3.3, LS.5.2.2, LS.5.2.3

SC standard: K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-3, 5-LS1-1, 7-LS2-1, 7-LS2-5, 8-LS1-5

AERIAL ADVENTURE COURSE*

This is an obstacle course set high up in the trees and allows participants to engage at a level they are comfortable with. This activity is great to explore personal challenges and also to facilitate teamwork. Certified instructors will guide every step of the way, and ending the experience with a zipline is always a possibility!

ALPINE TOWER*

Students will have the opportunity to challenge themselves by climbing and trying all the elements of our Alpine Towers course.

ARCHERY*

Students will be supervised by our certified staff as they learn shooting technique and try to get a bullseye at our archery range!

BACKYARD BIOLOGY

What lives here? Students will explore the living things that can be found in their own backyard. They will tour our camp garden, meet our chickens, and play games that lead them to learn about the plants and animals that are all around us. NC standard: LS.1.1, LS.3.3, ESS.4.2, LS.5.2, LS.6.2, EES.6

SC standard: E-ESS2-5, LS2.B, 7-LS2-5, 7-LS2-3, 5-LS2-1

BACKYARD GAMES

Students can test their skills and work together during a fun relay race playing good 'ol yard games. Some elements may include cornhole, latter ball, can jam, spike ball, giant jenga, and more.

CANOEING*

Take to the lake! After a brief introduction and your students will discuss and demonstrate various paddling skills, safety techniques, and paddling terminology. Then, under the supervision of our lifeguard-certified staff, it's time for students to practice true teamwork by navigating their canoe in one of our protected coves on Lake Wylie.

COMPASS

Which way do we go? Students will learn the valuable compass and map skills through fun and interactive games and challenges.

NC standard: PS.PSc.6.4

CREEPY CRAWLIES

Bugs: Creepy, crawly and scary? Not necessarily. In this dynamic class students will discover the amazing world of bugs and the important role they play in the environment through games, observation, and everyone's favorite...the bug hunt!

NC standard: LS.4.1, LS.5.3

SC standard: 3-LS3-1, 8-LS1-5, 7-LS2-4, LS4.C

ECO HEROES

What can I do to save the planet? Students will explore and discover sustainable energy sources and learn where their energy comes from today. By learning about renewable alternatives, the 5Rs of zero waste, and conservation, students can become the Earth's next Eco Heroes.

NC standard: 4.G.1.2, 4.L.1.3, 8.P.2.2

ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE

What ELSE could we do with the land at YMCA Camp Thunderbird? In this activity, students will work in teams to turn camp into a hypothetical alternative operation that is economically and environmentally sustainable. Students must then present their ideas to a panel of their teachers and chaperones who will decide which proposal is the best alternative operation for YMCA Camp Thunderbird.

NC standard: ESS.4.3, ESS.1.3, ESS.EES.6, ESS.EES.5, ESS.8.4

SC standard: K-ESS3-3., 2-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1, 7-ESS3-3

EQUESTRIAN INTRODUCTION*

Students are invited to participate in a barn tour, learn how to and experience petting horses, feed the horses treats, and participate in a fun group game.

EQUINE SCIENCE*

Students will receive an introduction to equine science from our professional equestrian staff! They'll learn about appropriate environmental conditions for horses, physiology, nutrition and more.

FIRE BUILDING

We will explore the science behind the survival skill of making a camp fire. They will learn about fire safety and the proper components to build their own a campfire, then put their new knowledge to the test!

FISHING

Students can learn how to bait a hook and use different types of fishing equipment while trying to catch the big one when participating in our catch and release fishing class.

FOREST ECOLOGY

Time to hit the trail! Students will participate in a hike on one of our beautiful nature trails. Along the way they will learn about the parts of our forest and the living things that call it home. As well as hiking, students will play games that reinforce key ecology concepts.

NC standard: LS.3.2, LS.3.3, LS.4.1, LS.5.2, LS.6.1, LS.6.2, LS.8.2

SC standard: 7-LS2-5, 7-LS2-4, 7-LS2-3, 7-LS2-1, 5-LS2-1, 2-LS2-1

FUTURE ENGINEERS

Put your thinking cap on! Students will participate in the spaghetti and marshmallow challenge, working together to use limited resources to build the tallest structure possible. They will explore key concepts of physics and engineering.

GELLYBALL*

Gellyball is a low-impact game similar to paintball, but lower-impact and less messy! It uses battery-powered blasters to launch hydrated gel orbs at targets or other players in a variety of game scenarios. It's a lot of fun for everyone involved!

GIANT SWING*

Located adjacent to our Alpine Tower, the Giant Swing allows students to be pulled up into the air by their classmates. When the student is ready to swing, they let go of "Mr. Fuzzy" and fly through the air!

LOW CHALLENGE COURSE

This activity presents groups with more advanced challenges than our Teambuilding class. Students will be pushed physically, mentally, and emotionally as they work to achieve a common goal with their classmates. Communication, trust, and teamwork are essential elements that students must put into practice during this session.

MEELEWING

Meelewing (Mel-eh-vong) Translates to compassion in Afrikaans. This character development class explore what it takes for people different from one another to coexist. We will examine the values of respect, caring, responsibility, and trust through a highly immersive roll playing game. Students divide into two groups, each with their own culture, language, social standards, government, and pass times. The fun begins when ambassadors from each culture visit the other and students quickly discover their profound differences. The lesson continues to involve compromise, effective communication, and concludes with a thorough debrief of their experiences.

METEOROLOGY

How's the weather up there? Students will be introduced to a variety of meteorology tools and their uses and importance. They will participate in games that exemplify those concepts in a hands on style.

NC standard: ESS.7.1, ESS.5.1

SC standard: 3-ESS2-1, 3-ESS2-2, 6-ESS2-5

NATURE ART

Let the creativity flow! Small groups will create their own sculptures using only natural materials. This class helps students learn to appreciate nature through art and art in nature. A great way to slow down and observe nature, focus on one's own senses, and recognize the value of art in science.

NC standard: 4.V.1.3, 5.V.1.2, 3.CX.1.5, 2.CX.1.5

PICKLEBALL

Students will get an entry-level introduction to the game, learn the basic rules, play games and challenge each other in the fastest growing sport in America!

PIONEER LIFE

Students "load up their wagons" in a role-playing game. They will have limited resources to overcome challenges just like the ones pioneers faced traveling from Pennsylvania to South Carolina on the Piedmont Wagon Trail.

NC standard: 3.H.1, 4.H.1, 5.H.1, 6.G.1

SC standard: 4.2.CX, 4.3.CO, 4.3.CE, 5.1.E, 8.2.CC

TEAMBUILDING GAMES & ACTIVITES

Students test their patience, attention to detail, and communication skills in this exciting teambuilding activity. Your students will participate in a series of activities focusing on both verbal and non-verbal communication, trust, and collaboration.

SC standard: 2.C.2.3

TREE CLIMBING*

Our certified instructors will guide students in using specialized equipment to climb some of our beautiful white oak trees. This activity allows climbers to experience nature from an extremely unique perspective!

WATER WISDOM

In this activity, students will explore the ways that water quality affects life. They will participate in a water filtration experiment, discuss the evolution of water quality in the US. As well as engage in activities that deepen their understanding of the fragile ecosystem that is sustained by Earth's water sources.

WILDERNESS SKILLS / SURVIVAL 101

Do you have what it takes to make it in the wild? In this class students will learn basic wilderness survival skills like shelter building, what to bring with you into the forest, and so much more. Instructors will lead students through a variety of activities and games that put their knowledge into action.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

What is wildlife? Students will learn how animals interact with each other and their environment. They will explore our wildlife room, complete with live animals and animal artifacts. They will learn all about the five types of vertebrates and play games to teach key ecology ideas.

NC standard: LS.4.1, LS.5.3, LS.7.1

SC standard: 1-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 4-LS1-1

EVENING PROGRAM: CAMPFIRE AND SKITS

A camping tradition!! Enjoy stories, skits, and songs your students will sing all the way home. Each cabin will receive a skit card during dinner that they may practice from 6:00-6:30 p.m. with their cabin adult. You will enjoy a night full of giggles as our instructors light a fire and open up our camp stage so your students can perform their skits to the delight of their peers.

EVENING PROGRAM: DANCE PARTY

Get your dancing shoes on! Let loose and show off your best moves while our instructors DJ. Students are welcome to request their favorite songs and line dances or even engage in an epic dance battle. The sky's the limit!

EVENING PROGRAM: FIELD GAMES

Burn off some surplus energy with an assortment of high-energy, fast-paced field games. Some options may include Gold Rush, Everybody's It Tag, Capture the Flag, and/or other camp favorites.

EVENING PROGRAM: LIARS' CLUB

Is that an old soda bottle? Or is that an ancient glass magnifying glass? What about a receptacle for water used in Ancient Greece? Students will have the time of their lives guessing the true use of these strange looking objects, while teachers and chaperones give various justifications for their version of the truth- each more convincing than the next!

EVENING PROGRAM: MOVIE NIGHT

Enjoy a night relaxing with your students while watching a movie. We will happily provide you with a movie or bring your own and we'll play that!

EVENING PROGRAM: WACKY OLYMPICS

Wacky Olympics is all about getting silly! What's better than some healthy competition, getting the wiggles out, and laughing along the way? There's nothing "fair" about these games, but they sure are fun!

EVENING PROGRAM: OWL PROWL/NIGHT HIKE

Explore nature at night! In this activity, students will learn about the owls that can be heard in the Carolinas and the adaptations that make them successful, nocturnal raptors.

EVENING PROGRAM: SCIENCE FAIR

Welcome to a night of science. Check out some weird, wild phenomenon in this rotation activity that looks at some of the laws of science in a hands-on manner.