

Camp Talooli Educational Program Topics

Most groups that come to Camp want to combine content-specific educational goals with opportunities for team building and outdoor fun. Typical schedules often include large group activities, breaking large groups into small teams that rotate through activities and a meal. The activities marked with an * may be adapted to be brought to your site or classroom.

| Pre-K Trough Elementary School | | | |
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| STEM | Ecosystems * | An engaging, interactive lesson set in our forests and private lakes where students use nets to capture and examine aquatic life. Students will use identification keys to name what they have found and learn how the life interacts. | 1-2 hr |
| | Math and Mapping * | How deep is the lake? How long is that trail? Students create and implement ways to measure, map and answers real questions in nature. They can create a profile of the bottom of the lake by measuring the water depth as they cross the lake in rowboats. This is even more fun if they try it in the winter as they drill holes in the thick lake ice before taking their measurements. Students can also use or create field maps of the forest trails using compasses and rolling wheel measuring devices. | 1-2 hr |
| | Rocket Building * | Each student can design, build and test-fire an air-powered paper rocket that will fly above the treetops. Students hypothesize the ways that their rockets will fly by deciding the length and weight of the rocket and how many fins it will have. Our air powered launch pad fires up to four rockets at a time so that we can compare the performance of different rockets. This activity is a “blast” for anyone from 2nd grade to adult! | 1-1.5hr |
| | Nature Scavenger Hunt | An easy and fun way to get to know camp, make nature observations and build team spirit. Students form teams, use camp maps and get a little dirty as they search for nature items. | 30min – 1 hr |
| | Stream Erosion | Students find evidence of stream erosion at camp and then use our giant stream table to experiment and experience how streams carry and deposit sediments. | 45min – 2hr |
| | Panning for Gold * | This interactive lesson is a blast and can get a little messy as students explore the concepts of density and the power of moving water to sort sediments. Students use real miners gold pans to search for high density minerals. We can start on land (or in the classroom) with sediment in large plastic basins and we can then move to the edge of the sandy lake shore where students wade barefoot into shallow water to search for “gold”. | 1-2 hr |
| | Bog Exploration | Students literally get there feet wet as they put on old sneakers and hike out onto the floating open meadows of the bog. An 18” layer of floating sphagnum moss cover the entire surface of this 30 acre bog. This is a unique ecosystem where specialized plants grow with their roots in water rather than soil and it contains classic bog species like black spruce, wild cranberries and insect eating pitcher plants. Everyone says that walking in this trail-less area feels like you are walking on a giant floating sponge! | 1-2 hr |
| Art | Art in Nature * | Students explore the ways that natural settings can inspire art. Students can create artwork in the forest, at the lakeshore or while in a boat on our lake. Drawing, painting and sculpture using natural and found materials. | 1-3 hr |
| | Tie Dye | During summer camp, we have a full arts and crafts program in our Art Barn and we can offer many proven examples of projects that students can make at camp. Making a tie dye t-shirt is a classic. | 30min – 1hr |
| | Team Weaving | Students work as a team or whole class to create a giant outdoor weaving project. Natural & recycled materials are woven on a frame between trees and the final product reflects the efforts and sensibilities of the whole group. The finished project can include notes written on fabric and can be taken back for display at school. | 1 hr |
| | Reading, Writing, and Story Telling * | In the footsteps of Thoreau, students can trade in their school desks for log benches and read and write along the shore of a quite lake or while sitting on | 1-4 hr |

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| Literacy & History | | a forest floor covered in dry pine needles. They can compose and share stories around a small campfire or act them out as a skit. | |
| | Stone Age Humans | How did ancient people make tools and art, and how did they get and cook food? Students can use experimental archaeology to explore the basic problem solving of our ancestors. Through demonstrations and problem solving we can ask students to attempt to build a fire, use the fire to cook something, collect edible plants, make tools from stone, wood, fiber and clay. Student can also create art by carving stone or bone into objects or by creating pigments and using them to simulate cave painting. | 2-4 hr |
| | Video Making * | Students create narratives to tell a story and use handheld devices to create an original video. The video could focus on documenting a process in nature or it could use the outdoor environment as the setting for a fictional tale. | 1.5-4 hr |
| Team Building & Physical Education | Basic Team Building * | Students engage in team building games and ice breakers that focus on communication, trust, leadership, and group cohesion. | 30min – 1.5 hr |
| | Advanced Team Building/ Low Ropes Course | Hike student teams to Camp Talooli's "Tall Pines Team Challenge Trail" to use our low-ropes course. In teams of 6-15, students work with our trained facilitators to grow together as they confront the challenges of the 13 elements along the trail. This is also a great way to encourage students and adults to get to know each other outside of the classroom as they work together to solve problems. | 1-3 hr |
| | Archery | Camp Talooli has an archery range with simple recurve bows. Most students come to archery with no experience and it is a great way to show them that they can go from "I can't" to "I can" in just a few minutes with a little instruction and little practice. We specialize in introducing kids of <u>all ages</u> to archery and is easy to adapt archery students with special needs. | 30min – 1 hr |
| | Boating | Our private 13 acre lake is the heart of many camp programs and we have a boathouse filled with canoes and rowboats. This is a safe and powerful way for students to try something new and make memories. We provide instruction, supervision and all of the life jackets so that students can explore our lake. Boating is also a great opportunity for teachers to get into boats and share the experience with the students. | 30min + |
| Middle and High School | | | |
| <i>All of the activities listed above for elementary students can be adapted and expanded into activities for older students.</i> | | | |
| STEM | Food and Energy Webs and Cycles | Students explore the forest, soil and aquatic ecosystems of Camp to find examples of such terms as predator, prey, decomposer, and primary producer. They can also examine examples of how plants compete for access to solar energy and then follow the pathways of energy transfer from the sun to the plants to the consumers to the soil. Nutrient and gas cycling can also be explored. | 1-2 hr |
| | Aquatic Invertebrates as Environmental Indicators | Students will capture and identify macro invertebrates in our private lakes and use identification keys to classify them and use them as indicators of water quality. This activity can expand as the students compare the invertebrates and the environmental conditions in 4 different bodies of water. Camp Talooli contains three natural kettle lakes where we protect the high water quality and the surrounding watershed. Camp is also adjacent to Pennellville Pond that was formed on an impounded stream. Pennellville Pond is over a mile long and exhibits the high nutrient content and eutrophication typical of a pond with many shoreline owners and one that is fed by a stream that flows through miles of farmland. | 1-4 hr |
| | Field Mapping | Using maps, compasses, handheld GPS and measuring tapes, students can create accurate field maps of our lake, landscape or trails. They could locate and survey unique natural areas or they could use animal tracks in the snow to map the movements of wildlife on our 170 acres. | 1-3 hr |
| | Bog Ecosystems and Insectivorous Plants | A short hike and an extra pair of old sneakers gives students access to a nearby 30 acre bog. Students can go off-trail to explore the plants and animals that live on this floating ecosystem. We can use simple coring devices to measure the thickness of the floating bog mat, the depth of the underlying | 1-3 hr |

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| | | water and the clay sediments that trapped this shallow pond at the end of the last ice age and turned it into a bog. Bog fern, black spruce, pitcher plants, sphagnum moss, cotton grass and many other bog adapted species can be found. We can examine the primitive flowers of the pitcher plant and conduct a field dissection of one of the insect eating leaves of these fascinating plants. Students can search for seedlings of nearby upland plants that attempt (and fail) to survive in this nutrient poor and constantly wet environment. | |
| | A Polar Science Experience | During most of January and February, the lakes at Camp are covered by up to 16" of ice and they offer a fantastic opportunity to simulate the experience of polar scientists. We can drill 7" diameter holes through the ice so the students can measure ice thickness, water depth and lake chemistry. Students can create transects across the lake and use their data to create a contour profile of the lake bottom. We can also use coring equipment through the holes to measure the depth of the bottom samples and bring back samples of 11,000 year old fossil pollen that fell in the lake at the end of the last ice age. | 1-4 hr |
| | Pennellville Pond Canoe Expedition | Students can carry canoes to Pennellville Pond, and then explore its history and ecology. In 1833 a dam and sawmill were built on Fish Creek to form a mile long pond. Today students can still see the dam and mill and note the home development in the lower half of the pond. As they canoe upstream, the homes are replaced by farmland, forest and beaver dams. The expedition can continue upstream into the meanders of Fish Creek where they can explore a marsh and shaded trout stream. This 3-mile round trip offers the opportunity for students to measure changes in water chemistry and aquatic habitats. This trip is a favorite part of Camp Talooli's summer camp program and we provide our guide, canoes, life jackets, etc. | 2-4 hr |
| | Science Field Camp | Students become field scientists for two days when they move into camp, spend all day collecting data on a research question, share meals, stay overnight, prepare summaries of their work and present them to an audience. Before they come to camp, small teams of students should select research questions from a wide range of topics including aquatic and forest biology, surveys of plants, trees or insects, soil analysis, dendrochronology, environmental chemistry, etc. The students arrive in the evening for an orientation and a good night's rest, followed by a hearty breakfast. Then the student teams spend all day collecting photos, specimens and data that they will use to create presentations. | 1-3 days |
| Art | Art <i>En Plein Air</i> * | Artists and art students have always been inspired by nature and we can offer you 170 acres of private forests and lakeshore. Students can be stationed along our 1300 feet of shoreline boardwalk or they can work in the shelter of our covered decks overlooking the lake. | 1-3 hr |
| | Pit-Fired Pottery | Students bring completed and dry clay projects to camp and then explore the techniques and challenges of building a wood-firing outdoor pit kiln. This project could be expanded over the course of weeks as students come to camp to mine their own clay before creating their artwork and then fire the project at school or on a return trip to camp. | 2 hr – 2 weeks |
| | Big, Messy, Outdoor Art | Many forms of artwork are difficult to manage in the classroom or schoolyard because they need large spaces or can create big messes. On our large ballfield, temporary or performance-based artwork can easily be created and displayed. Large sculptures in stone, clay, wood or metal would also be easier to create in our large outdoor spaces. | 1hr + |

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| Music | Outdoor Performance | Camp Talooli has a covered outdoor stage with seating for 100 audience members. Camp also offers several smaller, indoor and covered practice areas including our main dining hall with a 40'x50' main room. | -- |
| | "Real" Band Camp | Build your band into a team with an overnight retreat in the woods. Our main ball field is nearly the size of a football field and can be lined to support marching band practice. Your practice could be combined with team building on our ropes course, boating on our lake, food service, evening activities around a campfire and overnight accommodations. | 2-3 days |
| Literacy & History | Live the Narrative | Many famous pieces of literature open the door for us to try to live part of their narrative. Students can discuss the themes of solitude, simplicity and self-reliance that Thoreau described in <u>Walden</u> , while actually in an isolated pine forest by a quiet lake. Have your students read and digest the epic story of <u>The Endurance</u> in the classroom and follow it by having them spend a day on a frozen lake. Students can reenact and experiment with some of Shackelton's Antarctic shipwreck experience by building a fire on the ice, using it to cook a meal and then write about their experience in a journal as Shackelton's men did a century ago. The memory-making possibilities of this type of experience are limitless. | 1-2 days |
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| | 5K Trail Run | Camp Talooli has a beautiful 5K trail that is built on unpaved roadways through the forest. The trail is wide enough for a vehicle but is closed to all traffic. This is a great option for Cross-country teams looking for a new course to run or for a place to host your next running event. | 1 hr |
| | Sports Team Retreat | Kick off your competitive season by bringing your student athletes to a team building retreat in the woods. Train, run, play and grow as a team. Our ball field is almost as big as a football field and our 5K trail is a great run. Combine your training with time spent on the challenge course and in rowboats and canoes. Eat a great meal together and end you day with a campfire and an overnight in our cabins. | 1-3 days |

College and Adult Groups

All of the activities listed above for elementary, middle and high school students can be adapted and expanded into activities for older students & adults.

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| Team Building | <i>Coming soon</i> |
| Communication and Leadership | |
| Teacher Prof. Development | |

