

BHES Natural Ecology After School Program

Grades 3rd-5th

Cost: \$60 for 6 weeks

Program Overview:

Our elementary after-school outdoor field study program aims to engage students with nature and allows them to apply classroom science standards and skills in a real world situation. Students will observe, ask questions, and record data throughout the sessions, comparing initial data to ending results. They will then analyze and present their findings during the last session. Activities are designed to nurture environmental stewardship, encourage curiosity about the natural world. This program aims to connect classroom learning to real-world experiences, fostering inquiry and hands-on scientific exploration.

Nature Exploration:

- Outdoor Field Studies: Students will go on nature walks in our school surrounding area where students explore local flora, fauna, and ecosystems.
- Wildlife Observation: Using simple tools like magnifying glasses or binoculars, students will observe birds, insects, and other local wildlife in their natural habitats.
- Data: Students will gather data and graph collected using tools like quadrant frames and field measuring tape to help them record their observations. Students will chart data over six-weeks and report out their findings on the last day of each session.

Learning Outcomes:

- Environmental Literacy: Understanding the basics of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the importance of conservation.
- Cultural Appreciation: Gaining insight into how different cultures view and interact with nature, fostering respect and empathy.
- Hands-on Skills: Practical knowledge in gardening, recycling, and sustainable practices.
- Stewardship: Cultivating a sense of responsibility and care for the environment and communities around the world.

Planning Ahead:

2:30-3:30

Oct 7 - Week One: Nature walk and expectations for safety & work ethics (1 hour)

Oct 14 - Week Two: Plant identification, tools use, and identify field site (1 hour) 2:30-3:30

Oct 28 - Week Three: Data collection - quadrants, transect, forest sampling (1 hour) 2:30-3:30

Nov 4 - Week Four: Data collection & dissecting a pine cone or tree ring (1 hour) 2:30-3:30

Nov 18 - Week Five: Nature walk & field site clean up homework- graph building & data graphing (1 hour) 2:30-3:30

Nov 25 - Week Six: Presentation of findings; outside if possible (1.5 hours) 2:30-4:00 Families invited to attend