

Life Science

Animal Senses

Animals depend more on their senses than people. In this class we will work on using all of our senses and discuss why this is so important to the animal world. We will explore the variety of senses animals use to survive; discover differences in sensitivity; and discuss why certain senses are more important than others to various animals

Birds

What has hollow bones, wings, and no teeth? The fascinating study of birds dates back to ancient times. In this class we will: discuss migration, adaptations, nesting and diversity of our flying friends; learn how to use binoculars; participate in a bird watching hike where we will look at different types of native birds; and use field guides to identify birds seen on the hike.

Bugs

In this class we will discover the diversity of the insect world; learn about the beneficial roles insects play; learn capture techniques; catch a variety of insects; and identify those insects

Trees

Trees are to the woods as water are to the oceans. Students will be able to appreciate the importance of nature's largest plants through n -site experiences with trees, the life givers of the forest. This course focuses on tree , leaf, and seed identification as well as the parts and functions of trees. The study of tree rings, budding, and other topics are available on request.

Aquatic Study

Explore a shallow stream to discover what lives in and around the water. Learn to use a dip net, microscope, and simple observation equipment to identify and collect organisms. Water activity sites have been carefully selected for safety and easy supervision. In this class we will: participate in water testing of a local stream; discuss invertebrates that live in an aquatic environment; learn that many insects start their lives in the water; talk about nurseries and why they are important; catch crawfish, salamanders, and nymphs that live in our creek; and identify the animals we catch.

Fishing

Our fishing dock offers a good chance to catch bream, catfish, bass, crappie or maybe even a giant carp. Learn about the habits and favorite foods of these different types of fish and then with just a little luck we can use that knowledge to catch one and get a chance to look at it up close before releasing the fish to fight again one day.

Predator/Prey

In this class we will: learn the difference between carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores; discuss the relationships between these different animals; and play a game that will lead to discussion about how these different animals relate to each other and man.

Animal Tracks

Was it a skinny squirrel or a dashing deer? In this class learn to identify and make plaster casts of animal tracks. Use the casts to learn about feet, adaptations, and to compute the size of the animal. In this class we will: learn how and where to find animal tracks; talk about key elements in identifying tracks; and learn how to pour plaster casts of animal tracks.

Owl Pellets

In this class we will: discover that much of what an owl eats is not digested but is coughed back up in pellet form; learn that by dissecting these pellets we can determine what the owl ate and how much he is eating; dissect our own owl pellets; and determine what our owl has been eating by identifying the bones found in the pellet.

Discovery Hike

An enjoyable and information packed activity discovering the diversity of life in a woodland environment. This is a compilation of life science classes. In this class we will: visit the nature trails of the camp; make discoveries about the world around us; incorporate information from other classes; and learn about plants and wildlife habitats

Earth Science

Tour of Jordan Hydroelectric Plant

Officials with Alabama Power lead students on a tour of Jordan Dam, one of the oldest dams in Alabama. Students learn how the system of rivers and dams operate in Alabama to provide electricity. The tour starts with a video of how electricity is made from the water stored in the reservoir. After the video, we get to tour through the inside of the dam. If we are lucky, they may even open a flood gate for us before we leave.

Adventure Boxes

Create a memory as well as improve the abilities of students to observe and comprehend the natural world surrounding them. An individual box will be provided for each student to display several favorite specimens collected at the camp. A list of suggested discussion topics will be provided to the teacher. This is a non-threatening and highly individualized approach to science education which also emphasizes higher level thinking skills. In addition Adventure Boxes will allow young students to share their outdoor education experience with family and friends in a special way.

Weather

Wind from the south has rain in its mouth. Fact or fiction? Take some mystery out of studying weather. Students will develop process and field skills as they make weather instruments and record data. Cloud studies, weathering scavenger hunt, weather safety and other activities are available on request. This course presents many opportunities for developing decision making skills and positive attitudes toward science. The value of weather literacy cannot be underestimated in terms of personal safety and environmental concerns throughout adulthood. According to Ben Franklin, "Some people are weather wise and some are otherwise".

Rock Hunt

Scratch, streak, and use a weak acid to determine the identities and some of the properties of rocks collected on-site. Activities will include weathering concepts and the use of rock guides.

In this class we will: learn how rocks are formed; discover what rocks are made of; find various rocks native to Camp Chandler; and crack rocks open to see the beauty and structure within.

Boat Tour of Lake Jordan

Lake Jordan was first raised with the construction of Jordan Dam on the Coosa River in 1928. In 1967, Bouldin Dam was also built on the southern end of the lake about three miles from Jordan Dam to form the current lake which is eighteen miles long with 118 miles of shoreline. During our boat tour we will be riding in our thirty foot Bayliner deck boat capable of taking 12 participants at a time. During our tour we will see both dams as well as having the opportunity to see some of our local wildlife. We always see lots of water birds with the possibility of seeing ospreys or maybe even one of the bald eagles.

Social Science

Team Building Initiatives

Low Ropes Course is a series of group problem-solving activities designed to promote group cooperation, participation, and initiative. As they work toward a common goal, students learn important cooperation, communication, leadership, and trust skills. For students 5th grade and older. It will help young leaders blossom and the shy students to come out of their shell as the whole group reaches the goal. Low ropes is best as a two-period class.

Individual Challenge Course

The high ropes course provides a challenge to students to break out of their own boundaries. This course is designed to build self-esteem through challenge. Success is not in completing the course but in going farther than you thought you could. “Can’t” is a dirty word at Camp Chandler—we want to hear students say “We’ll try”. Participants must overcome their fear and inhibition to solve tasks located in the trees 30 to 40 feet above the ground. Students learn to problem-solve and make decisions while under pressure. For students 5th grade and older. Class size: 8 students per class.

Climbing Tower – Mt. Chandler

This is an experience the students will never forget. Students scale our fifty foot tower while safely secured to a belay line. The tower is a great lesson in self confidence and in not giving up.

Orienteering

The compass is the most important navigation tool available to modern man. In this class we will: learn the parts of a compass; discover how to find a heading on the compass; learn how to accurately follow that heading; practice measuring distance in paces; ut our new skills to work on an orienteering course

War Canoes

If you have not been to camp before then you probably have never seen a war canoe before. Our war canoes are thirty feet long and seat around sixteen people. They are the perfect ending to a day of team building at our low ropes course. Not only do you get to be on the lake, but you are required to use the team building skills you learned earlier in the day if your boat is going to move. Whether we just go out and work on our teambuilding skills, or race another team out to Ivy Island and back it will be an experience not soon forgotten.

GPS –Orienteering for the Future

In this class we will: learn what GPS is and how it works’ learn why GPS is so important to today’s researchers; use GPS units to find specific points; and determine how accurate our GPA units are.

Pioneer Skills & Crafts

Candle making

A very unique set of candles or candle decorations can be molded and designed. In this class we will: discuss life before electricity; learn about fire safety; discover how dip candles are made; and make a dip candle to take home

Paper making

Explore the challenges manufacturers face in making recycled paper. It requires special procedures in order to protect the environment. This class will also examine other ways to protect our natural resources. In this class we will: discuss the importance of recycling; discover how paper is recycled; and press and design your own paper.

Native Americans

Native American Games and Culture

A look at Native American Indian Games offers insight into how the Indians of America thought, lived, and played. Play authentic Indian games that the Native Americans taught their children. This class is fun and educational. In this class we will: learn about Indian Culture; discover the importance of learning life skills through games; and play some Indian games and talk about skills learned.

Archery

Class discussion centers on the evolution and history of archery and the different types of bows used. In this class we will: learn that native Americans used bows and arrows to feed their families, discuss the different types of bows; learn the parts of the bow and arrow; work on the hand-eye coordination needed to shoot a bow; and safely practice shooting a bow and arrow/

Canoeing

An important means of transportation with the early American settlers and the Native American Indian. We will learn the basics of canoeing as well as its history. In this class, children are able to participate in this ancient form of transportation that is still a huge recreational activity today. Children will learn the proper way to handle the paddle and different strokes to control the boat. Camp Chandler staff is lifeguard certified and require that all participants wear life jackets.

Indian Dancing

A large part of Indian culture revolved around large ceremonies in which dancing played a central role. Dancers told stories or instilled powers in hunters and warriors. Our staff will teach several dances and explain the significance of each.

Story Telling

For many centuries, history was passed down in the words of a story teller, not in the written word. The Story teller passed down to future generations all of the history of a tribe and its beliefs and its gods. Many of these stories contained a moral in them. Students will learn a few stories and how to create their own story will a lesson.

When it's Dark

Night Hike

The woods come alive at night. In this class, we will visit the world of nocturnal animals and discuss the sensory differences that make these animals special.

Astronomy

The sky above Camp is much clearer than the skies in Montgomery due to less light pollution. Join us as we seek out different constellations and show students how to use a sky chart and how to use the stars to find their bearings.

Campfire

Songs and stories around the campfire bring the camp experience to life. Don't forget your marshmallows.

Capture the Flag

This classic game is one of our campers' favorites. Divided into two teams, each team must work together to protect their own flag but more importantly find the flag of the other team. Great fun with flour bombs. The game will leave your groups with stories to share for years to come.

Trust Walk

It's a unique experience to walk through the woods at night. It's even more unique to do so without flashlights. Students learn to communicate effectively with one another so that the person in the rear is able to walk safely knowing the people in front of them are watching out for them. This is a great bonding experience.

Scavenger Hunt

Can you find ten pine cones? How about a lizard? Or maybe a piece of trash off the ground? If you answered yes, you're off to a good start on the Camp Chandler Scavenger Hunt. Students work in groups to find everything on the list in a certain amount of time. Be careful, some are a little tricky and require some thinking.