

YMCA Camp Potawotami Curriculum Overview 6th-8th Grade

Archery: What did Native Americans use to hunt before guns? Students learn the basic techniques of using a bow and arrow and put it into practice in a safe environment supervised by trained staff.

Canoeing: The ultimate lesson in working together; canoeing combines fun and adventure. Blackman Lake is perfect for the beginner, yet still holds challenges for those with experience. On land, students will learn the basics of stroking, steering, and safety, including properly fitting a lifejacket. In the water, students will put these techniques into action. **Because bad or windy weather can easily cancel this class, please choose an alternative class we can use if needed.**

Climbing Tower: Camp Potawotami's 50 ft. climbing tower requires participants to step outside of their comfort zone. Expanding a student's comfort zone will not only improve self-esteem, but will also promote independence and can help to conquer fears or insecurities. But our climbing wall is also a teambuilding exercise because we emphasize support and encouragement from everyone. All participants will wear safety equipment and be given careful instructions from a trained facilitator. At least two adults are required to help.

Compass Challenge

Students will learn how to navigate using a compass. After some practice, students will take their compass to our compass course and demonstrate their newly acquired skills.

Lake Study

Many unknowns will be discovered in this class as students collect a variety of aquatic life forms from our lake. Using collecting nets and their own hands, students will sort through lake vegetation, which offers food and shelter for the tiny aquatic animals. Students will identify the lake life they have collected using books and posters with pictures and descriptions.

Low Ropes

Low Ropes Courses consist of a series of real and imaginary obstacles designed to challenge groups and individuals to work together to accomplish a task. Course Elements: Problems involving real and imaginary ground-based obstacles (natural and constructed) that challenge a group to pool their resources and work together to find solutions. Success is achieved when all members have contributed to the outcome.

Native American Living

Students will have the opportunity to experience Native American games and storytelling and understand how they relate to the culture and lifestyle of these early peoples specific to our area.

Owls

This class teaches students about the life and characteristics of owls. Everything from nocturnal behavior to silent flight will be discussed, and viewed on our actual mounted Great Horned Owl. Students will then have the opportunity to dissect an owl pellet, which is a fascinating experience because you will find out exactly what a particular owl ate by examining the bones discovered. Students will leave the class with an understanding of one of the world's most beautiful and mysterious birds.

Pioneer Living

Students will spend the first part of the class learning the history of pioneers. After an understanding of what makes someone a pioneer, students will then take part in a life size Oregon Trail, which will teach students the history and life style of pioneers. Activity will include; role-playing, buying materials, and traveling on the Oregon Trail.

Predator Prey

After a brief discussion on the food web and food chain, students will take on the roles of predators and prey, to understand their relationship with one another and the environment in which they live. The roles will be acted out in various game activities.

Teambuilding

Trail groups are put into challenging situations that involve a series of ground level elements, props, and their own bodies to promote group understanding and teamwork skills. Students must focus on creative problem solving and group goal achievement as they overcome the challenges before them.

Tree Study

Students will learn what it takes for a tree to survive with hands-on exploration of concepts of habitats and ecosystems. They will learn about trees themselves - how photosynthesis works, how trees survive, how to identify trees using their bark and leaves. They will learn about the layers of the forest and how forest composition impacts the animals found here.

Wetlands

Camp Potawatami is fortunate to have over 20 acres of wetlands to study and explore. In this class students will learn the importance of these areas, as well as the problems that threaten their survival. Through a discovery hike and additional activities, ecosystems, food chains, and plant and animal species will be introduced and identified.

Wilderness Survival

What would you do if you were stranded in the forest? Students will learn important survival practices and tips in this exciting class. But most important, students will have to work together to stay alive and be rescued. The one-hour class involves building various forms of wilderness shelters. The two-hour class involves shelter building, learning about edible plants, and building a small fire.

Outdoor Education Evening Activities

The Potawatami Trail

Step back in time to experience a different way of life. Participants learn about pioneer living by participating in hands-on activities such as Dutch-oven cooking, pioneer games, trading post station and candle-making.

Night Sky

Since ancient times, people have been fascinated by the night sky. Different cultures assigned various names and images to the stars and stories were told to explain the awe-inspiring sights. This program is filled with astronomy lessons, stargazing, and stories.

Night Walk

During a walk through the night-time forest, without the aid of flashlights, participants learn to rely on senses other than sight. Topics such as night-vision, sensory awareness, nocturnal wildlife, and comfort with the darkness are explored during this very popular activity.

Camp Potawatami Teambuilding Olympics

Groups are divided into teams and assigned a color. Teams create a name and mascot for their group's color, and then represent those colors in a series of hilarious relay races and team challenges! A fun and engaging way to burn off any extra energy your group has before bedtime. Focus on teamwork and communication.

Campfire

Songs and stories around the campfire bring the camp experience to life. The Camp Staff will lead students in skits and songs and incorporate a little bit of star gazing. The evening will also include smores.

Teachers may also choose to have the students create skits to perform during campfire. YMCA Camp Staff will help students with their skits after dinner.

Hay Ride

What could be more fun than a ride around Camp Potawotami on a hay wagon? The ride includes songs and stories. This activity can be paired with recreational time and the camp store.

YMCA Camp Potawotami BINGO!

We have a winner! Spend your evening at camp playing Camp Potawotami Bingo where the letters and numbers are represented by the Outdoor Education Classes your school has taken and key vocabulary words from the classes. Prizes will be awarded to the winners and the evening will conclude with smores.