

Outdoor Education Fall 2020

Kits Offered:

Water Ecology: 2-3 hours

Students will discover the elements that make for a healthy waterway by conducting water sample tests and collecting macro-invertebrates. Instructors will facilitate discussion of the human role in our water system and the importance of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Students are given the opportunity to get in the water, depending on river flow at that time in the season.

Montane Forest Ecology: 2-3 hours

Students will learn about the forest ecosystem surrounding YMCA of the Rockies. Students participate in several hands on activities that utilize their senses and field observation skills. They will also learn about producers and consumers, predator and prey relationships, human impacts, and the fight for resources within an ecosystem.

Outdoor Living Skills: 2-3 hours

Students will learn the importance of survival skills that will keep them safe in case of an emergency in the wilderness. Students will also learn how to prevent getting lost, what to do in the event that they do become lost, and crucial skills for surviving an unexpected night in the woods. In addition, students will become well-versed in fire-building and will have the opportunity to practice building awesome survival shelters! Please note that this is not an overnight camping class.

Route Orienteering: 2-3 hours

In an age of over-reliance on potentially faulty GPS units, basic map and compass knowledge is a necessary skill for any trip into the wilderness. Students will learn how to read a topographic map and how to find and follow a bearing using both a map and compass. Students will then need to find their way around the YMCA property in this engaging skills-based class!

Night Hike: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Night hikes are one of the most popular programs we offer at the Estes Park Center! In this class, students participate in a hike in the evening and will learn that not all animals go to sleep when the sun goes down. Students will also participate in engaging sensory activities and learn about the amazing adaptations that allow creatures of the night to survive. If students are lucky (and quiet!), they may even be able to see an animal in its natural nighttime habitat. Night hikes are very well supervised and safety precautions are strictly enforced. Hiking routes are chosen carefully so as to be easily navigated by our target age groups and typically cover no more than one mile of ground. Closed-toed shoes are required.

To Reserve: Use the "Calendars" Function, select the OE Kits Quick View, and drag and drop the time slot needed under the kit name. Kits cannot be reserved for longer than 4 hours.

When the kit is returned, please check that all contents are still there and that nothing needs to be replaced.