



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



YMCA CAMP THUNDERBIRD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

TEACHER PLANNING PACKET

WWW.CAMPTHUNDERBIRD.ORG/ENVIRONMENTALED
1-800-732-3855

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Education Center at YMCA Camp Thunderbird. We are excited to provide an opportunity for your students to experience education within our natural surroundings. We developed this packet to help you prepare for your trip. If you have any questions regarding your visit to YMCA Camp Thunderbird, please don't hesitate to contact us.



WE STRIVE TO:

- Provide an interdisciplinary environmental education program where students acquire practical knowledge and awareness so they may better appreciate, respect, and discern their role in nature.
- Help students develop cooperative and leadership abilities through personal challenge/achievement, self-expression, and teamwork.
- Promote positive attitudes toward the responsible use of natural resources.
- Supplement your school's curriculum with engaging experiential education in our unique camp setting.
- Create a culture of competence, confidence, and satisfaction in learning, being outdoors, and helping others.
- HAVE FUN!



YMCA Camp Thunderbird | Environmental Education Center

YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

HISTORY

In the early 1930's, "Life Magazine" promoted Fresh Air Camps for children from New York's disadvantaged communities. Observer Charities, Inc., a subsidiary of the Charlotte Observer, organized the Observer Fresh Air Camp in 1936 founded by C. B. Johnson. The camp enjoyed popularity in its beginning days due to press exposure and appeal with the public. In 1946 the camp was gifted to the YMCA of Charlotte and in 1963 its name was changed to Camp Thunderbird.

In the early 1980's, local teachers began using Camp Thunderbird as their "School in the Woods." Providing their own programming, they saw Camp Thunderbird as a place where their students could interact with the environment through sight, sound, touch, taste and smell. The effectiveness of this paradigm shift from traditional classroom learning to "experiential education" prompted a more significant investment of resources into developing a staffed Environmental Education program housed at Camp Thunderbird.

In 1986, under the leadership and vision of Florence and Andy Kane, Camp Thunderbird's Environmental Education Center (EEC) was born to provide nature and outdoor programming for visiting schools. Students now visit the EEC from our local York and Mecklenburg Counties and all the way out to West Virginia and Georgia. The EEC has grown to welcome over 12,000 students annually who choose from over 25 different ecology, history, teambuilding, and adventure education classes.

Today YMCA Camp Thunderbird has a dynamic variety of programs throughout the year, including:

Environmental Education
Summer Resident Camp
Summer Day Camp
Conference and Retreat
Y Guides
Family Camp
Holiday Camp

STAFF

At YMCA Camp Thunderbird's Environmental Education Center, we pride ourselves on hiring and training professional staff that provide educational and fun experiences for students. Our staff members possess college degrees in areas such as biology, conservation, forestry, education, and recreation. They are a diverse group who enjoy the high-energy, action-packed environment of working with students in our outdoor camp setting. Our instructors are chosen for their demonstrated ability to exemplify the YMCA core values of Responsibility, Honesty, Caring, Respect and Faith.

Our staff must:

- Pass a mandatory drug test and background check.
- Complete a two week initial training before working with students.
- Participate in ongoing in-services on safety, continuing education, and teambuilding.
- Be periodically evaluated and coached for continuous improvement.
- Maintain certifications in CPR, First Aid, AED, and Lifeguarding



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LOCATION AND FACILITY

YMCA Camp Thunderbird sits on 106 acres along the banks of Lake Wylie just 17 miles from uptown Charlotte, North Carolina. Our site is easily accessed from Interstates 77 and 85.

The Lake

The 12,455 acres of Lake Wylie is one of our greatest classrooms. Your students may find themselves determining the pH, exploring for aquatic insects, or sharpening their canoeing skills in one of our protected coves. Lake Wylie also offers a great backdrop to your evening campfire, dining experience, or hikes around the site.

The Land

Our forest trails provide a path for discovery where your students will experience real-life examples of the relationship between living and non-living things in this diverse ecosystem. Recreation fields provide ample green spaces to come together for group activities or enjoy unstructured play.

Program Areas

Our center is equipped with heated indoor classrooms, cabins, recreation halls, and a full dining facility. We have an outdoor amphitheater, three outdoor pavilions, challenge course, climbing tower, high ropes elements, zipline, wildlife room, pioneer cabin, fish lab, and StarLab Planetarium.

Cabins

If your group stays overnight at Camp Thunderbird, you will enjoy our modern accommodations. All cabins have bunk-style beds and are equipped with heat, air conditioning, restrooms, and showers.

Dining Hall

Overnight groups will enjoy a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner in our spacious dining hall overlooking Lake Wylie. For your fearless adult leaders, we have a hospitality station that includes a loaded salad bar and hot beverages such as coffee, espresso, tea and hot cocoa.



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FOOD SERVICE

Overnight groups and day groups who order lunch from Camp Thunderbird will enjoy meals prepared by our food service staff at our dining hall overlooking Lake Wylie. Once the students sit with their assigned group, Camp Thunderbird staff will make mealtime announcements to facilitate an enjoyable dining experience.

- If you have any students with severe food allergies please notify us in advance and we will do our best to accommodate them. Students with dietary restrictions may also bring their own food ingredients that our dining hall staff can store in our kitchen and prepare for them prior to each meal.
- If you have any students that will celebrate their birthday at camp, let us know and we will recognize them during meal time.

To further educate students about responsibility and the environment, we have a Zero Food-Waste goal at Camp. We encourage students to **“take what you need, but eat what you take.”**

Groups participating in an overnight experience will collect its food waste and our staff will weigh it after each meal. Schools with low or zero food waste at the end of the meal will be recognized in the cafeteria. This is not intended to be a competition between schools, but to educate the importance of being responsible consumers.

Example of foods served:

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
Biscuits	Sub Sandwiches	Baked Chicken
Scrambled Eggs	Chips	Pork Tenderloin
Sausage	Fruit	Lasagna
Yogurt	Chicken Patties	Roast Beef
Cereal	Pizza	Fajitas
French Toast	Corn	Chicken Tenders
Fruit	Hotdogs/Chili Dogs	Salad, Bread
Pancakes	Tacos	Mixed Veggies
Toast	Hamburgers	Cookies
Milk	French Fries	Fruit Punch
Orange Juice	Water	Water
Adult Extras: Coffee Bar	Adult Extras: Salad Bar, Coffee Bar	Adult Extras: Salad Bar, Coffee Bar



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Our classes align with national curriculum standards for your particular grade. Choose from the existing list of class options or call us for any special curriculum needs you may have.

Choose from:

- Advanced Aquatic Ecology (Grades 5 and up)
- Aquatic Ecology
- Astronomy
- Bird Study
- Canoeing (\$5/student) (Grades 3 and up)
- Catawba Culture
- Compass
- Creepy Crawlies
- Eco Heroes
- Environmental Debate (Grades 5 and up)
- Fish Seining & Dissection
- Fishing & Fish ID
- Forest Ecology
- Group Dynamics
- High Ropes Challenge (\$8/student) (Grades 3 and up)
- Living History
- Low Challenge Course
- Meeleving (Grades 5 and up)
- Meteorology
- Nature Art
- Nature Journaling & Wildlife Observation
- Pioneer Life
- Soil Study
- Wildlife Ecology

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

ADVANCED AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Your students will become "Lake Doctors" in this activity by giving Lake Wylie a "check-up". Your students will check a number of factors that affect the quality of the lake such as temperature, pH, clarity, depth, plankton production, and dissolved oxygen. The class will "diagnose" the relative health of the lake using the data they collected.

NC standard: 8.E.1.3

SC standard: 7-4.5

AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Roll up your sleeves as you and your students explore one of our lake's coves. Many small discoveries await as you explore a major component of the Lake Wylie food web. Upon exploring the water, students will define and discuss the different organisms found and examine the unique features of each.

SC standard: 4-4.1

ASTRONOMY

In this activity your students will be out of this world as they explore the universe in our inflatable StarLab Planetarium. Students will look at the planets in our solar system and demonstrate their relative distances between each other and their rotation. Students will also look at relationships between the Sun, Earth, and Moon, and will learn constellations and stories.

NC standard: 3.E.1.1

SC standard: 4-3.1

BIRD STUDY

While hidden behind our bird blind, students will have the unique and exciting opportunity to view wild birds UP CLOSE in their natural habitat. Students will see many species of local songbirds and learn about the special science behind their feathers, beaks, feet and more.

NC standard: 4.L.1.4

CANOEING

Take to the lake! After a brief introduction and history of canoeing, your students will discuss and demonstrate various paddling skills, safety techniques, and paddling terminology. Then, under the supervision of our lifeguard-certified staff, it's time for students to practice true teamwork by navigating their canoe in one of our protected coves on Lake Wylie.

There is an additional \$5 per student for this activity.

CATAWBA CULTURE

In this activity, students discuss the Catawba Culture through role play, traditional games, and storytelling. Students will discuss and observe artifacts and learn the environmentally sustainable practices of the Catawba.

NC standard: K.C.1.2, 3.H.1.3, 5.C.1.4

SC standard: 2-4.1, 2-4.4

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COMPASS

Which way do we go? Groups of 2-4 students will be put to the test on one of our many compass courses. Once the students learn how and why a compass works and identify its parts they will take a bearing, find their pace, and follow designated courses on camp. SC standard: 4-1.2

CREEPY CRAWLIES

Bugs: Creepy, crawly and scary? Not necessarily. In this dynamic class students will discover the amazing world of bugs and the important role they play in the environment through games, observation, and everyone's favorite...the bug hunt!

NC standard: 5.L.2.2

SC standard: 6-3.1

ECO HEROES

What can I do to save the planet? Students will explore and discover sustainable energy sources and learn where their energy comes from today. By learning alternatives, the 3Rs, and conservation students can become the Earth's next Eco Heroes.

NC standard: K.G.2.2, 1.G.2.2, 2.G.2.2, 4.G.1.2, 8.P.2.2

SC standard: 7-4.6

ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE

What ELSE could we do with the land at Camp Thunderbird? In this activity, students will work in teams to turn Camp Thunderbird into a hypothetical alternative operation that is economically and environmentally sustainable. Students must then present their ideas to a panel of their teachers and chaperones who will decide which proposal is the best alternative operation for Camp Thunderbird.

FISH SEINING AND DISSECTION

Your students will discover the variety of fish living in Lake Wylie and the role those fish play in our lake's ecosystem. Using minnow traps and seining nets, students will catch a variety of fish and examine them for color, size and shape. Students will also learn about the internal anatomy of a fish as an instructor demonstrates a dissection in our fish lab.

FISHING AND FISH ID

In this activity, students will learn to identify different species of Lake Wylie fishes by using a dichotomous key and examining the external anatomy of fish within unmarked jars.

Afterwards, students will grab a cane pole, bait their hook, and test their skill and patience as they go after the "big one".

FOREST ECOLOGY

Time to hit the trail! In this class, students will awaken their senses of sight, sound, smell, and maybe even taste. Students will use observation and games to examine the relationships between plants and animals as well as the different cycles and niches in the forest habitat.

NC standard: 3.L.2.1, 5.L.2.2, 5.L.2.3, 8.L.3.2, 8.L.3.3

SC standard: 5-2.4, 5-2.5, 7-4.3

GROUP DYNAMICS

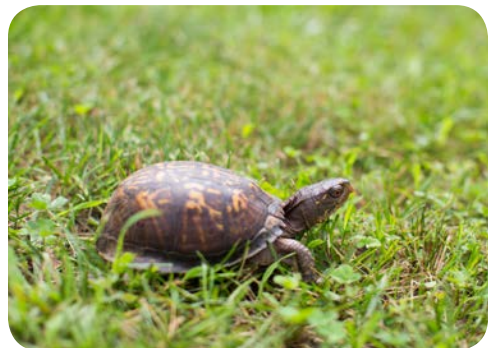
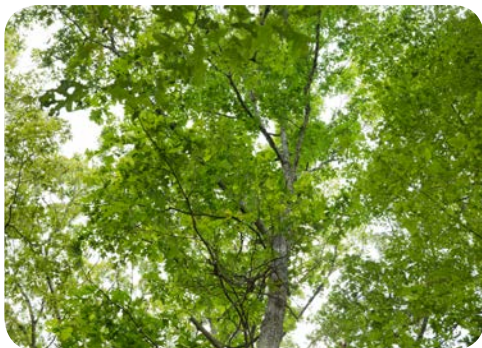
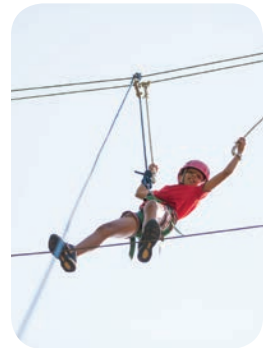
Students test their patience, attention to detail, and communication skills in this exciting teambuilding activity. Your students will participate in a series of activities focusing on both verbal and non-verbal communication. The grand finale is an action-packed game of telephone where teams are challenged to replicate the "Beast," a creation made up of various objects such as paper plates, pipe-cleaners and Legos. The instructor will then debrief the activity and your students will discuss the critical role communication plays in their lives.

NC standard: 2.C.2.3

HIGH ROPES CHALLENGE

Want to give your students a chance to lift their self-esteem and self-confidence? Our certified facilitators will put them in safety gear and send them over 40 feet in the air on one of our High Ropes Challenges. Whether on our Climbing Wall, Zip Line, Alpine Tower, Giant Swing, Charlie Chaplin or Stationary Log Traverse, students will stretch their comfort zones up in the air! These are "challenge by choice" activities where each student individually chooses his or her own level of participation.

Note: Your school will choose 2 of our High Ropes Challenges and students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one of the chosen challenges during their class session. There is an additional fee of \$8 per student for this activity.



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LIVING HISTORY

Discover what life was like on the American frontier! Your students will travel back to 1805 to meet a settler and his wife, school teacher, a wild frontiersman, and a prospector out on Thunderbirds trails. Students will get the opportunity to interact with these characters in first person and maybe even help them do some of the daily chores such as making shingles, using a two-person saw, drying herbs, digging graves, or practicing arithmetic. NC standard: 3.H.1.3
SC standard: K-2.2, 2-3.3, 2-4.1, 2-4.4

LOW CHALLENGE COURSE

Want to push your students physically, mentally, and emotionally? This class in experiential education will do just that. Our instructor will begin with low risk/low trust initiatives for your students to complete as a team. Each initiative is debriefed before sequencing, as appropriate to group dynamics, to higher risk/higher trust objectives. Students will quickly learn more about each other and about themselves in this tried and true test of teamwork. NC standard: 2.C.2.3

MEELEIVING

This character development class examines the values of respect, caring, responsibility, and trust. In this activity, your group is split into two different "cultures". Each culture has its own language, set of social standards, government, and card game. The fun begins when ambassadors visit each culture. During the ambassador visits, the students quickly discover the profound differences between the two cultures. The lesson continues until students begin to compromise and communicate effectively. This activity is debriefed by relating this simulated situation to real-life situations students may encounter. NC standard: 2.C.2.3, 5.C.1.4

METEOROLOGY

Prepare to be "blown away" by this hands-on class as your students become meteorologists and learn to make their own short-range weather forecast! Students will measure air temperature, atmospheric pressure, humidity, wind speed/direction and precipitation using a variety of tools including a thermometer, barometer, sling psychrometer, anemometer, wind vane and rain gauge. Students will also see how local observations from many places can be combined on a weather map to make longer-range forecasts, including the tracking of severe weather. NC standard: 2.E.1.1, 2.E.1.4, 5.E.1.2, 5.P.2.1
SC standard: 2-1.2, 2-3.2, 2-3.4, 4-1.2, 4-4.2, 4-4.5, 4-4.6, 6-1.1, 6-4.5

NATURE ART

Using objects of nature, students will individually create their own artwork. Students will interpret their pieces through the use of objects from the field and provided art supplies. Students will appreciate nature through art, and art in nature. NC standard: 4.V.1.3, 5.V.1.2

NATURE JOURNALING & WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

"To see the world in a grain of sand" isn't just for poets -- keen observation is as vital in science as it is in art. This class offers students a change of pace... a chance to slow down and observe the behaviors, adaptations and diversity of wild animals and plants that fill the ecosystems around us. Students will be encouraged to record their discoveries with field notes and sketches in their journals, just as field biologists (and artists) have for centuries. Whether you're watching cliff swallows building nests out of clay, a great blue heron stalking minnows in the shallows, butterflies pollinating wildflowers, or camouflaged crab spiders waiting to catch their lunch, ecological concepts come to life all around us when we focus our senses on observing them.

PIONEER LIFE

Students get to experience a taste of pioneer life in this activity and understand what it was like living on the frontier as a pioneer. Your students may grind corn to cook cornbread over an open fire, make apple cider, dip candles, make corn husk dolls, or create bracelets using some of the same techniques that were used to make rope. Students will also visit the Pioneer Cabin; discuss different pioneer tools and "load up their wagons" in role-playing the Piedmont Trail. This role play gives students a limited amount of money to purchase pioneer goods they feel will help them travel the Carolinas along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. NC standard: 3.H.1.3, 6.G.1.2, 6.G.1.4
SC standard: K-4.1, K-4.4

SOIL STUDY

It's time to get dirty in this activity! Students will investigate the importance of soil quality by analyzing soil properties through hands-on experiments. Students will look at erosion, soil horizons, soil particle sizes, permeability and porosity; test the soil for temperature, pH, and moisture. Students will trace where their food comes from as well as get the chance to smell, feel, taste, and explore areas of our educational garden. NC standard: 6.E.2.3, 6.E.2.4
SC standard: 6.E.2.4

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

What is wildlife? Students will examine the difference between wild and domesticated animals in this activity. Students will participate in activities that simulate the hardships and adaptations of predators and prey in the animal world. Concepts such as ecology, adaptation, camouflage, and habitat will be presented and discussed. Students will then enter the wildlife room where they will be able to handle a number of our snakes, turtles, rats, salamanders, and Daisy the rabbit. NC standard: 4.L.1.2, 5.L.2.2, 8.L.3.1
SC standard: 2-2.2, 5-2.5, 6-3.1, 6-3.2, 6-3.3

Is there something we can help you with?

Often schools will be focusing on a particular curriculum objective or subject area. We can tailor your trip to best fit your needs. Just give us a call and we'll be glad to help you build or create curriculum that we may not offer in one of our classes!!!

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EVENING PROGRAMS FOR OVERNIGHT SCHOOLS

YMCA Camp Thunderbird Staff can lead activities for you from the following list each evening between 6:30-8:30 p.m. Each activity lasts about 45 minutes with a break in-between during which your school may bring a snack to enjoy. Your entire school will be together during this time period.

It is also your option to bring in guest speakers, DJ's, or run your very own evening programs. Just let us know.

Choose from:

- Campfire and Skits
- Night Hike (Only offered to schools with under 100 students)
- Wacky Olympics
- Field Games
- Liars Club
- Action Auction
- Movie
- Dance
- Science Fair
- The Lorax
- Stargazing (Only offered between November and March to schools with under 50 students)

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

CAMPFIRE AND SKITS

A camping tradition!! Enjoy stories, skits, and songs your students will sing all the way home. Each cabin will receive a skit card during dinner that they may practice from 6:00-6:30 p.m. with their cabin adult. You will enjoy a night full of giggles as our instructors light a fire, teach you songs, and open up our camp stage so your students can perform their skits to the delight of their peers. For \$1 per person, we can provide you with supplies to make s'mores for your group.

NIGHT HIKE

Don't be left in the dark!!! Learn about the secrets of night in this sensory-based activity. Learn what happens to our eyeballs in the dark and how wildlife survive and communicate without light. An instructor will lead your students around the grounds of Camp Thunderbird and teach about nocturnal life through various hands-on activities.

WACKY OLYMPICS

Do you want to wear them out before they go to bed?? This is the perfect activity! Your students will be divided into small teams that compete against each other doing some of the wackiest relays on earth.

FIELD GAMES

Burn off some surplus energy with an assortment of high-energy, fast-paced field games. Some options may include Gold Rush, Everybody's It Tag, Capture the Flag, and/or other camp favorites.



LIARS CLUB

Using some of the weirdest looking objects that you've ever seen, you and your distinguished panel of adults will try and fool the students. Only one adult will tell what or how the object is or how it functions, while the others will try to sell their theory to the students. If the students all agree on the right theory they get a point, if they pick one of the made-up stories, you win!

ACTION AUCTION

In this activity, students bring random objects from their cabin to be used as props. The objective of this evening program is to dress up one of the campers or adults in your cabin. You may find someone in your group dressed up as a Christmas tree, pizza, stereo...the sky's the limit!

MOVIE

Enjoy a night relaxing with your students while watching a movie. We will happily provide you with a movie, such as Fern Gully, Planet Earth, or The Lorax, or bring your own movie and we'll play that!

DANCE

We'll fire up the disco ball and watch you cut a rug on the dance floor. We can DJ a dance in one of our recreation halls or outdoor pavilions. Please bring any CD's and a list of songs you want played, otherwise we will provide the music that we have.

SCIENCE FAIR

Welcome to a night of science. Check out some weird, wild phenomenon in this rotation activity that looks at some of the laws of science in a hands-on manner.

THE LORAX

Based on Dr. Seuss's book, The Lorax, this 20-30 minute dramatization takes a look at the importance of preserving our natural resources. This is a great choice for our younger students and those looking for a shorter program.

STARGAZING

Allow your group to enjoy the night sky while learning. Students will learn to identify constellations, stars and planets as well as hear stories about the constellations. Your groups will have a chance to enjoy the night sky through one of our telescopes.

ADDITIONAL EVENING PROGRAM RESOURCES

- "Wild Wings" The Carolina Raptor Center will bring in live Hawks, Owls, Falcons, and discuss these amazing raptors to your class. Contact them directly at 704-875-6521.
- "Snakes Alive" Ron Cromer will bring many of his reptilian friends for you and your students to hold including a python.
- "Storyteller, Doug Bennett" Contact Doug at 803-324-4004 or dougbennet6@yahoo.com
- "Discover Native America" with Daryll Bird, Winnebago-Chippewa, participate in song, dance, and learn about Daryll's culture. Contact Daryll at 704-504-3744 or KunoBird@cs.com
- "Sheree-Monti" Professional DJ service. Call Sheree at 704-921-6460
- Doctor Sluice- Mine for Gems and crystals, make bath salts and other geology activities. Call Tammy Middleton at 980-253-9138
- Pamlico Joe – Jim Swinson is amusician/ singer with a focus on environmental awareness. He can be reached at pj@pamlicojoe.com or 252-975-1831.
- Discovery Place Science Reach The Discovery Place offers many different programs focusing on a variety of topics from animals to colors. Visit the Discovery Place website at www.discoveryplace.org for more details or call 704-372-6261 x309.
- PEAK Program Offered by REI, PEAK stands for Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids. This is a free program focusing on the 7 principles of "Leave No Trace." For more information contact Ching Fu at 704-341-7405.
- DJ Dizzle Professional DJ service. Call Henry McGee at 704-451-0143
- The Bee Ladies Discover the wonderful world of bees through fun and interactive programming. Check out their website at www.mamabeehive.com and the Bee Ladies will provide educational programming at camp!



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DAILY SCHEDULES

Below are examples of "typical" overnight trip schedules.

3 Day / 2 Night Program

Day 1

11:00	Arrival
11:30	Introduction to the Environmental Center
12:00	Sack Lunch
1:00	Journal Class
1:30	Class 1
2:55	Break
3:05	Class 2
4:30	Recreation Time
5:00	Dinner/ Camp Store (optional)
6:00	Cabin Time
6:30	Evening Programs
8:30	Cabin Time
10:00	Lights Out

Day 2

8:15	Breakfast
9:30	Class 3
10:55	Break
11:05	Class 4
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Class 5
2:55	Break
3:05	Class 6
4:30	Recreation Time
5:00	Dinner/ Camp Store (optional)
6:00	Cabin Time
6:30	Evening Programs
8:30	Cabin Time
10:00	Lights Out

Day 3

8:15	Breakfast
9:30	Class 7
11:00	Culmination
11:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Departure

2 Day / 1 Night Program

Day 1

11:00	Arrival
11:30	Introduction
12:00	Sack Lunches
1:00	Journal Class
1:30	Class 1
2:55	Break
3:05	Class 2
4:30	Rec. Time
5:00	Dinner/ Store
6:00	Cabin Time
6:30	Evening Programs
8:30	Cabin Time
10:00	Lights Out

Day 2

8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Class 3
10:25	Break
10:35	Class 4
12:00	Culmination
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Departure

Day trip school schedules vary according to the transportation available to the school. Just communicate with Camp Thunderbird staff to craft a schedule that meets your arrival and departure requirements.

FUNDRAISING

Although we find that our fees are very competitive with similar programs across our region, we know that costs can create a challenge for some students to attend. Therefore, we've listed several suggestions for fund-raising efforts that many schools have success with.

TRASH-A-THON:

For a fun fundraiser and environmental project, collect trash along the roads or streams. Students can get pledges per bag or pound.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES:

Encourage the re-use of items by sponsoring a garage sale in your school parking lot. You can rent parking spots to the sellers and sell food to the buyers. This works particularly well in rural areas and can be a fun community-building event.

LOCAL BUSINESSES:

Solicit from local businesses, especially those who directly benefit from the environment (ie. Duke Power, paper companies, chemical companies, etc.)

KRISPY KREME:

Depending on where you are located, Krispy Kreme will deliver the donuts directly to the school to be sold at PTA meetings or Open House.

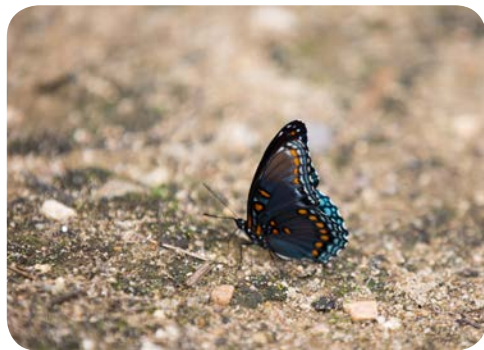
CREATE A CAMP THUNDERBIRD FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Invite parents, chaperones to get together to brainstorm different fundraising ideas to do in and out of school.

GRANTS:

Contact your state Office of Environmental Education, Science Coordinators, or search the web for grant opportunities that exist out there.

Lastly, if you would like to set up a presentation or request a video for a potential sponsor, just give us a call. We would love to come out and meet with any of your local leaders or give a presentation.



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LEAD TEACHER PLANNING CHECKLIST

The following is a suggested list of tasks to be completed prior to your trip to YMCA Camp Thunderbird.

4-6 MONTHS BEFORE TRIP

- Environmental Education Date confirmed.
- Submit contract, presentation request, and deposit to Camp Thunderbird.
- Inform students and parents of trip.
- Arrange for a school presentation with participating students, parents, chaperones, and teachers.
- Recruit chaperones – at least one for every 15 students. (Please refer to your school or district policy as it may vary from our requirement.)
- Arrange for transportation.
- Arrange for emergency transportation. Your school will be responsible for providing emergency transportation if necessary.
- Consult school administration regarding the need for a chaperone background check, policies related to student safety and abuse prevention, etc.
- Collect Camp Thunderbird waivers from students.
- Review with students the What to Bring List. Remind the students to label all of their belongings – clothes, camera, etc.
- Remind students to bring sack lunch the first day at camp (unless you have arranged to have a hot lunch provided by Camp Thunderbird the first day of your trip).
- Make name tags for every student, chaperone, and teacher. Place name, learning group number, and cabin group number (for overnight schools) on nametag.
- Review tentative schedule sent from Thunderbird. Contact Directors for any questions or changes that need to be made.
- Organize first aid kits for trip.

1-2 MONTHS BEFORE TRIP:

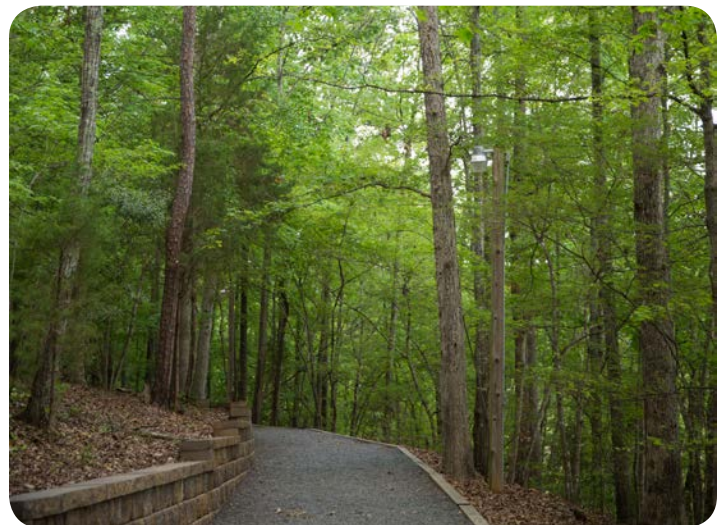
- Send a Chaperone Letter, What to Bring List, Parent FAQ form, and YMCA Camp Thunderbird Waiver home with the students.
- Submit "Scheduling and Information Form" to YMCA Camp Thunderbird.
- Discuss trip goals and behavior with students
- Collect final payment from students.
- Host information meeting for parents, chaperones, and students.

1 WEEK TO 1 MONTH BEFORE TRIP:

- Finalize number of students and chaperones attending. Update this information with Directors at camp.
- Organize students into groups of 15 for Learning Groups and fax or mail to Thunderbird. Coordinate the group size with Directors at camp.
- Organize students into groups of 12-15 for Cabin Groups and fax or mail to Thunderbird. Coordinate the cabin assignments with Directors at camp.
- Hold chaperone meeting to review roles and responsibilities.
- Assign chaperones to each cabin group and learning group.

THE DAY OF THE TRIP:

- Collect medicines.
- Take a head count.
- Call Thunderbird to verify time of departure from school. You may leave this information with the office. (1-800-732-3855)
- Confirm times with busses for return trip.
- Make schedules for ALL adults.
- Bring copy of learning groups and cabin groups (for overnight schools) for your usage.
- Bring Camp Thunderbird waivers to be turned into liaison upon arrival at camp.
- SIT BACK, RELAX, AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!!!



YMCA Camp Thunderbird | Environmental Education Center

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CAMP STORE – “THE BIRD’S NEST”

One Day Experience- If you are participating in a one day experience, we want you to be able to spend as much time as possible in the field, therefore, we will not schedule a time for your school to access the store. You are able to fill out a pre-order, in which your purchases will be prepared and packaged the day you arrive at camp. Attached you will find a T-Shirt pre-order form if you wish to order t-shirts or hats.

Overnight Experiences- If you are participating in an overnight experience, you may request to have the store open from 4:30-5:30 during your stay. Please check the schedule we send to you to see which day your school is scheduled. You also have the option of filling out a pre-order so the children can take full advantage of their recreation time. Please see our price list below for pre-order information. Attached you will find a T-Shirt pre-order form if you wish to order t-shirts or hats.

Item	Size	Price
Youth Long Sleeve Tees	YM	\$15.00
Youth Long Sleeve Tees	YL	\$15.00
Youth Long Sleeve Tees	YXL	\$15.00
Adult Long Sleeve Tees	S	\$18.00
Adult Long Sleeve Tees	M	\$18.00
Adult Long Sleeve Tees	L	\$18.00
Adult Long Sleeve Tees	XL	\$18.00
Adult Long Sleeve Tees	XXL	\$18.00
Adult Long Sleeve Tees	XXXL	\$20.00
Youth Short Sleeve Tees	YM	\$12.00
Youth Short Sleeve Tees	YL	\$12.00
Youth Short Sleeve Tees	YXL	\$12.00
Adult Short Sleeve Tees	S	\$15.00
Adult Short Sleeve Tees	M	\$15.00
Adult Short Sleeve Tees	L	\$15.00
Adult Short Sleeve Tees	XL	\$15.00
Adult Short Sleeve Tees	XXL	\$15.00
Adult Short Sleeve Tees	XXXL	\$18.00
Hats and Visors		\$15.00



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HELPFUL HINTS

To make your first transitions smooth at camp please have students divided into their cabin and learning groups. Use of name tags will help out tremendously.

Lake Wylie Middle School

David Yuhaus Jr.

Cabin 34

Day Group # 3

Also, if you collect lunches at school and place them with your homeroom teacher it can make lunch a smooth transition.

Mrs. Krimminger – Lunches

**(example of label on box of lunches, could also break down
Krimminger boys, Krimminger girls)**

YMCA CAMP THUNDERBIRD

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER FEES

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR



EEC PROGRAM FEES (COST IS PER PARTICIPANT)

Trip Package	Student Price	Winter Student Price*	Chaperone Price**	Winter Chaperone Price**
3 Days - 2 Nights - 6 Meals	\$111	\$81	\$76	\$0
2 Days - 1 Night - 3 Meals	\$89	\$65	\$54	\$0
1 Day - No Meals	\$26	\$17	\$6	\$0

* Schools qualify for the winter student price if their day of arrival is in January or February.

** Schools qualify for the winter chaperone price if their day of arrival is in January or February. Schools are allowed one chaperone for every 15 students at no cost all year long. Schools are allowed all faculty chaperones at no cost all year long.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM FEES (COST IS PER PARTICIPANT)

Service	Price	Winter Price*
High Ropes	\$8/student**	\$0/student
Canoeing	\$5/student**	\$0/student
Extra Meals	\$7/per meal	\$7/per meal
S'Mores	\$1/person	\$1/person

*Schools qualify for the winter price if their day of arrival is in January or February.

**Faculty and chaperones may participate in these activities at no additional cost.



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