



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING



## YMCA CAMP THUNDERBIRD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

### TEACHER PLANNING PACKET

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# WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Education Center at YMCA Camp Thunderbird! We are excited to provide your students with an opportunity to experience education in our beautiful natural surroundings.



Booking a field trip with us means your students will receive an interdisciplinary environmental education program. They will acquire practical knowledge and awareness so that they may better appreciate, respect, and discern their role in nature. Our program supplements your school's curriculum through highly engaging activities in truly unique setting.

We work with groups to develop skills necessary to work well together as well as help students identify their leadership abilities through personal challenges, self-expression, and teamwork. We promote positive attitudes, collaboration, and respect for each other and the outdoors.

The YMCA Camp Thunderbird Environmental Education Center strives to create and provide a culture of acceptance, confidence, fulfillment in learning, appreciating nature, and helping others. We also have lots of fun!

Please let us know if you have any questions or specific requests. We would love to build a program that's just right for your group.

We can't wait to see you at YMCA Camp Thunderbird!



## YMCA MISSION STATEMENT

To put Christian principals into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

## YMCA AREAS OF IMPACT

For Youth Development: Empowering young people to reach their full potential.

For Healthy Living: Improving individual and community well-being

For Social Responsibility: Providing support and inspiring action in our communities.

## YMCA CORE VALUES

Our core values are the foundation of our program. We strive to incorporate and encourage these values through all of our work. They are Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Faith.

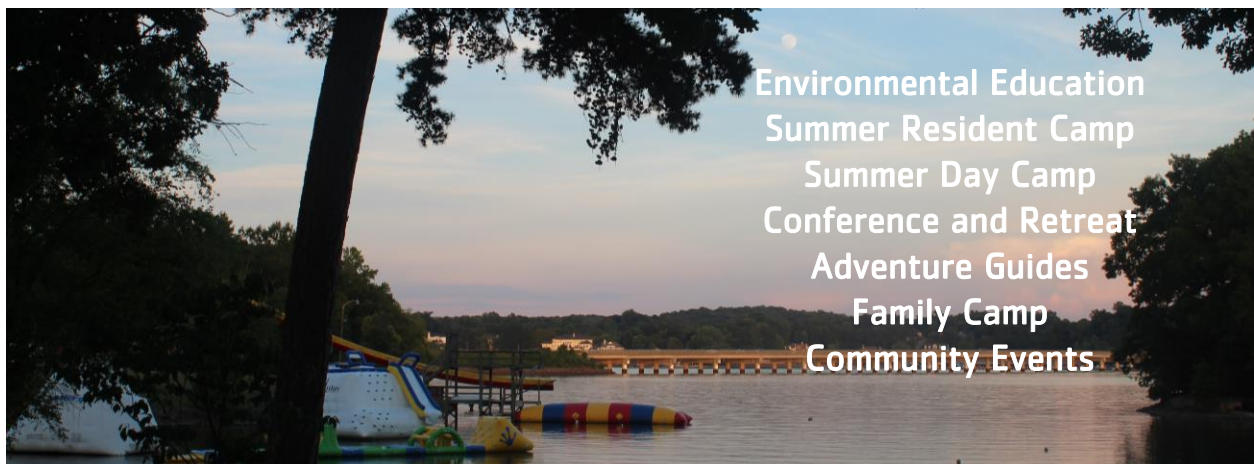
## HISTORY

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:



## 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, 85, and 485.

### The Lake

The 12,455 acres of Lake Wylie is one of our greatest classrooms. Your students may find themselves determining the water's 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, low challenge course, wildlife room, pioneer cabin, and fish lab.

### Cabins

If your group stays overnight at YMCA 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.



## DESIGNING YOUR VISIT

Things to consider when planning your trip to YMCA Camp Thunderbird include:

- Which trip option best suits your group's needs?
  - **Trip Option A: Day Trip**
    - Custom timeframe to fit your needs
    - Includes:
      - Lunch (may opt out if desired)
      - 2-3 Activity Blocks
  - **Trip Option B: 2 Days + 1 Night**
    - Arrival: between 12:30-2:30pm PM Day 1
    - Departure: between 10:30am-12:00pm Day 2
    - Includes:
      - Day 1 – Snack, Dinner, S'mores
      - Day 2 – Breakfast, Snack, Bagged Lunch
      - 4-5 Activity Blocks
      - Custom T-Shirt for each participant
      - 1 Premium Activity
  - **Trip Option C: 3 Days + 2 Nights**
    - Arrival: between 12:30-2:30pm PM Day 1
    - Departure: between 10:30am-12:00pm Day 3
    - Includes:
      - Day 1 – Snack, Dinner, S'mores
      - Day 2 – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, 2 Snacks
      - Day 3 – Breakfast, Snack, Bagged Lunch
      - 7-9 Activity Blocks
      - Custom T-Shirt for each participant
      - 2 Premium Activities
- What is most important for your group to experience while they are here?
  - Each group's needs are different – let us know if your priority is to have fun, work on teambuilding, meet educational standards, or something else!
- Which activities do you want your group to experience?
  - We have a large variety of educational and recreational options for you to consider for programs during the day and evenings.



Our pricing is based on learning groups, which can be up to 20 students. We require a ratio of at least 1 adult to attend per 15 students. For every 15 students who come, one chaperone can attend for free. Teachers always attend for free!

Trip Package	Pricing for Aug, Sep, Oct, Mar, Apr, May		Pricing for Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb	
	Learning Group	Add'l Chaperone	Learning Group	Add'l Chaperone
<b>A</b>	\$785	\$15	\$670	\$8
<b>B</b>	\$2,015	\$55	\$1,715	\$35
<b>C</b>	\$3,015	\$90	\$2,570	\$65

## ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES

### Environmental Education:

- Advanced Aquatic Ecology (Grades 5+)
- Aquatic Ecology
- Astronomy
- Bird Study
- Orienteering
- Creepy Crawlies
- Eco Heroes
- Environmental Debate (Grades 5+)
- Fish Dissection & Fishing
- Forest Ecology
- Meteorology
- Nature Art
- Soil Study
- Tree Identification
- Wildlife Ecology

### History & Social Sciences:

- Group Dynamics
- Low Challenge Course
- Fiber History
- Meelewing (Grades 5+)
- Pioneer Life

### Teambuilding & Leadership:

- Aerial Adventure Course\*
- Canoeing\* (Grades 3+)
- Custom Activity Design based on goals
- Group Dynamics
- Low Challenge Course
- Meelewing

### Fun and Skill-building:

- Archery\*
- Backyard Games
- Canoeing\* (Grades 3+)
- Challenge Course\*
- Future Engineers
- Fire Building
- Gellyball\*
- Nature Hike
- Pickleball
- Tree Climbing\*

## EVENING PROGRAMS FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS

Each evening between 6:30-8:30pm is a wonderful time to have an evening activity. You may plan your own activity, have your students enjoy our recreational areas, or our staff can facilitate an activity for you! You are also welcome to bring in guest speakers, DJ's, etc. if you would like. We will provide a snack after evening program before students head back to their cabins.

Each of the activities below last about 45 minutes and are designed for the entire group.

- Action Auction
- Campfire and Skits
- Field Games
- Liars Club
- Movie
- Wacky Olympics
- Science Fair
- Night Hike (Nov-Mar only, under 100 students)
- Stargazing (Nov-Mar only, under 50 students)

*\*Denotes a premium activity. Unless included in your trip package, the cost is \$5 per participant. Find activity and class descriptions in the back of this packet.*

## 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 diverse team members have education and experience in areas such as biology, conservation, forestry, education, and recreation. They 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 prior to employment.
- Complete an in-depth initial training before working with students.
- Participate in ongoing in-services on safety, continuing education, and teambuilding.
- Be consistently evaluated and coached for continuous improvement.
- Maintain certifications in CPR, First Aid, AED, and Lifeguarding.
- Have a love of working with youth and in the outdoors.



## FOOD SERVICE

Visiting groups will enjoy meals prepared by our amazing food service staff at our dining hall overlooking Lake Wylie. Meals are served buffet-style and we spend time educating and coaching participants on tips and tricks to encourage little-to-no food waste. Our meals are hearty and complimented by a yogurt & fruit bar during breakfast and salad bar during lunch and dinner.

Most dietary restrictions can be easily accommodated with advance notice. Participants with specific needs are also welcome to bring their own food ingredients that our chef team can store in the kitchen and prepare for them prior to each meal.

If you have a student who will celebrate their birthday while here, let us know and we'll be happy to recognize them at mealtime with a special treat!

### Examples of foods served:

#### BREAKFAST

Biscuits  
Scrambled Eggs  
Sausage  
Yogurt  
Cereal  
French Toast  
Fruit  
Pancakes  
Toast

#### LUNCH

Sub Sandwiches  
Chips/Fries  
Fruit  
Chicken Patties  
Pizza  
Corn  
Hotdogs/Chili Dogs  
Tacos  
Hamburgers

#### DINNER

Baked Chicken  
Pork Tenderloin  
Lasagna  
Roast Beef  
Fajitas  
Chicken Tenders  
Salad, Bread  
Mixed Veggies  
Cookies



## SAMPLE OVERNIGHT TRIP SCHEDULE

### ARRIVAL DAY:

- 1:00pm – Arrival
- 1:15pm – Welcome & Intro
- 1:45pm – Activity / Class
- 3:00pm – Activity / Class
- 4:30pm – Activity / Class
- 5:45pm – Recreation Time
- 6:15pm – Dinner
- 7:15pm – Recreation Time
- 7:45pm – Evening Program
- 8:30pm – Cabin Time
- 10:00pm – Lights Out

### DEPARTURE DAY:

- 7:30am – Rise & Shine
- 8:15am – Breakfast
- 9:15am – Activity / Class
- 10:30am – Culmination
- 11:00am – Bagged Lunch
- 11:15am – Departure

### FULL DAY:

- 7:30am – Rise & Shine
- 8:15am – Breakfast
- 9:15am – Activity / Class
- 10:30am – Activity / Class
- 11:30am – Recreation Time
- 12:15pm – Lunch
- 1:15pm – Activity / Class
- 2:30pm – Activity / Class
- 3:45pm – Activity / Class
- 5:00pm – Recreation Time
- 6:15pm – Dinner
- 7:15pm – Recreation Time
- 7:45pm – Evening Program
- 8:30pm – Cabin Time
- 10:00pm – Lights Out

## SAMPLE DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

- 9:00am – Arrival
- 9:05am – Welcome & Intro
- 9:25am – Activity 1
- 10:45am – Activity 2
- 12:00pm – Lunch
- 12:45pm – Activity 3
- 2:00pm – Culmination
- 2:20pm – Depart



We know that every school's daily schedule is different – we are happy to modify arrival and departure times, activity timeframes, etc. to fit your schedule!

## HOUSING

Students live together in cabin groups of 12-24 individuals. The visiting school's lead teacher is responsible for providing YMCA Camp Thunderbird with cabin assignments. Each cabin should include at least one chaperone.

Our cabins are duplex-style with showers and restrooms on each side, air conditioning, heat, and twin-sized bunk beds.

Additional housing for extra chaperones and teachers is available upon request, based on availability.

## PACKING LIST (OVERNIGHTS)

Please note: students will get dirty at camp! Send clothing that is appropriate for being outside and be mindful of the weather.

### Bring:

- Sleeping bag or twin bedding
- Pillow
- Pajamas
- Closed toe shoes (1-2 pairs)
- Daily change of clothing
- Heavy and Light layers
- Rainwear
- Hat
- Cold weather accessories for winter
- Plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Shower items & personal toiletries
- Shower shoes
- Towel
- Sunscreen & bug spray
- Water Bottle

### Optional:

- Kleenex or Bandana
- Chapstick
- Binoculars
- Flashlight
- Book
- Camera
- Travel Mug (for adults)

### Do not Bring:

- Money
- Electronics & Phones
- Food, Gum, Candy, etc.
- Weapons
- Matches
- Valuables

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- The guiding principle is for chaperones and teachers to be with their group(s) and insist on safe, respectful behavior at all times. Be enthusiastic and supportive of all YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff and encourage students to try new things while they are here with us.
- YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff will expect the chaperones and teachers to maintain and enforce behavioral guidelines for the students at all times.
  - Cabins – a chaperone will stay in the cabin building with the students throughout the night. At no time should students be in their cabin without a chaperone – day or night.
  - Dining Hall – chaperones will accompany students to the dining hall, assist with student organization for meals, and sit with students during meals. We hope that chaperones will encourage a low-to-zero food waste meal in support of the staff and our environment. Chaperones will assist in assigning clean-up duties to students after meals.
  - Evening Programs and Activities – a chaperone will accompany children to all classes, activities, and programs.
  - Recreation Time – chaperones are asked to supervise students during recreation time.
- A minimum of one adult per 15 students is required on site.
- Participants will provide their own linens for overnight use.
- There can be no food or candy in cabins.
- Quiet hours are between 10:00pm and 7:00am. All students must be in their own cabins during that time.
- Cabins must be cleaned before breakfast on the day of departure.
- Students are not permitted in or near the lodging of other schools.
- The following items are not permitted on our property at any time: pets, alcohol, drugs, tobacco in any form, firearms, ammunition, flammable liquids, explosives, and poisonous substances
- Groups and individuals are not permitted on our docks without YMCA Camp Thunderbird staff.

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES, CONTINUED...

- Schools are responsible for the storage of and dispensation of all medications while at YMCA Camp Thunderbird and for providing an on-duty adult with current certification in age-appropriate First Aid and CPR/AED.
- The school is responsible for bringing signed YMCA Camp Thunderbird waiver forms for every student, teachers, and chaperones in attendance.
- YMCA Camp Thunderbird does not provide accident or medical insurance for visiting groups.
- The school is responsible for assigning students to their cabin and learning groups before arrival at camp.
- Schools will be charged for any new damages to buildings and equipment or excessive cleaning needs.
- **Schools must provide certificate of insurance six weeks prior to visit.**

## GROUP BOOKING POLICIES

### Deposit

YMCA Camp Thunderbird requires a 30% deposit, based on the contracted price for your visit.

### Payment Schedule

- 30% deposit due within two weeks of signing the contract.
- 70% due 2 weeks prior to arrival.

### Attendance Guarantee

- Increases in the number of participants will result in a total cost increase.
- The minimum final invoice will be based on the number of participants.
- Any decreases in the number of students and/or adults must be received and confirmed by YMCA Camp Thunderbird in writing at least two weeks prior to the program start date to reduce final payment amount due.
- You may increase your numbers at any time if space is available. Please contact our team to confirm availability.

### Cancellation and Refund Information

- YMCA Camp Thunderbird contracts its staff well in advance of a visiting group. Our staff size and salaries are based on the number of participants and the arrival and departure times shown in your contract.
- All cancellations will lose their deposit.
- Groups that cancel within 90 days prior to the scheduled arrival date will be billed for 50% of their scheduled participants.
- Cancellations due to travel advisories or school closures are not subject to the 50% payment. Deposits may be applied to a rescheduled trip for up to a year.
- In case of overpayment, a refund will be issued within 3 weeks after the visit.

### Communication

Please let us know what your needs, challenges, and changes might be. We very may be able to work with you in extenuating circumstances.

## ACTIVITY & 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, 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: 5.L.4A.1, 5.E.3B.3

### AERIAL ADVENTURE COURSE\*

This is an obstacle course set high up in the trees and allows participants to engage at a level they are comfortable with. This activity is great to explore personal challenges and also to facilitate teamwork. Certified instructors will guide every step of the way, and ending the experience with a zipline is always a possibility!

### 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.

NC standard: 2.L.1.2

SC standard: 4.E.2A.2, 5.L.4A.1, 4.L.5A.3

### ASTRONOMY

In this activity your students will be out of this world as they explore the universe. 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.E.3A.1

### BACKYARD GAMES

Students can socialize and have fun playing good ‘ole yard games. We have a big selection to choose from, including cornhole, ladderball, spikeball, can jam, washers, four square, gagaball, nine square in the air, bocce ball and more.

### 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.

### CHALLENGE COURSE\*

Students will have the opportunity to challenge themselves by climbing and trying all the elements of our Alpine Towers course.

### 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.

### 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: 3.L.5A.2, 6.L.4A.2

## **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, 4.L.1.3

SC standard: 5-6.6, 7-6.6

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE**

What ELSE could we do with the land at YMCA Camp Thunderbird? In this activity, students will work in teams to turn camp 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 YMCA Camp Thunderbird.

## **FIBER HISTORY**

Students will learn about fiber from past to present. They will explore the processes wool and cotton fibers go through from raw materials to finished fabrics. They will also create their own fiber art.

NC standard: 5.C.1, SL.5.1, 5.MS.1, 5.PR.4, 5.C.1

## **FIRE BUILDING**

We will explore different ways to start a fire, beginning with trial and error to identify the best materials and structure. Under instructor supervision, students will be able to try a few different fire-lighting techniques and will learn proper safety tips and advice.

## **FISH DISSECTION AND FISHING OR SEINING**

Your students will learn about the internal anatomy of a fish as an instructor demonstrates a fish dissection in our fish lab. In addition, 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: 3.L.5A.2, 5.L.4B.1, 7.EC.5B.1

## **FUTURE ENGINEERS**

Get your thinking brains ready to build. Using LEGO® as our primary medium, kids will build, tinker, explore, and invent. Our games and activities will have students practicing concepts of physics and engineering through play – the best way to learn!

## **GELLYBALL\***

Gellyball is a low-impact game similar to paintball, but lower-impact and less messy! It uses battery-powered blasters to launch hydrated gel orbs at targets or other players in a variety of game scenarios. Gellyballs are 90% water, biodegradable, non-toxic and leave no stains. It's a lot of fun for everyone involved!

## **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.23

## **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

### **MEELEWING**

This character development class examines the values of respect, caring, responsibility, and trust. Groups are split into two different "cultures," with their own language, set of social standards, government, and card game. The fun begins when ambassadors visit each culture and students quickly discover the profound differences between the two cultures. The lesson continues to involve compromise, effective communication, and concludes with a thorough debrief.

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, 2.E.1.2

SC standard: 2.E.2A.1, 4.E.2A.2

### **NATURE ART**

Using objects of nature, students will individually create their own artwork using objects from the field and provided art supplies. Students will appreciate nature through art, and art in nature. A great way to slow down and observe nature, focus on one's own senses, and recognize the value of art in science.

NC standard: 4.V.1.3, 5.V.1.2, 3.CX.1.5, 2.CX.1.5

### **NATURE HIKE**

Go on a leisurely walk through our forest trails and around our lake. Take in the sights of nature, enjoy spotting wildlife, and listen to the many birds who make YMCA Camp Thunderbird their home.

### **PICKLEBALL**

Students will get an entry-level introduction to the game, learn the rules, play games and challenge each other in this popular sport!

### **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. 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, 4.H.1.3, 5.G.1.1, 5.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: 7.EC.5A.2

### **TREE CLIMBING\***

Our certified instructors will guide students in using specialized equipment to climb some of our beautiful white oak trees. This activity allows climbers to experience nature from an extremely unique perspective!

### **TREE IDENTIFICATION**

Students will learn how to identify trees by looking at the different parts of the tree, such as the leaves and bark, and using and making identifying keys.

NC standard: 5.V.3, 5.P.2, 5.L.2, Ex.5.L.2

## **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, lizards, hissing cockroaches, and S'more the rabbit.

NC standard: 4.L.1.2, 5.L.2.2, 8.L.3.1

SC standard: 2.L.5A.1, 4.L.5A.1, 4.L.5A.3, 5.L.4B.3, 6.L.4B.1

## **EVENING PROGRAM: 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 students 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!

## **EVENING PROGRAM: 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.

## **EVENING PROGRAM: 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.

## **EVENING PROGRAM: 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!

## **EVENING PROGRAM: MOVIE**

Enjoy a night relaxing with your students while watching a movie. We will happily provide you with a movie or bring your own and we'll play that!

## **EVENING PROGRAM: 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 YMCA Camp Thunderbird and teach about nocturnal life through various hands-on activities.

## **EVENING PROGRAM: 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.