

Forestry and Environmental Camp for Middle School Overview of Activities

Dendrology

Dendrology is the study of the characteristics of woody plants to distinguish between species. In this class, students will learn to identify trees by their bark, twigs, leaves and habitat. Students will then create an inventory of the trees on site using dichotomous keys and field guides.

Forest Ecology- Ecosystems

Forests are dynamic communities dominated by trees. The type of forest capable of growing on a site is directly related to factors of soil, sunlight, water and climate. In this class, students will learn about the how site factors affect tree growth through tree cookies and core samples.

Forest Products and History

Every part of a tree can be used to make something. From wood to extracts from leaves, roots and bark, comes more than 5,000 products. In this class, students will gain an appreciation of the value of trees as the provider of many raw materials, learn about the many wood products they use every day, learn which parts of a tree are used to make these products and how trees have been used throughout history.

Land Measurement

Land measurement and the maps that are produced through land measurement are important parts of forest management and decision making. Maps give us a visual representation of the composition of the forest, its size or acreage and the spatial orientation of features represented by the map. This information is gathered by using a compass and some form of linear measure.

Forest Management

To make sound forest management decisions, foresters collect a great deal of information about trees and forests. Much of this information comes from evaluating a tree's physical characteristics. In this exercise students will learn about the different measurements that foresters take, how to take measurements and will use critical thinking skills to implement forest management decisions.

Forest Ecology-Wildlife

Forests provide food and shelter for many types of wildlife, each of which have specific requirements to survive. This class introduces students to the concept of wildlife habitat and the interconnectedness of wildlife populations and habitat. Students also will learn about ecosystems and the balance between human development and habitat conservation.