

Fall 2006

Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Environmental Education Program

Under the Rock

From the Coordinator's Desk:



Greetings from Rock Eagle,

We hope your summer was enjoyable and you are excited about the new school year. We have been busy working on curricula, hosting Project WET workshops, attending conferences, assisting summer camp, working on a new marketing DVD, taking care of all the Rock Eagle animals, moving old houses, hiring staff, and getting inspired for the new season.

If you are looking for inspiration or information to help convince peers and supervisors of the importance of a field study please read Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv. The author makes terrific observations about the importance of taking kids outdoors to combat what he calls "nature-deficient disorder". Many children have no connection with nature and these connections are vital to their well being as well as all of our futures. The book has a copyright of 2005 and is out in paperback.

We are gearing up for our season and have information we would like to share.

- All of the trip planner information is now on-line at www.rockeagle4h.org. Please click on environmental education and follow the menu. We are no longer sending paper copies.
- Our classes are now correlated to the GPS standards and listed on our website.
- Our prices have changed, please check the website. Please remember all adults pay the same price as students.
- T-shirt prices are still \$12.00 for the Rock Eagle shirts (\$13.00 for xxlg). Contact us in advance to place an entire class order.

- All cabins now sleep 20 people. We figure our program cost on full cabins, so please use every bed space (without mixing boys and girls). Schools can rent extra cabins for \$205.00 per cottage.
- We now have bags of ice available from the kitchen for \$1.00/bag.
- We will soon have a new Rock Eagle DVD to show students and parents, plus an accompanying CD with our trip planner and other information to help you plan. We hope to have it available by December.
- Save this date: March 30- April 1, 2007 for the Environmental Educators Alliance Conference on Jekyll Island. It is lots of fun and very educational. The website is www.eealliance.org.
- If you are looking for a great website for herpetology (snakes, turtles, frogs, etc.) please go to www.uga.edu/srelherp/. This site is run by UGA Savannah River Ecology Lab and it is amazing.

This issue of "Under the Rock" focuses on our program offerings. Please call us at (706) 484-2834 or 2862 if you have any questions and if we can help you plan a program. If you wish to book a field study please call Terri Camp at (706) 484-2868. We look forward to working with your group in the near future.

Sincerely,



Donna Stewart
Environmental Education Program Coordinator

Ecology

FEATURING...

Forest Ecology: Try our new and improved forest class! Students will study the characteristics of a Georgia Piedmont forest ecosystem through the use of plot surveys. Exploring the forest floor, discovering the different characteristics of trees, examining the decaying process, and comparing plot surveys are part of this interactive class. (Geared for 3rd-5th graders.)



COMING SOON...

Forest Management: This new class, geared for 6th grade and older, will focus on land management. Students will use plot surveys to determine if a portion of Rock Eagle land is harvestable. If interested in helping us test this class, please contact 706/484-2862 or 2834. We would appreciate your assistance!

OTHER ECOLOGY CLASSES...

Herpetology: Students have the opportunity to handle, observe, and learn about reptiles and amphibians.

Lake Assessment: Using the scientific method, students will investigate whether or not certain fish species can be raised in Rock Eagle Lake. (grades 6 and up)

Lake Ecology: Students will use dip nets to collect and identify common organisms found in Rock Eagle Lake. (grades 3-5)

Ornithology: This class will consist of a bird walk (with binoculars and field guides) and a visit with our Rock Eagle Raptors.

Stream Ecology: Students will study and sample a Piedmont stream ecosystem, discussing erosion and local aquatic organisms.

Living History

FEATURING...

Pioneer Tools: Students will participate in the construction and maintenance of our authentic 1800's homestead. Instructors will guide students in two hours worth of typical chores associated with life on the farm during this time period. Some chores could include shingle making, cutting firewood, and shaving wooden pins for frame joints.



COMING SOON...

Planning for the future by rescuing the past. This summer two very old saddlebag houses were moved to Rock Eagle's pioneer site. There is lots of restoration to be done, but they will be a terrific addition to our living history classes in the next few years.

OTHER LIVING HISTORY CLASSES...

Archaeology: Come dig through the mystery of our past and learn how to set up and complete an archaeological dig.

Native American Studies: Step back in time and discover the lifestyles of the people who have inhabited this area.

Rock Eagle Hike: This 2-hour class features a hike to the Rock Eagle's namesake, the Rock Eagle Mound! Once there, students will climb a 40 ft tower to peer down at the effigy and speculate upon its origins.