Augustus H. Shaw Middle School Land Lab 2 – Fall 2019

Chauncy Ranch Outdoor School – Dewey, AZ

The Shaw Montessori trip to Chauncy Ranch Outdoor School is a part of the Natural World (Science) STEM curriculum. This trip allows students to practice independence, collaboration with peers, and experience nature while learning through specific hands-on activities with an emphasis on eco-systems, stewardship and personal responsibility.

Maria Montessori's philosophy from her essay "Erdkiner" translated to Children of the Land is closely aligned to the view of outdoor education at Chauncy Ranch. "Outdoor Education is now an essential element to every child's education and development. Outdoor Education enhances lessons, strengthens relationships, and develops new skills in making a well-rounded individual. Our classes, our facility, and our staff will make your next Outdoor Education field trip the best it can possibly be."

The guidelines for outdoor sciences education are based on the Arizona Department of Education Science Standards and are a compliment to school curriculum. Activities emphasize the development of student perceptions, sensitivities and awareness of the natural environment. These classes are designed to build positive relationships between students and build a basic understanding of ecological principles.

By going to Chauncy Ranch Outdoor School, our students will have powerful hands-on experiences that will expand their understanding of the natural world and themselves.

No child is ever denied access to these field trips based on an inability to pay. However, parents often make a decision that their child is not ready to travel independently and decline to send their child on distance field trips.

Travel

Parents drive their own vehicles with their student and several others. Staff travels together in their own vehicle(s). The following requirements ar met for parents who volunteer to drive students on field trips.

> **Motor Vehicle Record (MVR)** – In order to drive students as a chaperone on field trips, it is necessary to provide your motor vehicle record (MVR) to the classroom teacher. Obtaining your MVR costs $3 and can be obtained online in a matter of minutes at: https://servicearizona.com/webapp/citizenMVR/.
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> **IMPORTANT:** MVRs must be printed no more than seven (7) days prior to the field trip date and submitted to the classroom teacher at least one day in advance to ensure there are enough drivers for the event.

Classes and standards met:

Fire in the Desert

Students will learn about how wildfires are a healthy process for desert environments and how humans utilize prescribed burns to protect the health of the forest and those who live in the area. Students will build a campfire using kindling, twigs and logs and compare their fire building lesson to predict what might happen to the area around them during a fire.

Standards: MS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics Disciplinary Core Ideas: LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems LS2.B: Cycle of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

Geocaching

A treasure hunt for the 21st century! Students will learn how to use GPS devices to track down different caches where they will use evidence to make hypotheses, appreciate diverse adaptations of local fauna, and learn how food webs model feeding relationships.

Standards: MS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics MS-LS4: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity Disciplinary Core Ideas: LS2.B: Cycle of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems LS4.C: Adaptation

Nature Hike

Students enjoy the beauty of the Prescott National Forest as they explore, define foundational ecological concepts, and make discoveries about the local flora and fauna.

Standards: MS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics Disciplinary Core Ideas: LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

Energy of the Archers

Students learn about the relationship between kinetic and potential energy. They then use bows and arrows to put their learning into action!

Standards: MS-PS3 Energy Disciplinary Core Ideas: PS3.A: Definitions of Energy PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces

Shelter Building

Students develop problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills as they design and engineer shelters using only natural resources.

Standards: MS-ETS1 Engineering Design Disciplinary Core Ideas: ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

Owl Pellets

Students learn about physical and behavioral adaptations of desert owls and what makes them elite predators of the area. Later, students will have a chance to dissect an owl pellet and log abundance and diversity of the owl's diet.

Standards: MS-LS4: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity Disciplinary Core Ideas: LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity LS4.B: Natural Selection LS4.C: Adaptation

Water in the West

Students will learn about the different stages of the water cycle and how it specifically relates to Desert Environments. They will then come up with different ways pollutants enter the cycle and brainstorm ways they can minimize human impact in their everyday lives.

Standards: MS-ESS2 Earth’s Systems MS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity Disciplinary Core Ideas: ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes ESS3.A: Natural Resources ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

Everybody Needs a Rock

Students acquire a deeper appreciation for rocks while gaining a geological perspective on landscape formation.

Standards: MS-ESS2 Earth’s Systems Disciplinary Core Ideas: ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions

Sample Schedule

Day 1

11:00 Arrival - Unload and Find Cabins

12:00 Sack Lunch

01:00 Split into Outdoor Ed Groups

01:15 Activity 1

02:30 Activity 2

03:45 Activity 3

05:00 Activities End (Free Time)

05:30 Dinner

07:00 Evening Activity

08:30 Campfire

09:15 Back to Cabins

10:30 Lights out

Day 2

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 Outdoor Ed Group Time

09:15 Activity 4

10:30 Activity 5

12:00 Lunch

01:00 Activity 6

02:15 Activity 7

03:30 Activity 8

04:45 Activities End (Free Time)

05:30 Dinner

07:00 Evening Activity

08:30 Campfire

09:15 Back to Cabins

10:30 Lights out

Day 3

07:00 Move out of cabins

07:30 Breakfast

08:30 Move Luggage to Ball Field

09:00 Depart

Chauncy Ranch Outdoor School

Who We Are

Chauncy Ranch Camp was founded in 1941 by Uncle Bud and his wife Brownie to provide summer camp experiences to children in the outdoors of Arizona. Since that time, we have been family owned and operated and have expanded our programs to run year-round through our rental program. In 2006, we started offering Outdoor Education lessons with the intention of providing students with a hands on alternative to their normal classroom setting. This year, after years of success, we have expanded our Outdoor Education Program with the launch of our very own Outdoor School with the hope of providing a more in-depth experience for a larger population of students excited to explore the natural world.

Our Mission

It is our Philosophy that students that learn and play outside develop a deeper connection with natural environments and, therefore, develop a natural tendency to look after such places. It is our Mission to teach students more about the natural world they live in, provide them with memorable experiences outside and help build strong relationships within student communities.

All Inclusive Program

Having worked with teachers for many years, we understand it can be a total pain to book field trips for your class. We strive to make teachers' lives as easy as possible. With our 'All Inclusive Program' our facilitators take the reign teaching your students our Outdoor Ed lessons, facilitating night time activities and managing the dining lodge so Teachers can relax and enjoy the camp experience just like their students.

Next Generation Science Standards

The Chauncy Ranch Outdoor School strives to provide students with real educational lessons in a non-typical outdoor classroom. We achieve that by aligning our Outdoor Ed. curriculum with the state's Next Generation Science Standards ensuring that your students are meeting their curriculum standards while having a blast studying outdoors.