

Environmental Education Courses

Environmental Education courses consist of traditional camp activities and courses where students are introduced to the world around them. In all activities, participants will be challenged to be creative, positive, and work collaboratively.

(Most programs are adaptable depending on the weather.)

Animal Detectives

Activity Location: Inside & Outside

Time: 30 mins - 1 Hour

Grade: 1st - 8th Grade

Group Size: 20 Maximum

Embark on an exhilarating journey as your students dive into the heart of Camp Minikani's lush forests! Unlock the secrets of the wild as they learn the art of tracking and identifying signs of wildlife. From following animal tracks to discovering telltale rubs, scat, and chew, every step unveils a thrilling adventure in nature's classroom!

Archery

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 30 mins - 1 ½ hour

Grade: Kindergarten and up

Group Size: 5-20 Maximum (Max of 5 on the range at a time)

Your participants are about to step into the captivating world of archery, where every bow string holds a story and every arrow tells a tale. Participants will be able to learn all the components of archery all while devolving precision, patience, and discipline through safe, hands-on practice and games. This exciting journey blends mild physical activity with the thrill of mastering a new skill or perfecting an old one.

Canoeing

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 4th Grade and up (If younger, speak with Environmental Education Director)

Group Size: 5 -20 Maximum

Get ready to paddle into the extraordinary world of canoeing! Your participants are in for an exciting time as they learn the basics of this water sport and dive into the heart of team-building. This physical activity is a gateway to an unforgettable adventure where they'll uncover the secrets of Lake Amy Belle and soak in fascinating facts.

Environmental Stewardship – LNT

Activity Location: Inside & Outside

Time: 30 mins – 1 hour

Grade: Kindergarten and up

Group size: 5 – 20 Students

Participants will explore the importance of preserving our natural world through a dynamic introduction to the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace. This experience goes beyond the classroom, encouraging hands-on learning and meaningful engagement with real-world sustainability practices. Get ready to spark curiosity, inspire action, and foster respect for the outdoors. (Activities will be tailored to each grade level.)

GPS Bingo

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 4th Grade and up

Group Size: 10–25 Maximum

Your participants are about to dive headfirst into the world of Global Positioning System (GPS), unlocking the power to unearth hidden treasures and conquer the wild terrain of Camp Minikani. But it doesn't stop there! They'll master the art of map reading, using context clues to outwit challenges and emerge victorious in the heart-pounding GPS Bingo. Get ready for a hands-on adventure that blends technology, strategy, and the thrill of exploration!

High Ropes

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour – 1 ½ Hour

Grade: 4th grade and up (Height Requirement: 4'11)

Group Size: 15 Maximum

(Staff is trained in universal accessibility for High Ropes)

Get ready to see your participants step out of their comfort zones and into an adventure of growth and discovery! Our high ropes course offers a unique and empowering challenge, where participants will tackle various routes designed to push their personal limits both physically and mentally. It's a powerful opportunity for participants to build self-confidence, strengthen peer support, and expand their sense of what's possible. With every step, climb, and leap, they'll gain valuable life skills and resilience that extend far beyond the ropes. Prepare to witness your participants soar stronger, bolder, and more empowered than ever before!

Low Ropes / Team-building Activity

Location: Inside & Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade 2nd and up

Group Size: 5 - 15 Maximum

Get ready for a team-building experience like no other! Your participants are about to go into a high-energy adventure designed to strengthen collaboration, spark creativity, and encourage innovative thinking. Through engaging activities such as the Muse, Whale Watch, and Lava Crossing, they'll tackle challenges that require teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Participants will walk away with not only unforgettable memories but also valuable skills that will support them in and out of the classroom. Let the adventure begin where teamwork and imagination lead the way.

Nature Hike

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 30 mins - 1 ½ Hour

Grade: Kindergarten and up

Group Size: 5-20 Maximum

Step into the wild and wonderful world of nature like never before! From identifying leaves, trees, birds, and animals to uncovering the secrets of Camp Minikani's legendary Mud Lake Monster, this hands-on exploration is packed with discovery and excitement. They'll journey through time with captivating stories that bring the rich history of camp to life. This immersive experience blends curiosity, connection, and the magic of the natural world, celebrating everything that makes the outdoors extraordinary. Nature is calling... are you ready to explore?

Nature Photography

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 3rd - 8th Grade

Group Size: 6-30 Maximum

Creativity meets the great outdoors. Set against the stunning backdrop of Camp Minikani, this experience invites participants to explore the natural world through the lens of a camera. From cool photography tricks to hands-on lessons in composition and technique, they'll build their artistic skills while discovering how to see the world in a whole new way. Get ready for a journey filled with wonder and the joy of creating where every snapshot tells a story and every student becomes a photographer in the making!

Night Hikes

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 - 1 ½ Hours

Grade: Any (Usually the group would stay overnight)

Group Size: 5 - 20 Maximum

Enjoy a thrilling nocturnal escapade! From encountering fascinating nocturnal animals to unraveling the ingenious adaptations that allow them to thrive in the shadows, this experience is a journey into the extraordinary. But wait, there's more! They'll explore the cool and weird ways the night impacts our senses, turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. Brace for a night of discovery and tales under the Wisconsin stars.

Orienteering

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 1st grade and up

Group Size: 5-15 Maximum

Embark on a hands-on adventure in navigation and exploration! Participants begin by unlocking the secrets of the compass, learning how to mark specific locations on a map with confidence and accuracy. Equipped with their new skills, students will create their own treasure maps of Minikani, designing an interactive experience for their fellow adventurers. This engaging activity blends geography, critical thinking, and creativity, all while building a strong sense of teamwork and adventure. Get ready to witness your participants become mapmakers, explorers, and leaders on a thrilling journey!

Predator Vs Prey Activity

Location: Outside

Time: 1 - 1 ½ Hour

Grade: 4th - 8th Grade

Group Size: 30 Minimum

Prepare for an adventure that brings wildlife education to life! Students will explore the delicate balance between predator and prey by experiencing it firsthand through an energetic, tag-like simulation game. As they step into the roles of both predator and prey, students will gain a deeper understanding of survival dynamics in nature. Through this interactive experience, they'll also reflect on the impact humans have on wildlife, sparking meaningful conversations about conservation. This is learning at its most engaging, where curiosity is ignited, connections are made, and students walk away with a memorable and powerful connection to the wild side of science.

Rock Wall

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 2nd Grade and up

Group Size: 5 - 20 Maximum

Take team building to new heights! Your participants are in for an adrenaline rush as they conquer our rock wall with a united force of support. This isn't just climbing, it's a transformative experience that challenges them to try new things, boost their self-confidence, and embrace the thrill of reaching the summit together. Get ready for a rock-solid journey where courage, teamwork, and triumph collide, leaving your participants with a sense of achievement!

Skulls & Furs

Activity Location: Inside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade 4th-8th Grade

Group Size: 5-15 Maximum

Enjoy a hands-on educational experience that brings the nature of Wisconsin to life. Through exploration of fur and skull specimens, participants can observe and handle the physical characteristics of local wildlife, from the coat of a beaver to the skull of a bobcat, to the features of a deer. This tactile learning experience goes beyond classroom study, offering students a direct connection to the anatomy and adaptations of Wisconsin's animals. It's a captivating journey that fosters deeper understanding and inspires a greater appreciation for the creatures that inhabit our region.

Snowshoeing

Activity Location: Outside (Dependent on Snow)

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 4th Grade and up

Group Size: 15 - 20

Participate in winter exploration at Minikani, where the world transforms into a breathtaking winter landscape. This immersive experience offers an opportunity to navigate snow-covered trails, where familiar terrain takes on new characteristics under a pristine winter blanket. Students will explore areas typically inaccessible during other seasons, including traversing frozen lakes and uncovering hidden sections of the camp. Through this carefully guided adventure, participants will develop observational skills and a greater understanding of winter ecology in a safe and supportive setting.

Survival

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1-1 ½ hours

Grade: 2nd and up

Group Size: 20 Maximum

Are you ready for an engaging and dynamic survival skills program designed to build resilience and confidence in the outdoors? This hands-on course goes beyond basic instruction, students will learn essential survival techniques such as fire building, shelter construction, and understanding the critical "Rule of 3" for survival. This program offers a unique opportunity to cultivate problem-solving, perseverance, and self-reliance in a supportive setting. Get ready to watch your participants transform into capable and confident outdoor adventurers, equipped with the knowledge and determination to face the elements with assurance.

Swamp Tromp

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 3rd and up

Group Size: 20 Maximum

It's time for an aquatic adventure at Minikani! Students will become environmental detectives as they dive into the mysteries of our two lakes. Through hands-on exploration, they'll identify aquatic life, gather data, and investigate water quality while uncovering the impact of pollution. They'll leave with a stronger connection to nature and a commitment to protecting our waterways for a cleaner, healthier future. Prepare for a splash of discovery, learning, and environmental enthusiasm!

Trek

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: 5th grade and up

Group Size: 20 Maximum

Prepare your students for an exhilarating woodland expedition that combines adventure with essential skills! In this program, students navigate a challenging course through the woods using only a compass and the power of teamwork. This experience is a test of resilience, communication, and navigation, encouraging students to rely on each other and develop confidence in their abilities. Every step presents a new opportunity to overcome obstacles and achieve success together.

Native American & Pioneer History

Activity Location: Inside/Outside

Time: 2-3 Hour

Grade: 2nd grade and up

Group Size: 20 Maximum

Students explore the history and culture of the Menominee and Potawatomi peoples, learning how they lived, used natural resources, and cared for the land. The program also examines how European settlement and treaties impacted their way of life. In addition, students will learn about pioneer life, including daily routines, challenges, and the skills needed to survive and build communities on the frontier. Through hands-on activities, students will compare Indigenous and pioneer ways of life, gaining a deeper understanding of their connections to the land and the importance of respecting and honoring Indigenous history and culture.

Campfire

Activity Location: Outside

Time: 1 Hour

Grade: Any Age

Group Size: Entire Group

For schools or groups participating in an overnight experience, a campfire with the Minikani team is a perfect way to end the day. Gather around the fire under the stars as we sing songs, perform skits, and share engaging stories. This classic camp tradition encourages connection, laughter, and lasting memories at our beautiful Council Bluff. (S'more can be available upon request and for an extra fee)