Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center

Advanced Orienteering

Class Summary

Quick Facts

Outside: 1 hour 15 minutes
Grade: 5th and older
Offered: Year-round
Physical Activity: 1-2mile walk over varied terrain
Other: Prior compass knowledge is highly preferred!

Concepts

- Design
- Practice
- Cooperate
- Explore

Minnesota Academic Standards >

- Social St.
- Math
- Language Arts
- Physical Education

Classroom Activities >

- Pre-Activity: *Blindfolded Walk*
- Post-Activity: *Outdoor Treasure Hunt*

STEM Components

- Operate
- Collect Data
- Follow Procedures
- Estimate
- Measure

IB Profiles

☐ Inquirers	☐ Open-minded
☐ Knowledgeable	☒ Caring
☒ Thinkers	☒ Risk-takers
☒ Communicators	☐ Balanced
☒ Principled	☐ Reflective

Revised May 2012

Outcomes, students will:

1. Identify navigational tools from throughout human history.
2. Learn the parts of the compass and understand how each part works collectively to determine a bearing.
3. Measure distance by estimating and walking their pace.
4. Practice operating a compass in a wooded orienteering course.
5. Practice cooperation and communication when working together with a group.

Brief Synopsis:

Feeling lost? Once you have had this class you'll never have to worry about that happening again. By combining earth science with practical outdoor skills, participants will navigate Eagle Bluff's orienteering course. Emphasis will be placed on learning how compasses have impacted human history, understanding the earth's magnetic field, and learning the parts and proper use of a compass. The culminating activity will be working cooperatively to navigate around a 10-point orienteering course in the woods.

Activity Descriptions

Finding Your Way (15 minutes)

Imagine how difficult it would be to travel deep in a forest or out at sea without the use of navigational tools. After a short introductory activity, students will brainstorm how humans have navigated throughout time.

Get Orientated (30 minutes)

Each student will be given a compass to use throughout the class and will learn the parts and functions of the compass. Step by step instructions will teach the class to dial and follow a bearing.

Outdoor Practice (15 minutes)

What was learned in the classroom will be practiced outside. Student's will be placed into groups to practice dialing in and following a bearing on our wooded practice course.

Setting a Pace (10 minutes)

How do you know you have reached your destination? Calculating distance by setting a pace will be essential as students travel 50-400 feet from control point to control point in the woods.

Outdoor Orienteering Course and Debrief (1 hour 50 minutes)

Students will work in groups to navigate around a 10 point orienteering course in the woods of Eagle Bluff. Each group must dial in the bearing, orient their compass, then walk a set distance in order to locate the control points. Each control point has a question on it related to survival for the students to answer.