

**Alpine International Preparatory Academy**  
**Outdoor Education Homeschool Program- Colorado**  
**Curriculum Outline**  
**Aug 31, 2021- June 2, 2022. 36 weeks, 3 seasonal trimesters**

The Outdoor Leadership and Earth Steward Program (OLESP) provides experiential outdoor and environmental education for Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our program is designed around outdoor skills and an understanding of the environmental concepts that are needed for one to be an “Earth Steward”. The activities/lessons will inspire wonderment of the environment, encourage self-efficacy, leadership skills, a sense of community by providing students with opportunities to apply the concepts to real-world situations fostering an understanding and stewardship of the earth. Each Trimester will have a thematic unit starting with "Ecosystems" in the fall will set the tone for building healthy (symbiotic) relationships, community, and working as a team. The winter unit on "Adaptations" will teach students problem-solving, decision-making, safety, and risk management skill sets. Lastly, the spring unit on "Biodiversity" will translate that everything and everyone has a special niche or unique role to play in their community and environment which fosters empathy, character development, group dynamics, leadership, and stewardship.

All classes will be held at the NWDC in Pueblo, Colorado and operate from 9am-3pm. Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will meet on Tuesdays. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will meet on Wednesdays. 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will meet on Thursdays.

Please contact Eric Dinnel, Alpine International Preparatory Academy Director, at 719-640-4311 or [edinnel@aipreacademy.org](mailto:edinnel@aipreacademy.org) with any questions about the program.

**Fall Trimester August 31<sup>st</sup>-November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

(Thanksgiving Break Nov. 22-26<sup>th</sup>)

**Thematic Ecosystems Team and Community Building**

**Week 1: Introduction, Expectations, and Meeting your “Team.” What is an Ecosystem?**

**Week 2: Leave No Trace. Exploring Riparian Zones.**

K-2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	6-8 <sup>th</sup>
Wet and Wild	Where Prairie Meets River	Arkansas River Geography

**Week 3: Our Home-Shortgrass Prairie & Leave No Trace**

Prickly Prairie Plants	Plants & Animals	Environmental Barometers
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**Week 4: Outdoor Travel Techniques & Pueblo Mountain Park Ecology**

Ants on a Twig	Foothills and Pond Ecology	Symbiosis & Team Building
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**Week 5: Outdoor Clothing and Seeds**



Seed Need	Have Seeds Will Travel	Wild Power: Botany
<b>Week 6: Geology and Soil</b>		
Rockin" with Rocks	Rock and Roll Cycle	Getting Rich-Eco-Enrichers
<b>Week 7: Predicting the Weather in the field. Climate and Weather</b>		
Weather Wonders	Clouds so What.	Look up, down, and around! Meteorology
<b>Week 8: Owls</b>		
Owls of Colorado	Owl Pellets Dissection	Necropsy
<b>Week 9: Beginning Lesson of Map Reading &amp; Trees</b>		
Leaves	Who Lives in our Trees	Dendrology
<b>Week 10: Insects, Spiders, and Flying Mammals</b>		
Insects, spiders, and bats Inspection	Interviews of a Spider and bats	Bat Blitz
<b>Week 11: Wild Animal Encounters Techniques – Bear Aware</b>		
Black Bears	What Bear Goes Where	Bear Where?
<b>Week 12: Easy Camping Treats &amp; Turkey Talk</b>		
Terrific Turkeys	Let's talk Turkey	Turkey Tallies

### Winter Trimester Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

(Winter Break Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>)

#### Thematic Theme Adaptations: Problem Solving, Decision Making, Safety and Risk Management

<b>Week 1: Winter Clothing Selections &amp; Adaptations</b>		
The Shape of Things	Adaptation Artistry	A Home Away from Home
<b>Week 2: Habitat</b>		
Habitat Circles	Habitat Pen Pals	HabiCache
<b>Week 3: Beginning Meal Planning and Energy</b>		
Lunch for a bear	Food Web/chains	Carrying Capacity for life
<b>Week 4: Mammals and Us</b>		
First Impression	Mammal Classification	Mammalogy
<b>Week 5: Shelters</b>		
Whose home is that?	My Kingdom for a Shelter.	Building a Survival Shelter
<b>Week 6 Continuation of Map reading, introduction to the compass and animal tracking</b>		
Walk like an animal	Tracks Oh My . . .	Map that!!!
<b>Week 7: Ungulates</b>		
OH! Deer	Muskox Maneuvers	Check and Balances



**Week 8: Myth and Legends from the Out of doors; Wolves and Coyotes**

What Wild	Wild dogs of the West	Back from the Brink And other lessons
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**Week 9: Group Travel techniques and Eagles (Field Trip to Lake Pueblo)**

Eagle scavenger Hunt	Build an Eagle	Eagle Watch
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**Week 10: Fire building and Wildland Fire Ecology**

Smokey the Bear said what?	Fire Ecologies	Healthy Forest Project
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**Week 11: Leadership, Followership, Community & Micro-Habitats**

The fallen Log	The Forest of S.T. Shrew	Which Niche
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**Week 12: Red-tailed Hawks other flight fancy.**

Squirrels & Hawks	Hawk Talk	Buteo Family
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**Spring Trimester March 8<sup>th</sup> -June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

(Spring Break March 21-25)

**Thematic Theme Biodiversity: Leadership & Stewardship****Week 1: Spring Travel Techniques, Energy and Carbon Footprint**

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	Energy Sleuths	Waste Watchers
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**Week 2: Trip Planning & Nature Recyclers**

Decomposers	Scavengers	Opportunists
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**Week 3: Raptor Rehab**

Birds of Prey	Raptor Care	Raptor Naturalists
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**Week 5: Raptor Rehab**

Birds of Prey	Raptor Care	Raptor Naturalists
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**Week 6: Environmental Wilderness First Aid & Reptiles**

Piggy the Turtle	Keeping Cool	Herpetology
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**Week 7: Edible and other Wild Plants**

Pollination Game	Plant I.D.	Raindrops and Ranges
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**Week 8: Map, Compass, and Migration**

Bird Beak Buffet	The Great Migration Game	Migration Barriers
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**Week 9: Ornithology with Dr. Claire CSU-P**

Bird Hurdles	Bird Banding	Ornithology/banding
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**Week 10: Water treatment, hygiene, and the water cycle.**

Water wildlife Safari

Water Wonders

Watershed Studies

**Week 11: Getting Ready and Diversity**

Camp site Selection,

Campsite Selection

Campsite Selection

10 essentials for your pack

10 essentials for your pack

10 essentials for your pack

Graph an animal

Planet Diversity

Charting diversity

**Week 12: Culminating Experience at Pueblo Mountain Park**

**Devil's Canyon Hike**

**Fire Tower Hike**

**Overnight Experience at  
Horseshoe Lodge.**

