
El Camino Pines



Outdoor School Teacher Planner

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El Camino Pines Outdoor School exists as a resource to private and public schools in Southern California. We offer community building and environmental education experiences primarily to elementary and middle school age students. **We have three, four, and five-day programs that are available in the fall, winter and spring.** Our camp can accommodate up to 120 participants.

Arrival and Departures:

We ask that you arrive at El Camino Pines at 11:30 AM with a sack lunch. Please do not arrive early unless you have made special arrangements with the Director. Groups will depart on their last day between 12:00 and 12:30 PM.

Background Checks:

It is **required** that all adult chaperones who attend our program complete a Voluntary Disclosure Form and email it to outdoorschool@LRCCHome.com prior to their arrival at camp. The form can be downloaded on our website in the Teacher's Corner section. It is the policy of El Camino Pines to never meet alone with a child in an isolated area, a closed space, or anywhere out of sight of other adults or children. We encourage all school staff, chaperones and adults to follow this guideline set forth by the American Camp Association. If it is not possible to have another adult present, contact the Program Director or another El Camino Pines staff person.

Guide to Outdoor School Curriculum

We work in cooperation with your school to design a program that is best suited to the needs of the students. The school chooses what classes they would like to take from our diverse curriculum. Our staff will aid you in planning your experience. The schedule will be planned cooperatively if more than one school shares the same week. Our curriculum covers several disciplines in the areas of natural, physical, and social sciences. Class sessions run approximately 2 hours.

Core Classes

Chumash Study:

Students will explore authentic bedrock mortars, participate in Chumash games, and learn about native foods and hunting skills.

Earthquake Walk:

Through participating in a short hike to the nearby San Andreas Fault, this class provides an examination of fault systems and how plate movements cause earthquakes.

Energy Lab:

Students explore different types of energy, from the simplest of circuits to new alternative energies.

Fire Ecology:

Students will learn about the physical science of fire as an important natural process in many forests. We will cover the role of fire in ecosystems, prescribed burns, and wildland fire management.

Forest & Wildlife Ecology:

Students experience the richness of plant and animal life in the forest while learning the different types of trees, structures of the food chain and the relationships that exist in the forest.

Geology:

This class covers geological concepts and how they affect our ecosystem. Students will learn various geological classifications; practice classifying rocks and minerals and more!

Half-Day Hike:

Enjoy **two core classes** and lunch on the trail. Choose from our different hikes with a choice of two classes: Forest and Wildlife Ecology, Geology, Low Ropes and Ornithology.

Low Ropes Course:

Individual challenge, self-concept, success/failure, and self-confidence are important issues introduced and reinforced in this class.

Ornithology:

Students will learn all about what makes a bird a bird. They will get to dissect owl pellets and learn about the biodiversity of the Los Padres National Forest.

Pollution Studies:

This class raises awareness of the impact that human activity has upon the environment and offers possible solutions to help minimize it.

Water Ecology:

Students are introduced to the most abundant compound on earth: water. Students learn about the importance of conservation, water transportation, and human ecology.

Weather Lab:

Students learn about the wonder of weather! Concepts covered include: the layers of the atmosphere, air pressure systems, types of precipitation and the water cycle.

Elective Classes

Archery:

Students learn about the physics of archery, including basic terminology, techniques and safety regulations.

Campfire Cooking:

Students learn how to build a fire and prepare campfire delicacies and backpacking favorites.

Frisbee Golf:

Students will learn different techniques, and terminology, then head out to play our 9-hole Frisbee Golf Course.

Lacrosse:

Students will learn the history of the game as played by Native Americans in the 1400's and get a chance to play. Its origins are rooted in legend, and surrounded in ceremony, and the game continues to be used for curative purposes.

Orienteering:

Students will learn the basic concept of navigation and how to use a compass. They will learn to read bearings and determine directions to follow a basic orienteering course.

Ravine Expedition:

Students embark on a fun exploration of the ecosystem of the ravine while taking in the unique plants, animals and rock formations.

Rock Wall Climb:

With explicit training and orientation, students learn basic rock climbing techniques. Climbers are put on belay using certified rope and safety equipment.

Survival:

This class teaches students basic human survival needs including how to keep from getting lost, what to do in the event of an emergency, water procurement, fire building, primitive shelter building, and more!

Evening Activities

Astronomy:

Students will learn interesting facts about the universe and solar system from their classmates. This class focuses on teaching all about the night sky, through peer teaching.

Environmental Debate:

Students take pro and con positions in a simulated town meeting dealing with a current environmental topic. This class allows students to take a stand and voice their opinions in a safe and controlled environment.

Folk Dance:

Students are taught simple, fun dances, including line and circle dances like the Cool Cat, Hand Jive and John Travolta.

Camp Games:

A variety of fun and interactive games led by our staff make for an exciting, energy-releasing evening.

Night Walk:

Students learn about nocturnal animals and their adaptations and take a short walk in the dark complete with games and demonstrations.

Responsibilities of School Staff Teachers and Chaperones

1. Due to the nature of the camp experience, students should not be left unsupervised at any time. School staff will have complete supervisory responsibility of the students during the following times:
 - *Cabin supervision from 9:30 PM to 8:00 AM*
 - *Shower time supervision (7:00-8:00 AM & 9:30-10:30 PM)*
 - *Any other time when an activity or class is not in session*
2. School staff is responsible for leading the students in daily cabin cleanup.
3. We ask that the school staff assist the camp staff in supervising the following activities:
 - *Meal time supervision*
 - *Opportunity To Really Serve (OTRS)*
 - *Evening Activities*
4. The afternoon staff meeting is for all adults.
5. School staff is encouraged to attend the scheduled classes and activities.
6. ***School staff is responsible for handling all health and first aid concerns. This includes taking care of students who are sick and dispensing medications. The camp staff may assist in emergencies.***
7. We ask that all school staff help maintain a productive learning environment.

Responsibilities of the El Camino Pines Staff

1. Lead and supervise all classes and camp activities.
2. If needed, share table supervision with school staff during meal times.
3. Lead afternoon meetings with school staff.
4. Be available to schools as needed.
5. Assist in emergency situations.

The Camp Director is onsite daily for any problems that may arise.

El Camino Pines General Policies

Grounds:

1. Stay on the trails at all times.
2. **Absolutely no going close to, or into, the ravine.**
3. Leave wildlife alone; watch the animals, but do not try to touch or catch them.
4. No climbing on roofs of buildings.
5. Stay within camp boundaries unless accompanied by a staff person.
6. Shoes and socks (no sandals) must be worn while at camp.
7. **Quiet hours are from 10:30 PM to 7:00 AM.**
8. Never walk anywhere by yourself. Stay with a group of three.
9. Deliberate damage to the camp may result in immediate dismissal and charge for damages.

Cabins:

1. Turn the lights off and shut the door when you leave the cabin.
2. No paper towels, trash, or feminine products in toilets.
3. Fire extinguishers are to be used only in the case of fire. Anyone that discharges one, except in the case of fire, will be charged a re-filling and cleaning fee of up to \$300.
4. No jumping, standing on, or sharing bunks,
5. No one is allowed in any cabin except their own. No raiding or pranking other cabins.
6. No food or drinks in cabins.
7. Cabins are to be cleaned every morning and will be inspected each day.

Dining Hall:

1. Please use an indoor voice. No yelling or pounding on tables.
2. Only one person is allowed to be up from the table at a time.
3. Please drink at least two glasses of water at each meal.
4. Remain in your seats until you have been dismissed.
5. Take only the amount of food that you think you will eat. No food or drinking contests.
6. Coffee and tea are for adults only.

Shower House:

1. No running or pushing.
2. Take short showers to conserve water (90 seconds is preferable).
3. Turn out the lights if you are the last one in the shower house.
4. Respect others and their privacy.

Fire and Earthquake Procedure:

1. When you hear the fire alarm and/or air horn, immediately stop what you're doing and walk quickly to the parking lot and find your cabin leader.
2. Once in parking lot, Cabin leaders should take a count of their students and wait for further instructions from the Director.
3. In case of earthquake, get under beds and other sturdy structures. Move away from structures such as fireplaces, windows, poles, etc., that might collapse. Do not go outside until the trembling stops. The alarm will be the signal that the earthquake has ended and it is safe to precede quickly and cautiously to the parking lot.