



Big Creek Outdoor Education Center
Discovery School
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS for GRADES 4th through 8th
With Montana Content Standards

GROUP CHALLENGES - This class offers a series of clearly defined mental and physical tasks designed to encourage cooperation and some physical effort to gain a solution. This approach to learning is useful in developing individuals' awareness of decision making, teamwork, leadership and trust while promoting teambuilding.

Career and Vocational-Technical Education Content Standard 3

FIRED UP! - This class on fire ecology is a result of the cooperative educational efforts of the Flathead National Forest and The Glacier Institute. Students go out in the field to view first hand the important role fire has in shaping our landscape and the natural history of the Northwest.

Science Content Standards 2, 3, and 5

FOREST FORAY - Students gain an appreciation for the complexity of a forest ecosystem and are exposed to basic principles of sustainable forestry. Through the use of a dichotomous key, they become familiar with some common trees and explore our local forest to learn first hand the complexity of forests and the role humans play in them.

Science Content Standard 3

DISCOVERY HIKE - Through activities that heighten observation skills, students look for animal signs. We discuss habitat use, animal needs for survival, and piece together our findings to create a picture of the various habitats we have explored.

Science Content Standards 1, 3, and 5

GEO DETECTIVES - Through hands on activities, students explore some of the basic concepts of geology needed to understand the "Big Picture" of geologic processes. We also learn about the processes that have shaped the North Fork and Glacier National Park into what we see today.

Science Content Standards 4 and 6

AQUATICS I: BIG CREEK EXPLORATION - Students study Big Creek, the mountain stream for which our camp is named, in an effort to understand factors used to evaluate water quality. We make a hypothesis as to the quality of water in Big Creek and head outside to test it through chemical and physical data collection and sampling aquatic life, gaining a picture of a healthy stream environment. Our findings provide data for our volunteering water quality monitoring program.

Science Content Standards 1, 2, and 3, Math Content Standard 6

AQUATICS II: MUD LAKE EXPLORATION - Students "immerse themselves" in Mud Lake to add to their knowledge of aquatic environments. We make comparisons between stream and pond ecosystems and discuss the concept of wetlands.

Science Content Standards 1, 2, and 3, Math Content Standard 6

ORIENTEERING - Students learn the basics of using a topographic map and a compass. After doing some beginning compass drills, the students use their skills in some fun orienteering challenges.

Science Content Standard 5 and 6, Math Content Standard 5