

Mini Course Daily Plan

(2 hours every Wednesday, 7 meetings)

How many students: 18 in total

April 9th - First Meeting: Introduction / getting to know the students and introducing myself to them.

- What do you want to get out of this mini course?
- What types of things do you want to learn?
- What is your relationship with nature right now?

- What questions do you have about nature?

- What are you most interested in learning about?

- What experiences have you had with your natural environment?

- What facts or cool things do you already know about nature?

- Draw your favorite plants and animals & share why you chose them!

Chart paper around the room, split into groups around the room

April 23rd - Meeting 2: John Presenting about iNaturalist, wildlife

- What Philadelphia parks are near you?
- Do you know about any parks in your area? (Fairmount, Wissahickon, ect.)
- KWL Charts about their local parks

April 30th - Meeting 3: Lesson on native plants and animals

April 23: iNaturalist, Birding Backpacks at local libraries, background on city nature challenge, listing of city nature challenge events and locations around philly, how to use inat, compete against other schools (create an SLA group ahead of time for comparing against other schools).

April 30 : what did we observe? What did you learn? How do we understand this data? What can we do with this data? What other tools exist like birding backpacks? Bird Safe Philly project, TTF project, setting questions/fields. Why are some observations not verifiable? Microorganisms - observing down to family/Order/Species.

May 7th - Meeting 4: Lesson about leave no trace & Presenter on trail maintenance for our own hike preparation

Trail work Elizabeth

- Making Maps
- Making their own scavenger hunt for the hike
- Presentation about what leave no trace is
- How can they carry LNT into their daily lives.

May 21st - Meeting 5: HIKE DAY WEEEEOOO

- Go hiking
- Hike it up
- Hikehikehikehikehike

May 28th - Last Meeting: Happy End of the School Year!

- What are the takeaways from this mini course
- Going over how the hike went
- What did we like or dislike?
- Give them different resources for their own outdoor exploration
- Fun day!! Making little crafts!!

Hike Planning:

Date: May 21st

Location: Fairmount Park

Information:

Leave your B-Band class at 11:50, meet in the commons. Bring water, wear sneakers or hiking shoes, and long socks. DON't wear anything super nice, just a t-shirt and shorts/pants.

We will be hiking one of the trails in Fairmount park, depending on when the hike is finished you'll either be dismissed from there or we will make our way back to school. If you get dismissed from the hike, you'll need to bring our backpacks with you. Make sure you pack your school bag light the day of the trip and if you need to leave supplies in your locker make sure you do that before we go!

Supplies:

- Lots of water

- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses or a hat
- Layers if you get chilly

What did we talk about:

1. Looking with our eyes and not our hands

We want to keep the woods as we found it, so no pulling plants out of the ground, picking leaves off of trees, or digging any holes

2. Be Mindful

There will most likely be other people in the park, be respectful of them and make sure to respect any animals we come across. Keep shouting to a minimum and if you see an animal don't disturb it.

3. Come Prepared

Make sure you pack what you need. We don't need anyone getting dehydrated or sunburnt while we're out! The supplies list above is what you need to make sure you have before our hike, if you don't have one of these items let me know and we will work something out.

4. Tick Checks

May is a big time for ticks in the woods!! Make sure that you're doing tick checks while on the hike and after. Ticks suck big time and they're nasty so make sure to check your legs and arms. If you think you have a tick let me know and we will get it off.

5. Snacks

As we talked about last meeting, I will be bringing snacks on the hike and extra water. If you have a food allergy please tell me! Vote on the top 3 snacks you want so I can make sure to get them.

Potential Presenters

Friends of the Cresheim Trail - Brad Maule

- President of the friends of the Cresheim Trail
- Leading its revitalization since 2022
- Has worked with Friends of the Wissahickon, Mt. Airy CDC, and Chestnut Hill Conservancy

Academy of Natural Sciences - John Eskate

- Volunteer And Civic Engagement Senior Manager at ANS
- Organizes birdwatches (big bird guy and also my neighbor)
- Manages Volunteer nonprofits
- Works with birdsafe philly

BPTA - Elizabeth or Willem Reinkordt

- Local park maintenance
- Preservation of the environment

Lets Go Outdoors - Tarsha & Keisha Scovens

- Founders of the nonprofit organization
- Getting philly students outside of the classroom
- Getting more specifically kids of color interested and engaged in the outdoors

Philly Urban Greening

