



# Outdoor Education

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## Class Selection 2023

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The Black Diamond Camp Outdoor Education program combines adventure, exploration, and education in a way that captivates students' attention and ignites their passion for learning.

Trained instructors frame each lesson, students participate in the activities, and class ends with a time of reflection. Instructors help students identify what they learned through interactive reflections.

The coordinator teacher works with the Outdoor Education Manager in choosing classes and the schedule for your group. This document includes all classes offered at Black Diamond Camp and how they meet fifth grade NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) in Washington. Other grade level and state standards available upon request.

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## Cooperative Challenge or “Team Building”

(Note: “Team Building” is more in depth requiring more time, so it accounts for 2 class times)

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 4&6

A Black Diamond Camp Challenge facilitator leads small groups of students through a sequence of progressively more difficult challenges (group puzzles). Through these challenges, participants learn the value of listening, how to communicate ideas, to work in positive cooperation with others and be encouraging. These activities give students skills they can apply to future situations where strategic planning is needed to accomplish a goal. Team Building, a longer time investment, provides a deeper and richer experience with more development in skills and team bonds. *We highly recommend Team Building for schools doing Outdoor Education in the fall because the class and teacher will enjoy the benefits all year long.*

## Nature Discovery Trek

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1

Choose your level of steepness – flat, some ups and downs or very down and up to the estuary. These walks invite students to observe, relax and be in nature. Discovering whatever delights



# Outdoor Education

them or catches their attention. Trek naturalist instructors have many discovery activities in their backpacks for students to have structured fun playing, writing poetry, or learning what part of stinging nettles one can touch, what good is a banana slug, what is that animal track there, and more! During berry season, Berry Treks are available. Tell us what you'd like to learn, see, or do and we'll do our best to make it happen!

## Orienteering (Includes a *basic* compass lesson)

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 4, 5, & 6

Introduction to the sport of Orienteering. Starting with a short activity on how to use a compass, we move to map instruction using contour maps. This includes how to orient maps with, and without, a compass. The students, with chaperones, go out in small groups to locate each of the 10 Orienteering course markers. The emphasis is on topographical maps and finding locations using baselines and landmarks.

## Outdoor Survival

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1

Preparation is the key to surviving many things. Students will identify ten essentials to take on walks or hikes outside and why they are essential. Prevention includes understanding layering clothing and materials that if wet will keep a person warm. If lost, what to do first. Shelter building, compass work, and fire building basics. All is done experientially, hands-on, so students are engaged.

## Water Ecology

WA State Standards 5-PS3-1 Energy, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1 Ecosystems, 5-ESS2-2 Earth's Systems

How do we know water is safe for critters and humans? In this class, students will study the water quality of two small streams on site. One is impacted by running through agricultural ground. The other is impacted by the rain washing off roads before entering Canyon Creek with its elevation drop through the Black Diamond Camp canyon. After getting water samples directly from both streams, students will perform water quality assessments using chemistry and sampling aquatic macro invertebrates (insects / bugs). Most of the focus will be testing the pH,



# Outdoor Education

Phosphate and or Nitrate and Dissolved Oxygen levels of the water. Then comparing with established healthy levels.

Some Aquatic macro invertebrates will be sampled and put back into the water alive, after identifying them. [The presence of some bugs indicates healthy surface waters; other insects indicate somewhat polluted water, and the final category indicates very polluted water.

To book your group's stay, contact the Black Diamond Camp guest service staff at:

[guest.service@blackdiamond.org](mailto:guest.service@blackdiamond.org) | 253.939.0488

For more information about the Outdoor Education program, contact:

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