



Outdoor Education

Class Selection 2024

Black Diamond Camp Outdoor School exists to provide students with adventures that engage the natural world and inspire lifelong stewardship. 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 School Team 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.

Cooperative Challenge (Team Building)

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 group skills they can apply to future situations where strategic planning is needed to accomplish a goal.

Nature Discovery Trek

WA State Social Emotional Learning Standard 1

These walks invite students to observe, relax and be in nature. Discovering whatever delights 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!



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Orienteering

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 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 clothing fabrics that if wet will keep a person warm, what to do if lost, shelter building, map and 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 a creek on site. After getting water samples directly from the creek, students will perform water quality assessments using chemistry and sampling aquatic macroinvertebrates (insects / bugs). Most of the focus will be testing the pH, Phosphate and or Nitrate and Dissolved Oxygen levels of the water. Then comparing with established healthy levels. Some Aquatic macroinvertebrates 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 staff at:
outdoorschool@blackdiamond.org | 253.939.0488