



ACADEMIC COURSE OVERVIEW

Archery- The history of archery, terms, and proper technique are the focus of the class. Students will practice proper technique and accuracy.

Fishing- This class will focus on the skills and techniques of fishing as well as safety. The class will include visual identification of fish along with weighing and measuring the catch. Most of the class time will be spent fishing.

Nature of Energy – The identification of the types and the practical application of energy is the focus of this class. Using such tools as the Van de Graff generator, solar oven, atom models, potato clock, and solar car, students will have hands-on experience with the nature of energy.

Nature Hike- Walking along the banks of Lake Travis, students discover animal evidence as well as a number of trees, cacti, and flowers native to our area. Students will also learn to identify these based on specific characteristics.

Orienteering- Students are taught the parts of a compass and how to use it as well as a bit of the history of navigation. After learning the compass, students will practice using it by following a series of coordinates to find treasures or complete challenges.

Physics Primer- The purpose of this class is to provide an entertaining introduction to physics and the Scientific Method. Group experiments will demonstrate different aspects and application of physics using such tools as “magic tricks” of physics and the gyroscope. The class will focus on Newton’s Laws of Motion.

Pioneer Living- Our outdoor classroom is located on the site of the former settlement Mudd, TX. Students will learn about old wagon trails, tools of survival, and Dutch Oven cooking. Students will mix and measure ingredients into a Dutch Oven, cook their creation over burning coals, and enjoy the dessert they created at the end of the class.

Soil Forensics – Students will discover what types of soils grow the best plants by testing for different levels of PH, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Through testing their soils they will also be solving a “crime” that happened on camp.

The Secret Life of Trees - Students will study the inside of a tree to determine age, weather conditions, and even human involvement. The class will focus on photosynthesis and survival of the tree as well as how trees impact our daily lives. At the end of the class, students will make name tags out of tree cookies.

Weather/Climate –This class is a study of various aspects of weather and climate including experiments to demonstrate such things as atmospheric pressure and humidity. Students will gain an understanding of how ocean currents impact weather and climates around the world.

Worm Composting- Students learn the role of worms as decomposers. The students will be given the opportunity to examine up close the qualities of a worm. Students will document how worms react to sunlight and water as well as observe the effect “worm tea” has on Plants.



ADVENTURE CHALLENGE COURSE OVERVIEW

We have a large Low Challenge Course here at Highland Lakes. It is aptly named as each activity will challenge students to work together and communicate well in order to solve different problems. Each group could learn something different at each challenge as the lessons come from what the group chooses to do and how. Facilitators will be giving instructions, observing, and questioning students during and after the activity to help them reflect and get the most out of each challenge. Safety is our #1 priority so facilitators will make sure every activity we do is done in the safest manner possible. This list describes each element/course in our challenge course as well as a few other non-academic options that we offer.

Bomb Diffuser- Students will have to work in tandem and use ropes to hook the “bombs” and get them to the safe location before they explode!

Cave- Students must rely on their senses to move around the “cave” blindfolded in search of the key to get out.

Climbing Wall – Students will work to reach the top by climbing a fort foot tower! They will be held by harnesses and a belay line. Safety first!

Entrapment- Relying on themselves and/or a partner, students will try to make it through a maze of ropes that really trick your brain without touching them.

Islands- Here there is a field of mini “islands” that the group will have to navigate through with only a few boards and without touching the ground. There is only one right way through! (Not recommended for grades below 7th)

Hexapod- Students will get a chance to challenge themselves on our three level high ropes course! This ropes course uses a self belay system and has more than 20 different obstacles to go through.

Maypole- Blindfolded, students must work together to untangle the ropes around the maypole.

Mohawk Walk – Using only each other and the trees for support, students must make their way through a series of cables without touching the ground. (Not recommended for grades below 8th)

Mountaintops - Students will be “stuck” on one platform and have to figure out how to get across a series of other platforms to the final destination with only two boards.

Nitro-Crossing- Students will make a plan and swing like Tarzan across the “Nitro River”

Porthole- Imagine you are on a sinking ship and the only way out is to climb through the window! Students will have to work together to figure out how to get each other through the Porthole that is about 6 feet off the ground.

Spiderweb - Students will have to figure out a way to get everyone through the “spiderweb” without touching it and only using each hole one time.

TP Shuffle - TP is short for Totem Pole. Students will be standing on a log and have to figure out how to arrange themselves according to the facilitators instructions.

Triangle Traverse/Wild Woozy - Students will learn to support and rely on each other as they make their way across the cables.

Whale Watch - Students will figure out how to get on a rocking platform and keep it balanced with everyone on.

Indoor Challenge - Students will work together to complete a series of challenges inside in the air conditioning!

Recreation Activities - Work with HLC staff to incorporate some recreation time or competitions into your trip! Options include:

- Archer’s Quest (archery tag)
- Gaga Ball
- 9 Square in the Air
- Volleyball/Nuke ‘em
- Basketball
- Field Games
- Relay Races
- Paintball (extra fee required)
- Board Games
- ...and more!