



DEERING ESTATE

Wildlife Conservation Homeschool 2021-2022

September “Collecting Scientific Data through Field Studies”

Date: September 1, 2021

Activity: Intro to Journaling and Field Guides

Description: Students will learn the importance of nature journaling and taking notes in the realm of science by creating their own personal journal to be used for data collection out in nature. They will also have an introduction of the Deering Estate and how Charles Deering perceived conservation.

Date: September 8, 2021

Activity: Egg Drop Experiment

Description: Using the scientific method, students will be constructing a safety cushion for a fragile egg which we will be dropping from various heights. Planning, sketching, and recording data in their nature journals to be able to present the best option of precautions resulting in a successful trial which can be repeated.

Date: September 15, 2021

Activity: Creating Mangrove Field Guides and Leaf Manuscripts

Description: Students will be creating Mangrove field guides while learning the techniques to preserve collected leaf specimens in their nature journal. By creating a leaf manuscript they will learn how conserving specimens is important to recording the taxonomical attributes within every species found on earth.

Date: September 22, 2021

Activity: Scientific Data in Nature

Description: Students will learn how to determine biodiversity of an area using transects squares that they will construct during class. All the data will be collected and recorded in their nature journals in order to compare with their colleagues and determine the health of the different environments in the Deering Estate.

To receive emails for class updates and supplemental material:
Please email Nahuel at Nahuel.Medina@miamidade.gov



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November “Learning from Exploration”

Date: November 3, 2021

Activity: “Hiking the Hammock”

Description: Students will take the time to explore the Tropical Hardwood Hammock at Deering Estate to understand the unique properties of this environment. Learning about both the abiotic and biotic features that make up this habitat, students will learn how we are still connected to the Everglades.

Date: November 10, 2021

Activity: “Surveying the Saltmarsh”

Description: Students will take a tram out to the northernmost border of the Deering Estate to study the Saltmarsh habitat which is steadily decreasing in size across the globe. They will try and determine why this environment is a buffer between the ocean and land.

Date: November 17, 2021

Activity: Managing the Mangroves

Description: Students will be hiking through the muddy mangroves to investigate the importance this environment has to coastal cities and towns along with the Deering Estate. They will be searching for animals and critters that live within the vast root systems which play a key role in South Florida ecology.

Date: November 24, 2021 -- NO CLASS -- Happy Thanksgiving

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January “Surviving the Pine Rocklands”

Date: January 5, 2022

Activity: Intro to Fire building and Firebreak Hike

Description: Students will learn how fires are an important requirement to a healthy pine rockland habitat and how keystone species that inhabit it have adapted to survive. They will explore how controlled burns and safe fire building practices can help us maintain the health of the habitat. They will also be learning how controlled fires work in our hike to a firebreak in the pine rockland habitat set in place for a controlled burn.

Date: January 12, 2022

Activity: Terrarium Experiment and Composting

Description: Students will discover how after wildfires, plants thrive in nutrient rich soil. In our terrarium activity we will explore how the vegetation in our natural areas deal with the different types of soil composition in order to grow and survive. Through composting we will also be learning about the recycling of nutrients and how decomposing vegetation becomes the nourishment for new plants.

Date: January 19, 2022

Activity: Shelter Building and Bushcraft Skills

Description: Students will explore how to build a temporary shelter with materials found in nature. In our hike we will learn about edible and medicinal plants as we learn how to track animal activity by studying animal scat.

Date: January 26, 2022

Activity: Archeology Dig and Fossil Craft

Description: Students will find that through archeology we can learn about the people and wildlife that have inhabited the pine rockland environment throughout the years. We will perform a mock archeological dig and discover the many secrets buried beneath. Through our fossil craft we will explore what life in the pine rocklands was like in the distant past.

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March “Technology in Nature”

Date: March 2, 2022

Activity: Wildlife Cameras and Wildlife Hike

Description: Students will be hiking throughout the park and placing wildlife cameras in order to observe and study the habits and behaviors of the wildlife found in our natural areas.

Date: March 9, 2022

Activity: Binoculars and Bird Watching Hike

Description: Students will explore the advantages of binoculars and how they allow us to monitor and study the behavior of wildlife that is difficult to get close to. In our hike we will learn how to use binoculars and how to identify a variety of birds that inhabit our natural areas.

Date: March 16, 2022

Activity: Cameras and Intro to Wildlife Photography

Description: Students will learn the basics of photography and how it can be used to document and monitor the health of wildlife and the ecosystem they live in. The students will practice their photography skills as we document the wildlife found in our natural areas.

Date: March 23, 2022

Activity: GPS and Intro to Wildlife Tracking Apps

Description: Students will discover the usefulness of GPS (Global Positioning System) and how it can be used to track wildlife and locate specific areas such as animal nesting grounds. We will explore different applications that allow us to use GPS to track hike routes and identify important landmarks.

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