

Catalina Environmental Leadership Program

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

** denotes Core Program for all groups*

*** denotes additional Core Program for 4 and 5 day groups*

MARINE EXPLORATION

*** Ocean Orientation Snorkel**

Introduces students to snorkeling techniques and safety as well as the kelp bed ecosystem. The group will learn the finer points of squeezing into a wetsuit and get fitted for a mask and fins. Instructors will help students of all swimming levels feel comfortable in the ocean environment. This snorkel will be the first opportunity to explore the wonders of the kelp forest at Howland's Landing.

**** Kelp Connections Snorkel**

Our second snorkel focuses closely on the kelp bed community. Students will observe an organism of their choice and be challenged to determine how this species is connected to others and the entire ecosystem. These connections are discussed and expanded to include connections between the kelp bed ecosystem and human communities.

Adaptive Strategies Snorkel

Schools joining us for our five day program will have the option of a third daytime snorkel. This activity gives students the chance to become intimately familiar with kelp species and the behavioral and physical adaptations that help them survive.

Kayak Adventure I

Explore the wonders of the island while paddling a kayak. Students will have the opportunity to view both the kelp forest and terrestrial ecosystem from a different perspective, on top of the water, while observing coastal bird species and getting a little wet!

Kayak Adventure II

This activity is similar to Kayak Adventure I, but twice as long!

The Hidden Life of the Kelp Forest: Microscope Lab

In the kelp forest there is certainly more than meets the eye. Using our video microscope laboratory, students will get an up close look at the microscopic creatures that live in our kelp forest.

TERRESTRIAL EXPLORATION

*** Ecology Hike**

Hike the hillsides of Catalina to explore how terrestrial species meet the challenges of survival. Students will search for endemic plants and animals, discuss the impact of humans and introduced plants and animals on island ecosystems, learn about Catalina's dynamic landscape, and take time to enjoy great views of the island and ocean.

Shoreline Investigation: Tide Pooling

While tide pooling at Howlands Landing, students will examine the organisms found in the intertidal zone and the adaptations that help them survive in an environment that is constantly changing.

HUMAN LIFESTYLE

*** Sustainable Living**

This activity focuses on the connection between humans and nature. Students will discuss the importance of living sustainably and caring for the environment through conservation of limited resources, recycling and reuse of materials, and use of alternative forms of energy.

**** Garden and Composting**

Everyone loves to play in the dirt! Students will do just that as they learn about organic gardening techniques while supporting our camp's effort to become a more sustainable community. Various composting methods are demonstrated, as students actively help us reduce waste and recycle all excess food to create nutrient rich soil for the garden.

Nature and Creative Expression

Experience a tranquil exploration of the living world and develop skills in observing, sketching, writing and appreciating nature's beauty. This activity invites students to explore secret spots full of colors, sounds and shapes on Catalina Island. Students will get the opportunity to reflect and embrace their connection to the environment while using simple methods to capture what they see.

PERSONAL AND GROUP CHALLENGES

*** Team Building Challenge**

Using teamwork and communication skills students will participate in various low ground initiative challenges. Emphasis is placed on student's connections to one another and the ability to work together as a team.

Climbing Wall Challenge

Building on the skills and concepts practiced during Challenge Tier I, students are given the opportunity to tackle the climbing wall. This is an individual challenge with a group oriented focus.

**** Ropes Course Challenge**

The high ropes course challenges students to put the teamwork skills they developed during Challenge Tier I to the test. This activity incorporates both individual and group challenges while focusing on a challenge by choice philosophy.

EVENING PROGRAMS

**** Night Snorkel**

Snorkeling in the ocean at night? You bet! Students will get the chance to use underwater flashlights to look for lobster, hornsharks, bat rays, and other nocturnal creatures. This activity is part of the Core Program for 5 day groups and an elective option for 3 and 4 day programs. *Depending on the size of the school group, for safety reasons it may be necessary for us to limit the number of participants by making this an optional evening program.*

Life in the Dark: Night Hike

Hiking at night without flashlights introduces students to the challenges of getting around in the dark. Students experience first-hand how the Catalina Island fox, feral cats, bats and other nocturnal creatures have adapted to life in the dark.

Night Sky

Students will have the opportunity to take advantage of the clear, dark Catalina sky to learn about astronomy and share stories related to the constellations.

Pimuvits Life: Campfire

While sitting around the campfire, students will share in the oral tradition of story telling and learn about the culture of the native Pimuvits that inhabited the island years ago.