

The Slide Ranch Curriculum

Slide Ranch's theme-based curriculum provides a framework for the ideas and information that we present to each group that comes here. A couple of weeks before your visit, our Program Coordinator will be contacting the teacher/group leader to plan our day together. Please familiarize yourself with the different opportunities that we offer.

We have listed the themes and some of the main concepts discussed within these themes during our one-day and overnight group programs. These concepts reinforce each theme through relevant experiential activities, games, songs, and challenges that the teacher compiles for each group. Many of the themes and concepts tie in with the California State Standards. Furthermore, the Slide Ranch Educational Framework is founded upon experiential sensory learning and modeling investigation and experimentation.

Sample activities are listed below each theme. In addition to whichever theme you choose for the group, all participants will have the opportunity to visit the garden, milk a goat, meet the sheep, feed the chickens, and interact with other animals at Slide Ranch. Also, please note that if the low tide of the day does not fall during program hours, we will not be able to accommodate tidepool activities due to safety reasons. Feel free to discuss any personal classroom needs with the Program staff at Slide Ranch.

The following themes are appropriate for all age levels.

Stewardship: Caring for Plants, Animals, the Earth & Each Other

- ◆ We show our respect for plants, animals, the earth and each other by caring for them and their surroundings.
- ◆ People can choose to care about and protect living things by helping them with their needs.

Sample Activities: Plant-a-Seed, Sifting Compost, Hike to Bone Grove, Visit Observation Beehive

Food from the Sea

- ◆ The ocean is like a farm (garden) underwater. Unlike farms on land, people do not plant crops or feed animals in the ocean, but we do harvest from the sea.
- ◆ The sea affects us by giving us food, water, weather and places to play.
- ◆ While using the ocean, people affect life in the ocean. People can choose to conserve and protect the ocean environment and its resources.

Sample Activities: Beach Exploration, Garden Adventure

Where Does Our Food, Clothing & Shelter Come From?

- ◆ Food, clothing and shelter come from natural resources.
- ◆ Natural resources are the earth's treasures that make up everything we use in our lives. Living things depend on natural resources such as: air, water, soil, sunlight, minerals, plants and animals.
- ◆ People can choose to conserve and protect natural resources.

Sample Activities: Carding & Spinning Wool, Making Bread & Butter, Cheese Making, Visit Observation Beehive

Habitats, Communities & Ecosystems

- ◆ A habitat is the natural home of a group of plants and animals (community) including their arrangement of food, water and shelter.
- ◆ An ecosystem consists of a given habitat and its community. Ecosystems change because of natural causes and human alterations.
- ◆ People can choose to respect living things and help to restore and preserve ecosystems.

Sample Activities: Beach Exploration, Hike to Bone Grove, Visit Observation Beehive

Environment: Earth, Air, Water, Sun

- ◆ Environment is the air we breathe, water we drink, land we live and the sun we see.
- ◆ Earth, air, water and sun cycle through living and nonliving things and are essential to life.
- ◆ How people use earth, air, water and sun affects other living things.

Sample Activities: Beach Exploration, Garden Adventure, Sifting Compost, Making Bread & Butter, Cheese Making

Interdependence

- ◆ Interdependence is the web of life that connects all life together
- ◆ Living things interact with, are modified and depend on other living things.
- ◆ All life is part of a food chain that creates balance in nature.

Sample Activities: Garden Adventure, Plant-a-Seed, Sifting Compost, Visit Observation Beehive, Hike to Bone Grove

The following themes are designed for 3rd-6th grade students.

Food and Nutrition

- ◆ Living things need food for energy, maintenance of health and growth.
- ◆ All foods come from plants and animals (the Earth).
- ◆ People's food choices have physiological, sociological and environmental impacts.

Sample Activities: Making Bread & Butter, Cheese Making, Garden Adventure, Plant-a-Seed, Visit Observation Beehive

Cooperation & Competition

- ◆ Cooperation is working together for a shared purpose. Competition is working independently against one another for a common resource or purpose.
- ◆ Competition is necessary to create balance in populations and to encourage evolution.
- ◆ Limited resources within a habitat create competition and/or cooperation (for water, shelter, food, space).

Sample Activities: Garden Adventure (focus on companion planting and/or invasive plants), Visit Observation Beehive, Hike to Bone Grove

The following themes are designed for 6th-12th grade students.

Sustainable Living: Living Lightly on the Earth

- ◆ Human communities affect the quality of natural and human-built environments and can follow models of recycling, relationships and energy sources in nature in order to achieve sustainability.
- ◆ People can choose to participate in responsible actions to promote sustainable human communities and enhance or protect the quality of the environment: buy food locally, seasonally, in bulk and avoid unnecessary packaging, use natural alternatives to toxic chemicals in the house/garden, conserve water, energy and space.

Sample Activities: Beach Exploration, Garden Project

Organic Agriculture

- ◆ Organic gardening is growing soil and food the way Nature does. Growing foods without the use of laboratory made fertilizer, anti-biotics, herbicides or pesticides.
- ◆ An ecological approach to farming that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. What are the differences in organic and conventional agricultural practices?

Sample Activities: Garden Project, Work with our Free-Range Chickens

Biodiversity

- ◆ Biodiversity is the representation of different types of life in nature.
- ◆ Some of the factors that affect biodiversity include: native/non-native species interactions, the impact of humans, animals, insects and climate change.
- ◆ Biodiversity is necessary for a healthy, sustainable ecosystem.

Sample Activities: Beach Exploration, Garden Project