

Outdoor Environmental Education Programs Trainings and Workshops Spring 2012

Register for all courses on PDO.

Teachers of sixth grade residential Outdoor Environmental Education will have priority.

EE-02 Teaching Techniques for Outdoor Environmental Education; February 16–May 10, 2012 (see details on PDO)

In this 3 credit CPD course participants will learn about all aspects of the Grade 6 Residential Outdoor Environmental Education Program with emphasis on content, instructional techniques, and management strategies that will help teachers engage students in vigorous learning while teaching in a unique setting. Since the outdoor environment provides an integrated context for learning at Outdoor Ed, participants will learn how to use outdoor explorations as authentic experiences in which to teach MCPS curriculum through well-designed, rigorous lesson plans. Course participants will also be introduced to resources and technology that are available to help teachers prepare and teach effectively at the residential outdoor environmental education program. Full attendance is expected.

Basics of Container Gardening — A Primer; Course #53397, Section # 70002 February 21, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Voluntary two-hour workshop for the MCPS Community conducted by OEEP and the Montgomery County Master Gardeners on how to successfully grow plants (perennials or edibles) in a container. The workshop will develop teachers' background knowledge and skill in planning, planting, and maintaining container gardens. It will include demonstrations of various container gardens, and provide some starter seeds!

Food Web (Predator/Prey); Course # 50893, Section # 69929 Saturday, March 3, 2012 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Voluntary workshop for teachers who are interested in teaching the predator/prey simulation lesson that is used during the residential outdoor education experience for sixth grade students. The simulation supports the populations and diversity concepts in the sixth grade science curriculum and provides students with an engaging and thought-provoking glimpse into how food webs work and function. Teachers who complete this workshop will be able to conduct the simulation during their students' sixth grade residential experience. The workshop will focus on organizing the experience for maximum educational value and safety.

Patterns of Settlement / Social Studies Curriculum; Course # 50897, Section # 69930 Thursday, March 8, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Voluntary workshop for teachers of sixth grade outdoor education that will focus on using map reading and GPS skills so that students learn to locate various habitats in which they could sustain a settlement. The students goal will be to determine which habitat offers resources and the most potential for settlers to relocate, survive, and prosper. The lesson may be done during residential outdoor education or could be modified to be used at school.

Confidence Course Re-Certification; Course # 50890, Section # 69998

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

In order to maintain the ability to use the confidence course for instruction, staff members need to complete a three-hour re-certification course every three years. Instructors certified in, or prior to, March 2009, are due for re-certification. This voluntary course is for MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education certification only. Available only to those who have taken EE-06 Confidence Course training.

Exploring the Watershed Using Map and Compass; Course # 50895, Section # 69933

Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Voluntary workshop for teachers who are interested in teaching a watershed lesson and integrating instruction on the use of map and compass as tools for exploration. Each outdoor education site has a course that marks special features of our local watershed: students use map and compass skills to navigate to those areas to investigate each feature. Teachers who complete this workshop will be able to conduct a structured exploration of the watershed during their students' sixth grade residential experience. The workshop will focus on organizing the experience for maximum educational value and safety.

Stream Study or Pond Study Workshop; Course # 50894, Section # 69931

Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Voluntary workshop for teachers who are interested in conducting a stream study with their students. This workshop will focus on techniques for conducting a macroinvertebrate survey, chemical analysis, and stream buffer analysis of a local stream in order to determine the health of the local watershed. Food web and food chain concepts will be reinforced through identification of the organisms in a stream ecosystem. The environmental impact of various pollutants will be discussed.

Tree Identification Using GPS for Navigation Workshop; Course # 53863, Section # 69927

Thursday, April 12, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Voluntary workshop for teachers who are interested in teaching a tree identification lesson utilizing GPS as a tool for navigation. The workshop will develop teachers' background knowledge and vocabulary necessary to identify tree species. In addition, participants will learn the basics of operating the Garmin eTrex GPS units.

Outdoor Environmental Education Program (OEEP) and Grade 6 Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours; Course # 53045, Section # 69928

Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:00–7:00 p.m.

This voluntary workshop will enable Grade 6 teachers to facilitate student completion of the Grade 6 student service learning (SSL) requirement during the three-day Outdoor Environmental Education Residential Program. Instructors will model teaching new SSL lessons using hands-on experiences and will supply teachers with lesson templates and resources.