



UP Outdoors Information for Educators and Parents

GRAVATT CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
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UPLAND PINE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER

INFO FOR EDUCATORS

The Upland Pine Outdoor Adventure Center (UP Outdoors) at Gravatt Camp and Conference Center is an outdoor, adventure, and environmental education service for public, private, and homeschool students. By participating in UP Outdoors, students gain confidence through individual and group activities, develop an appreciation for the outdoors, and learn about how our environment plays a role in our everyday lives. Located in Aiken County, Camp Gravatt sits on nearly 300 acres of wooded forest, lakes, and wetlands, and can accommodate a wide variety of day, overnight, or multi-night school groups. We provide all teaching, activities, meals, and lodging during your stay, and our staff looks forward to serving you!

UP Outdoors facilities include multiple lakes, trails, outdoor classrooms, recreation areas, two dining halls, climate-controlled lodging and meeting spaces, and platform tents and cabins. UP Outdoors participants can also take advantage of our Team-Building Course (Low Ropes) and our industry-leading Challenge Course (High Ropes), along with our numerous recreational activities such as canoeing, archery, hiking, games, and more!

The UP Outdoors curriculum combines environmental, experiential, and adventure-based education programs to create meaningful, challenging, and rich learning experiences for students of all ages. Our standards-based curriculum provides hands-on experiences that get students actively engaged in their outdoor world while also challenging them to grow individually and as a group. Students will engage in fun activities that focus on forest and wetland ecology, water systems, biodiversity, conservation, astronomy, botany, and much more!

Up Outdoors offers experiences throughout the year for students and schools of all levels, ages, and sizes, and our professional and experienced staff will tailor our programming to meet your specific goals and needs. Give us a call today to see how UP Outdoors can help your students!



UPLAND PINE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER

INFO FOR PARENTS

We appreciate your interest in the Upland Pine Outdoor Adventure Center (UP Outdoors) at Gravatt Camp and Conference Center! We want your child to gain confidence through individual and group activities, develop an appreciation for the outdoors, and learn about how our environment plays a role in our everyday lives. Located in Aiken County, Gravatt sits on nearly 300 acres of wooded forest, lakes, and wetlands. Well-known for our summer camp and challenge course, Gravatt also hosts educational and youth groups throughout the year, and we look forward to seeing your child soon!

UP Outdoors will tailor your child's experience based on the needs of each grade level, class, or teacher. To that end, we combine environmental, experiential, and adventure-based education programs to create meaningful, challenging, and rich learning experiences for your child while they are with us. Our curriculum offers the chance for your child to experience the natural world first-hand while also learning about individual goal-setting, group dynamics, and team-building skills.

Gravatt has over 75 years of experience in providing youth, adults, students, and schools with experiences that not only meet academic standards, but also help develop the whole child. Our staff is trained in environmental and experiential education, and we have a variety of instructors who know how to meet the wide-ranging needs of schools and students. We love having a front row seat to the positive and life-changing impact that being in the outdoors has on children of all ages, and we know your child will come home with stories, skills, and an experience they can draw on for years to come.

Please visit our website for more information on UP Outdoors, Camp Gravatt, and our various offerings, and please be sure to ask your teacher/school about their specific goals and itinerary for your group. We look forward to serving you at Gravatt, and we can't wait for your child to experience the outdoors with us!

BETWEEN EVERY TWO PINES

“Between every two pines there is a doorway to a new world.” –John Muir

General Overview

This outdoor class experience will take your students into the great outdoors to discover a wide world of natural beauty! Together we will explore an Upland Longleaf Pine Forest, learn about the ecological processes of the native and critically endangered longleaf pine, and get hands-on time examining the bones of the creatures who call Gravatt home!

Activities

Students will learn about animal classification through an in-field discussion and actual bone examinations including skulls, furs, and antlers. A guided nature hike through Sparkleberry Woods will focus on the longleaf pine ecosystem, animal behavior, and the balance of the food web. Students will engage in multiple fun games and follow along a deer path while learning about natural resource conservation and how the cycle of matter contributes to our ecosystem.

Science and Engineering Practices, Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts

- Earth Materials and Systems
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Systems and System Models
- Cycle of Matter/Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
- Natural Resources
- Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life
- Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms



IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE!

General Overview

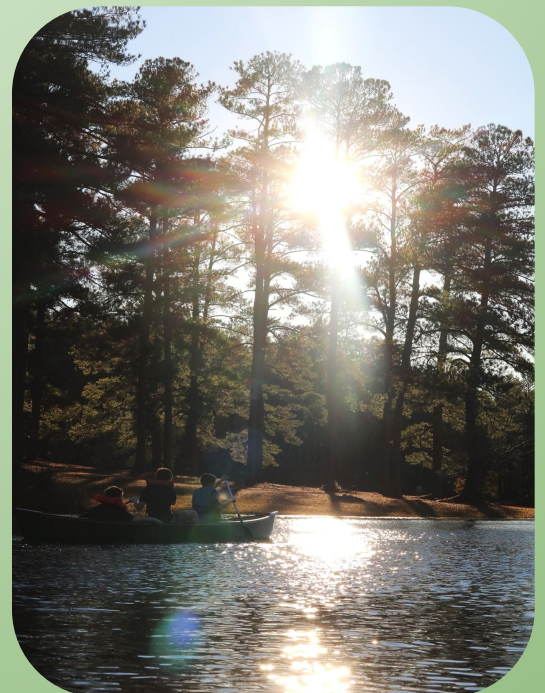
A little mud never hurt anyone! In this class we will trace the origins of water, learn about various hydrologic processes including the water cycle, discuss the effects of downstream pollution, and see the power of erosion first hand. While at our outdoor classroom on the shore of Lake Henry, we will put on our waders, head into the lake, and examine the mud to find and identify the aquatic insects that support a healthy lake ecosystem!

Activities

Students will engage in multiple activities related to the water cycle and water's effect on the surrounding wetland ecosystem. Students will hike to the spring of Lake Henry, follow the stream downhill, and examine the causes and effects of erosion. Students will get to participate in a Water Cycle simulation activity and get muddy as they search, identify, and categorize various water insects. The effects of water pollution will also be discussed as they relate to both natural and human impacts.

Science and Engineering Practices, Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts

- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Developing and Using Models
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Human Impacts on Earth Systems
- The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes
- Earth Materials and Systems
- Systems and System Models



WHOOO TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS?

General Overview

Discover the world of moonlight as we wander and discuss the critters who are specially adapted to the dark. In this nocturnal class we will learn the evolutionary advantages of owls, bats, and moths, oh my! Our full senses will be put to the test as we feel, taste, smell, and listen to the activity of nighttime forest life. After a few lessons and games, we will wind our class down with stories from the past about the constellations of the night sky.



Activities

Overnight groups love going on this Night Hike which includes discussions about how many animals have adapted and evolved to the darkness. Students will learn about the anatomy of the eye, and they will engage in using the rest of their senses, just as these animals do, to investigate how they navigate the nighttime forest ecosystem. Students will also engage in star gazing activities that focus on astronomy and constellation history.

Science and Engineering Practices, Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts

- The Universe and Its Stars
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
- Patterns

EAT THE WEEDS!

General Overview

In the forest, there is food all around us hiding in plain sight! Join us as we learn to identify a variety of edible (and safe!) plants that have supported human life for centuries. We will discuss the different parts of plants, the uses of different flora in the forest, and how to identify our edible species. Armed with knowledge and trowels, we will head out into Sparkleberry Woods to sustainably harvest select species to safely sample either raw or cooked. This primitive culinary class will end with the harvesting and cooking of Sassafras root to make homemade root-beer tea for all to enjoy.

Activities

Students will compare and contrast modern and primitive food sources, collect and classify leaves, and identify various parts and anatomies of our native plants. Students will learn to safely identify edible forest food, identify and classify plant species, and make sassafras tea.

Science and Engineering Practices, Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts

- Earth Materials and Systems
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life
- Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience
- Biodiversity and Humans
- Natural Resources
- Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms



CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT? GET OUT OF THE FOREST!

General Overview

Fire is an essential part of forest health in our woods. We will wander the forest and discuss the effects of fire on the flora and fauna. Students will be able to see and compare the difference between burned and unburned stands of forest. We'll examine the soil quality in each forest section and see what we can deduce about carbon, our basic building block of life. Our class time will end with the construction of a miniature forest inside our controlled burn simulator. Before lighting the fire, we will take note of the different factors that affect prescribed fires, wind direction, humidity, temperature, moisture content, and fuel load. Once a solid plan is made, we will sit back and watch the power of fire first hand as it runs through our mini forest.

Activities

Students will go on a guided nature hike and learn how Gravatt uses prescribed burns to promote the overall health of our forest ecosystem. Students will examine how proper forest management techniques support the various forms of life in the forest, and they will learn about carbon's role in our forest. Students will compare soil samples, develop their own prescribed burn plan, and test it out in our fire simulator.

Science and Engineering Practices, Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts

- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Systems and System Models
- Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

TEAM-BUILDING COURSE

General Overview

Our Team-Building Course offers diverse and scalable group challenges that provide students with the opportunity to grow in their teamwork, trust, and communication skills. Challenges can be differentiated to meet the needs of each group and/or individual students.

Activities

Often referred to as Low Ropes, our Team-Building Course offers group activities like the Trust Fall, Whale Watch, and The Wall which all require groups to work together to overcome challenges. With over 20 different obstacles, the course offerings can be tailored to any group's individual needs.

Profile of the SC Graduate Competencies

- Lead Teams
- Navigate Conflict
- Express Ideas
- Design Solutions
- Build Networks
- Sustain Wellness



CHALLENGE COURSE

General Overview

Our Challenge Course is geared toward each individual in your group. Students will practice goal-setting skills while participating in the philosophy of “Challenge By Choice.” Students will participate in challenge course elements where they are belayed by a staff member on the ground as they navigate through our course in the trees. This course is designed to safely push students out of their comfort zone and challenge them to set goals and encourage one another—no matter what each individual’s goals may be.

Activities

Often referred to as High Ropes, our Challenge Course has numerous elements that require participants to set a goal, trust their belayer, and navigate challenges high above the ground. Elements include the Catwalk, Zipline, and our Climbing Tower.

Profile of the SC Graduate Competencies

Lead Teams

Navigate Conflict

Express Ideas

Design Solutions

Build Networks

Sustain Wellness



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

General Overview

Gravatt has a variety of Recreational Activities in which your group may choose to participate during your stay. Our property is well-suited for rest and relaxation, and offers guests the opportunity to get away from the stress of everyday life. We offer a variety of activities that are scalable to meet the needs of a variety of ages and group sizes, and can be adapted to multiple seasons and weather situations.

Activities

We offer a variety of activities included, but not limited to:

- Canoeing
- Archery
- Hiking (Guided or Independent) on Multiple Trails
- Swimming on Lake Henry and/or Lake Sylvia (With a Water Slide and a Blob!)
- Campfire (with or without S'Mores!)
- Indoor and Outdoor Chapels

Profile of the SC Graduate Competencies

- Build Networks
- Sustain Wellness
- Lead Teams
- Navigate Conflict
- Express Ideas

