

“Great Basin Naturalists’ provided such a nurturing environment for our students to explore, learn and be a part of the natural outdoor area.”

Ann Urie, NBCT  
Lenz Elementary



## Day and Residential Outdoor School Field Studies



Quality outdoor day and residential school field studies that emphasize STEM curriculum and discovery-based learning.

## Program Overview

Hands-on discovery based science education paired with physical activity, inspire and reinforce student core learning in an outdoor setting.



**Day Field Studies** - \$5/student

**Extended Day** (up to 10 hours) - \$40/student

**Residential Field Studies**

2 day/1 night: \$ 80/student

3 day/2 night: \$120/student

4 day/3 night: \$165/student

5 day/4 night: \$200/student

Partial and Full Scholarships available for Title I schools and individual students made possible by

- Neil J. Redfield Foundation
- Community Foundation of Western Nevada
- Individual Supporters



“These programs offer such rich, outdoor education and help Washoe County School District meet its goal of providing superior education in a safe and challenging environment.”

Kelly Cannon, Washoe County School District Science and STEM Education Coordinator

Contact us and make outdoor learning apart of your classroom.

**Galena Creek Visitor Center**  
Six miles up Mt. Rose Hwy from South Reno

(775) 849-4948

visitorcenter@GBinstitute.org  
www.GalenaCreekVisitorCenter.org



Great Basin Naturalists at Galena School Field Studies are provided through a partnership between Washoe County, U.S. Forest Service and Great Basin Institute.



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All Day, Extended Day, and Residential Programs include:

- Pre-trip program at your school and post-trip activity packet.
- All Field Study Curriculum incorporate Nevada Common Core Standards
- Experienced Environmental Educators guide students’ learning experience
- Students use skills associated with asking questions, discussing, drawing conclusions, carrying out environmental investigations, hiking, evaluating, problem solving, collecting and interpreting data, modeling system function and form, team building, and much more.

# K-12 Sample Curriculum Topics and Standards

Galena Creek Recreation Area is a Living Laboratory.  
Each field study is individually designed with teachers to create unique experiential learning opportunities for students.

## Forest Life and Lifecycles (K-2)

Students identify various stages that plants and insects experience throughout their lives and the roles these stages play in ecosystem function.

NGSS: K-LS1-1; K-ESS2-1; K-PS3-1; K-ESS3-1; K-ESS3-3; 1-LS3-1; 2-LS4-1

## Meet Jeff (K-3)

Core ideas will include how plants need sunlight and water to grow, how to compare diversity in different habitats and how traits vary and affect survival in plants. NGSS: 2-LS2-1; 2-LS4-1; 3-LS3-2; 3-LS4-3

## Insect Planet (K-3)

Core ideas will include the use of observations to describe patterns in organisms, how organisms can change the environment to meet their needs, how a habitat affects the survival of its inhabitants and how these organisms have unique and diverse life cycles. NGSS: K-LS1-1; K-ESS2-1; K-ESS3-3; 2-LS4-1; 3-LS1-1

## Animal Adaptations (3-5)

Core ideas will include how an animal's traits relate to the environment, how animals adapt to survive and how change in the environment affects animals. NGSS: 3-LS2-1; 3-LS3-1; 3-LS3-2; 3-LS4-3; 4-LS1-1

## Clean Air Challenge (3-5)

Core ideas include how energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and how their uses affect air quality, identify ways to reduce air pollution and help protect Earth's resources and environments. NGSS: 4-ESS3-1; 5-ESS2-1; 5-ESS3-1

**Curriculum is tailored to individual classroom needs. Additional sample topics:**

- Forest Birds
- Rocks in Action
- Seasonal Changes
- Weather Patterns and Function
- Pollinators

## Food Webs (3-5)

Core ideas will include how energy in food comes from the sun, how energy moves among plants animals and decomposer, and how characteristic in an organism may provide advantages in survival. NGSS: 3-LS4-4; 4-LS1-1; 5-PS3-1; 5-LS2-1

## Surviving in the Sierras (4-MS)

Core ideas will include how groups help members survive, how traits are influenced by the environment, how characteristics help a species survive and how communities use science to protect Earth's resources. NGSS 3-LS2-1; 3-LS4-2; 3-LS4-3; 5-ESS3-1; HS-LS2-6

## Water Life and Systems (3-5)

Core ideas will include understanding how structures function to support an organism, how an organism's traits are influenced by the environment, how water is locally distributed and how the environment affects the survival of various species. NGSS: 7-LS4-4; 3-LS3-2; 4-LS1-1; 5-ESS2-1; 5-ESS2-2; 5-ESS3-1

## Plant and Animal Interdependence (4-MS)

By focusing on plants or animals, students identify the movement of energy and matter through a balanced ecosystem. NGSS: 4-LS1-1; 4-LS1-2; 4-ESS2-1; 5-LS1-1; 5-LS2-1; 5-PS3-1; 5-ESS2-1; 5-ESS3-1; MS-LS2-1; MS-LS2-2; MS-LS2-3; MS-LS2-4; MS-LS2-5

## Forest Health Assessment (MS-HS)

Students will learn more about how land management agencies assess forest ecosystem health by use of appropriate instruments to measure tree stands and biotic and abiotic factors. NGSS: HS-LS2-6

## Water Quality Assessment (MS-HS)

Using appropriate measurement tools, students conduct water quality tests in multiple water bodies and learn how environmental factors influence biotic systems. NGSS: MS-ESS2-4; HS-LS2-1; HS-LS2-2; HS-LS2-6; HS-ESS3-3

# Residential and Extended Day Field Studies

The beautiful WeChMe Lodge, a secluded forested retreat, boasts a professional kitchen, dining area, showers, and sleeps eight per room. The sports lawn, BBQ, campfire area, and outdoor amphitheater enhance the learning experience.



“Our high-schoolers spent a full week with Great Basin Naturalists at WeChMe Lodge. The curriculum is fantastic. Kids learned about water, air, forest fires, etc. They learned to work with each other, to work with new people, and they learned about their staff in a way you don't have access to during school. The benefit to these students was immeasurable and will stay with them all their lives.”

Alissa Wilmet, Dean of Students  
Rainshadow Community Charter High School

“I was able to participate in a 10-hour extended day field trip with Katherine Dunn Elementary, and it was absolutely fabulous! The students were always engaged and participated eagerly.

Everyone was tickled to enjoy a campfire and roasting marshmallows. Many of our kids had never been in a forest before, and this was a unique experience for them.

I really appreciated your staff helping us with fundraising to make this experience happen for our students.”

Debi Stears, Washoe County School District  
Community Outreach Coordinator



“The two days and one night program was a truly effective and highly engaging learning experience for all of our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Our students hiked, observed nature, compared water samples, took notes, applied their knowledge through games and activities, worked as partners and teams, managed their food waste, and engaged in positive social interactions with each other. Teachers, parents and students are so grateful for this opportunity so close to home.”

Nancy R. Crosby,  
Hunsberger Elementary School

