

Program Goals

Before beginning an outdoor education experience, teachers should outline the goals of their program. While each school has different reasons for involvement in outdoor education, they each have a particular rationale for being there. When planning your objectives you should start by asking "What do we want the students to leave with that they did not have when they arrived?" Once this is answered, the planning process becomes much easier.

It should be stressed that outdoor education is not just "camp" but an educational experience with important implications for the student both in the outdoors and back in the classroom. With this in mind, I offer the following goals of the Camp Cheerio Outdoor Education Center as a place to start your planning.

- Increase the students understanding of his/her relationship to the natural environment.
- Strengthen the social relationships of the students with other students, teachers and other adults involved in the program.
- Give students a sense of independence, responsibility and self-identity.
- Facilitate an atmosphere of group cohesion.

Programs are customized to meet the needs of each individual school. The Cheerio staff will work closely with you to ensure that a workable schedule is developed to attain these goals.