



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



YMCA CAMP WIDJIWAGAN OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



EXPLORE. CONNECT. GROW.

Tennessee's rich natural environments and biodiversity represent valuable assets for teaching students environmental literacy and improving academic performance while strengthening their appreciation of nature.

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan invites students, teachers, and parents to **explore, connect, and grow** in the unique and energizing outdoor environment of camp.

It is our goal to partner with teachers and parents to complement classroom studies with hands-on, interdisciplinary outdoor environmental education lessons that meet certain state standards.



OEE OBJECTIVES

Outdoor Environmental Education (OEE) trips can:

- Strengthen your class's sense of community by enabling students to connect with each other their teachers, and their parents in a new and natural environment
- Encourage students to gain respect for themselves, each other, and the natural world through unique experiences
- Enhance students' learning of classroom studies
- Ignite students' curiosity of the outdoors

FOUR CORE VALUES

Camp Widjiwagan's goal is to provide a safe, fun, magical, and educational experience for all guests and children who come to camp.

Each day, we work to demonstrate the Y's core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility while practicing a "Kids and Guests First" philosophy.

The 4 Core Values are embedded in the trails and recreational activities of our Outdoor Environmental Education program.



SINGLE DAY OEE EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Arrival & Orientation
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Environmental Trail #1
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Environmental Trail #2
- 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Sack Lunch at Central Pavilion
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Environmental Trail #3
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Widji Rec Activity #1
- 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Widji Rec Activity #2
- 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. S'mores Snack
- 4:00 p.m. Departure

3 ENVIRONMENTAL TRAILS

Led by Widji staff or Teachers & Volunteers

2 WIDJI REC ACTIVITIES

Led by Widji staff

Open Play Games at no additional costs

*** Schedules above are examples of options available. Custom schedules can be created for your class.**



TWO DAY & ONE NIGHT OEE EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

DAY ONE

- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. Arrival
- 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Sack Lunch & Orientation
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Environmental Trail #1
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Environmental Trail #2
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. S'mores Snack
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Environmental Trail #3
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Environmental Trail #4
- 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Open Play Games
- 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Prep for Dinner
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner in Dining Lodge
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Evening Activities
- 9:00 p.m. Bedtime Prep

DAY TWO

- 7:30 – 8:15 a.m. Wake up & Pack up
- 8:15 – 8:30 a.m. Flag pole
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Widji Rec Activity #1
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Widji Rec Activity #2
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Widji Rec Activity #3
- 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Departure

4 ENVIRONMENTAL TRAILS

Led by Widji staff or Teachers & Volunteers

3 WIDJI REC ACTIVITIES

Led by Widji staff
Open Play Games at no additional costs

*** Schedules above are examples of options available. Custom schedules can be created for your class.**



ACTIVITY OPTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAILS

Led by Widji staff or teachers & volunteers

- Soil Investigation
- Mystery Tree Challenge
- Tracks & Scats
- Survival Simulation
- Rotten Log Investigation
- Cedar Glades Search
- Water Wonders
- Orienteering
- Creatures Features (Ex: Deer, Skunk, Turtle, Snake)

WIDJI REC ACTIVITIES

Must be led by Widji staff

- Canoes & Kayaks
- Climbing
- Giant Swing
- Zip Line
- Archery
- Challenge Course
- Farm Visit with Horse Ride
- Green House

WIDJI EVENING ACTIVITIES

Must be led by Widji staff

- Wolfpack
- Greatest Game Ever Invented
- Campfire

OPEN PLAY GAMES

Led by teachers & volunteers at no additional cost

- Fishing and Fish ID
- Mineshaft slides
- Sports and Games

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAILS

» SOIL INVESTIGATION

Compare and contrast soil samples in different locations around Camp. Use your senses and scientific techniques to investigate what is in soil, how it is made, and what grows in it.

» MYSTERY TREE CHALLENGE

Utilize provided information and context clues in the forest to identify your mystery tree fruit or seed. This team activity employs students' communication skills and introduces the concept of classification through a series of investigations and observations.

» TRACKS AND SCATS

Hike Widji's Snoopy Trails that run along the shoreline of Percy Priest Lake. Explore the macro and micro habitats of both cedars and hardwoods, while keeping your eyes out for tracks and noses tuned-in to identify some unique species.

» SURVIVAL SIMULATION

Engage in various tasks and scenarios associated with surviving in the wilderness. Methods of acquiring food and water, shelter building and fire building along with basic first aid will challenge students to tap into their survival instincts.

» ROTTEN LOG INVESTIGATION

Discover the many unique features of this micro-habitat by investigating the layers atop, inside and beneath. Find evidence of decomposers, producers and consumers who depend on elements of this habitat for survival.

» CEDAR GLADES SEARCH

Work in teams to identify whether or not the unique cedar glade ecosystem exists at Camp Widji. Investigate mysterious sinkholes, identify soft and slimy species of moss and algae, and survey the lay of the land to develop your hypothesis and conclude your findings.

» WATER WONDERS

Conduct water quality assessments around Camp's peninsulas on Percy Priest Lake with various tools and procedures to determine the health of our aquatic ecosystems. Explore how humans impact our watersheds and what it all means in the scope of our global fresh water resource and the water cycle.

» ORIENTEERING

After a brief introduction of compass use and map reading, students will venture out in groups on a TEAM Quest. Through practical application for their geography skills, students will seek to find unique activities as they work through their orienteering course.

» CREATURES FEATURES

Study the ecology of native TN animals through interactive activities exploring interdependence, identification, adaptations, and heredity. Animals that we can focus on are deer, skunks, raccoons, turtle, snakes, turtles or bats.

WIDJI REC ACTIVITIES

»» CANOES & KAYAKS

Learn basic paddling skills before venturing into the canoe cove with your partner, and ponder what animals use the same mobility tactics in their everyday lives.

»» CLIMBING

Set goals for yourself and exercise your mind and body on the Alpine Tower or Mt. Widji climbing wall, and encourage your fellow classmates as they do the same.

»» GIANT SWING

Fly high with the help of your classmates. Decipher what forces are present when you pull, swing and stop.

»» ZIP LINE

Glide along Widji's famous double zip line with a fellow classmate, and enjoy the "free fall" feeling of physics.

»» ARCHERY

Students will learn modern shooting techniques, safety, the different types of equipment available, and the fundamentals of archery. Students will have multiple chances to succeed and challenge their abilities with progressive target depths and unique targets.

»» CHALLENGE COURSE

Group initiative activities and team building efforts that utilize our low ropes course elements. The course evokes problem-solving which builds cooperation and trust.

»» FARM VISIT

Have a personal encounter with our donkeys, goats, sheep and miniature ponies. Learn characteristics of their behavior, anatomy, and unique personalities.

»» GREEN HOUSE

Taste-test some of our plants, take their temperature and explore other special features a greenhouse and the Greenhouse Effect. Recycle a water bottle and make a take home a plant-to-be that waters itself!

»» CREATURES FEATURES

Study the ecology of native TN animals through interactive activities exploring interdependence, identification, adaptations, and heredity. Animals that we can focus on are deer, skunks, raccoons, turtle, snakes, turtles or bats.

OPEN PLAY GAMES

»» FISHING & FISH ID

Fish for worms in our worm bin at the dock, then bait your bamboo pole and learn what kind of fish are in Percy Priest Lake. Remember what you catch, you release – after a fish selfie of course.

»» MINESHAFT SLIDES

Enjoy a sleigh ride down the tubed mineshafts slides with a buddy, and a chaperone.

»» SPORTS & FIELD GAMES

Access our sports shed for equipment to play field games like soccer, ultimate Frisbee and Quidditch.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

»» WOLFPACK

This night activity explores the talents and gifts of wolves, as students howl, sneak and stick with their pack to be the last pack standing.

»» THE GREATEST GAME EVER INVENTED

Compete as a team against teams to win points for challenges such as: best impersonation of a turkey call, funniest vacation story, team reenactment of a movie scene, group cheer, naming state capitals in under 30 seconds and more. The points don't matter but the fun and memories do! So fun that students will not even know that they are "learning something."

»» CAMPFIRE

Students will prepare special skits and participate in camp songs with the fun and energetic Widji staff.



OEE PRICING AT YMCA CAMP WIDJIWAGAN

PACKAGES

DAY TRIP

- Environmental trails led by teachers, 1 Widji rec activity, & lunch \$40 per student*
- Additional environmental trails & rec activities led by Widji staff \$10 per student per activity*
- * 15% discount is applied for each additional day

OVERNIGHT TRIP

- Environmental trails led by teachers, 1 Widji rec activity per day, & 3 meals \$65 per student per night
- Additional environmental trails & rec activities led by Widji staff \$10 per student per activity

FOOD OPTIONS

- Additional meals \$8 per student
- Snacks \$3 per student

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

- Widji Bus with driver \$250 per bus
- School provided Free parking

* Discounts and financial assistance available.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION



ROBYN SELLERS

Assistant Camp Director

Office Phone: 615-360-2267

Email: rsellers@ymcamidtn.org