

## Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus – Fall 2023

### **CLASS TITLE: GVNCP – Michigan Nature**

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS:** ages 5 to 18

**START DATE:** Sept 19, 2023

**END DATE:** Nov 7, 2023

**# WEEKS TOTAL:** 8 weeks

**DAY/TIME:** 2 PM to 4 PM (2 hours per day)

**DAY OF WEEK:** Tuesdays, the class is 8 Tuesdays in a row

**# HOURS (REQUIRED):** 16 hours total (16 total lessons)

#### **LOCATION/ADDRESS: DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION :**

**Dewey Cannon Park**

**Behind 14 Maple Street, Three Oaks, MI 49128**

**And at Watkins Park**

**599 W Locust Street, Three Oaks, MI 49128**

**And at Harbert Community Park**

**13411 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, MI 49115**

**MAIN INSTRUCTOR: Zoe Elrick**

#### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Phone:** 269-612-8172

**Email:** [galienvalley@gmail.com](mailto:galienvalley@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html](http://www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html)

Please email the instructor to let her know that you signed up for her class.

#### **INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS: Zoe Elrick**

Zoe Elrick has a background in education, culture, science, art, history, as well as landscape architecture and ecology. In 2011, she started the Galien Valley Nature and Culture Program (GV-NCP), in Three Oaks, Michigan. Also, she is a registered landscape architect in Michigan and has worked for Pizzo and Associates, an ecological restoration firm of prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. Her landscape architecture degree is from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Plus, she has taken nature classes in New Jersey at the Tracker School of nature awareness, wilderness living, and wilderness survival.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Class is all outdoors. Dress for weather. Class will not be indoors.

This class is both informative and fun! Come enjoy the Three Oaks area, explore its parks, native plants, and wildlife, and play nature games. Learn about nature through a variety of hands-on nature-exploration skills, nature journaling, games, mapping, and nature crafts. Bring the family and a blanket, it's a family picnic style class.

One or two parents (or adult relatives) must attend class with student(s) ages 10 and younger, per family. One or two parents (or adult relatives) may attend class with student(s) ages 11 and older, per family. A parent is to help guide his / her kid(s) along nature trails to do nature activities. Also, a parent may be needed to help his / her kid(s) make nature crafts or play nature games. Unaccompanied students ages 11 and up may be paired up with each other to help each other.

**Michigan Nature Topics** include: Michigan nature, Native Plants, Native Animals, Woods and Water; Nature Journal; Deep-Sensing Nature; Tracking and Awareness; Mapping; and Nature Crafts. During each class, students will be outdoors, playing nature games and studying nature.

## SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY 2 lessons per week (within 2 hours)

Week 1 - Tuesday - Sept 19 –	Intro, and Michigan Nature	(at Dewey Cannon Park)
Week 2 - Tuesday - Sept 26 –	Trees, and Birds	(at Dewey Cannon Park)
Week 3 - Tuesday - Oct 3 –	Nature Crafts, and Maps	(at Dewey Cannon Park)
Week 4 - Tuesday - Oct 10 –	Marsh, and Wetlands	(at Watkins Park)
Week 5 - Tuesday - Oct 17 –	Water, and Ponds	(at Harbert Community Park)
Week 6 - Tuesday - Oct 24 –	Native Plants, and Trees	(at Harbert Community Park)
Week 7 - Tuesday – Oct 31 –	Woods, and Wildlife	(at Watkins Park)
Week 8 - Tuesday - Nov 7 –	Review, and Organize Journal	(at Dewey Cannon Park)

## COURSE MATERIALS:

Teacher provides some info sheets.

**(Required)** Required to bring to class (provided by student/family):

**Blanket(s)** large enough for whole family.

**Dress for outdoor weather.**

**Bring a mask, optional to regularly wear, but we may use it in a nature activity.**

**Water Bottle, 3-ring binder, paper, pencil.**

Optional Materials (provided by student/family) Suggested optional stuff to bring: color pencils, pens, markers, hat, **snacks**, camera.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (websites):

[www.z-hub.org/galienvalleynpc.html](http://www.z-hub.org/galienvalleynpc.html)

[www.z-hub.org/nature.html](http://www.z-hub.org/nature.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/GalienValleyNCP/>

<https://zoemonthlyblog.blogspot.com/>

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Each day of class, a student will draw / sketch and write in his Nature Journal.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?** All classes abide by the following:

1. Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
2. The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff.

**Student Assessment: Students to:** 1. Be prepared / bring materials. 2. Listen to teacher. 3. Ask questions, if don't understand. 4. Be on time to class. 5. Do class activities. 6. Do activities to the best of ability of age. 7. Respects classmates. 8. Be open to suggestions. 9. Stay on task of class activities. 10. Brings required materials (see list below).

## CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

**Attendance: Students need to attend 80% of class hours.**

**Parents Needed to be in Class.** Bring the family and a blanket, it's a family picnic style class. One or two parents (or adult relatives) must attend class with student(s) under age 11, per family. The parents / adult relatives are to help guide their kid(s) with nature activities and crafts.

**Behavior: Students are expected to be on time, bring required materials (see list below), listen to teacher, follow directions, participate in class activities, and respect classmates.**

**Weather: Class will be postponed until next week, if there is severe weather.**

**(Bring) Bring Required Materials:**

**Blanket(s) large enough for whole family.**

**Dress for outdoor weather.**

**Bring a mask, optional to regularly wear, but we may use it in a nature activity.**

**Water Bottle, 3-ring binder, paper, pencil.**

**Students should come to class with a story of the week, briefly talk about something the student saw or experienced outdoors, in nature or a backyard.**