Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

CLASS TITLE: GVNCP - Habitats and Wildlife

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: ages 6 and up

START DATE: Jan 27, 2021 **END DATE:** April 28, 2021
 # WEEKS TOTAL: 8 weeks **DAY/TIME:** 2 Noon to 4 PM (2 hours per day)
DAY OF WEEK: Wednesday, not consecutive weeks
CLASS DAYS: Jan 27, Feb 10, Feb 17, Mar 10, Mar 17, Apr 14, Apr 21, Apr 28
 # HOURS (REQUIRED): 16 hours total

LOCATION/ADDRESS: DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION :

Fernwood Botanical Gardens	**13988 Range Line Road, Niles, MI 49120**
Warren Dunes State Park	**12032 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer, MI 49125**
Galien River Park	**17424 Red Arrow Hwy, New Buffalo, MI 49117**
Mud Lake Bog	**905 E. Elm Valley Rd, Buchanan, MI 49107**
Warren Wood State Park	**Elm Valley Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128**

MAIN INSTRUCTOR: Zoe Elrick

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 269-612-8172

Email: galienvalley@gmail.com

Website: 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 winter and early spring outdoors of southern Berrien County from Warren Dunes to Fernwood, explore its natural habitats - it's prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. Learn about nature through a variety of hands-on nature-exploration skills and 4 habitats. To keep warm in the winter and early spring, we'll be moving and hiking and doing brief nature-exploration activities.
Parents Needed to be in Class. One or two parents (or adult relatives) must attend class with student(s), per family. The parents / adult relatives are to help guide their kid(s) along nature trails. Along nature trails, there will be designated spots for each family to take turns to stop at, to do a brief nature activity with their kid(s).

Habitats and Wildlife Topics include: Southwest Michigan local habitats; Prairies; Lake and Dunes; Woodlands; and Wetlands; Nature Journal; Deep-Sensing Nature; Tracking and Awareness; Plant Identification; and Local Plants and Animals. Plus, each class day, students get to enjoy the features, plants, animals, and nature at various locations. During each class, students will be outdoors, studying nature.

Habitats and Wildlife – 4 Habitat Units
are Prairies; Lake and Dunes; Wetlands; and Woodlands.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Teacher provides info sheets and nature activities.

(Required) Required to bring to class (provided by student/family):
Dress for outdoor weather. Mask. Little Bottle of Hand Sanitizer.
Pencils, paper, and a storage clipboard with a 3-ring binder inside the storage.
Bottle of Drinking Water. (Snacks optional)

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY

Week 1 - Wednesday – Jan 27 – Lake and Dunes	at Warren Dunes
Week 2 - Wednesday – Feb 10 – Wetlands	at Galien River Park
Week 3 - Wednesday – Feb 17 – Wetlands	at Mud Lake Bog
Week 4 - Wednesday – Mar 10 – Prairie	at Fernwood
Week 5 - Wednesday – Mar 17 – Prairie	at Fernwood
Week 6 - Wednesday – Apr 14 – Woods	at Warren Woods
Week 7 - Wednesday – Apr 21 – Woods	at Fernwood
Week 8 - Wednesday – Apr 28 – Woods	at Fernwood

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (websites):

www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html
www.z-hub.org/nature.html
https://www.facebook.com/GalienValleyNCP/
https://www.facebook.com/Nature-Environmental-Advocacy-45111822807/

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Student Journal "Story of the Day." At the end of each day of class, on one sheet, each student writes or draws about at least one thing the student learned, during that day in class.

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. One or two parents (or adult relatives) must attend class with student(s), per family. The parents / adult relatives are to help guide their kid(s) along nature trails.

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:
Dress for outdoor weather. Mask. Little Bottle of Hand Sanitizer.
Pencils, paper, and a storage clipboard with a 3-ring binder inside the storage.
Bottle of Drinking Water. (Snacks optional)

Class is outdoors, but bring a mask anyway. Along nature trails there will be designated spots for each family to take turns to stop at, to do a brief nature activity with their kid(s).