

# GV-NCP: Nature and Community Arts Syllabus

Spring 2018

## Instructor Information

### Instructor

Zoe Elrick

### Phone, Email, and Website

269-612-8172

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

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

### Class Location & Hours

(8 weeks, 2-hour class periods)

Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles, MI

12:30 to 2:30, Tuesdays

Jan 30,

Feb 20,

April 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15

### Instructor Bio

Zoe Elrick has a background in education, culture, science, art, history, as well as landscape architecture and ecology. In 2011, she started in the Galien Valley Nature and Culture Program (GV-NCP), in Three Oaks, Michigan. Also, she is a registered landscape architect, in Michigan, and works part time 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 classes from the Tracker School of tracking, awareness, nature, and wilderness survival.

## General Information

### Description

This class is both informative and fun! Come enjoy Fernwood, explore its natural habitats, as well as make art: nature-art. Learn about nature, cultures, communities, and art through a variety of hands-on nature-exploration skills and art skills.

**Nature and Community Arts Topics** include: making many aspects of a community from scratch from nature; Debris Hut Shelter; Water Filter and Purification; Fire-Making; Food and Foraging; Plant Identification; Cleaning; Community Culture; Landscape Stewardship; Community and Art in Harmony with Nature; learned up to 17 Nature and Community Art Skills; and many other arts and relating them to nature. Plus, each class day, students get to enjoy the features and nature of Fernwood. During each class, students will be outdoors, studying nature. There will be outdoor and indoor parts to class. The class aims to help each student develop a (daily or weekly) routine of skills to continue to learn about nature in class and at home and wherever they go, during the school year and beyond.

See next page for schedule, etc.

## Expectations and Goals: Pass/Fail

Pass / Fail

Students will generally know a lot more about nature, community, and art through a variety of nature-exploration skills and art skills. Students will better understand how aspects (shelter, water, food, cleaning, culture, landscape, etc.) of a community relate to people and nature. Specifically, students should be able to identify at least 10 plants; identify at least 5 edible plants; demonstrate the walk to see more wildlife; learned about the 4 priority tasks of wilderness survival, as well as up to 17 nature-community-art skills; and likely will have learned much more. Each week, in class, each student writes and or draws a weekly journal page - a “story of the day” of something the student learned about or experienced in class that day. Students pass if they attend 80% of the days of class.

## Course Materials

- Teacher provides weekly paper info-sheets, nature books, outdoor nature, land, leaves, flowers, sticks, and more.
- Required to bring to class (provided by student/family): dress for weather, class is indoors and or outdoors. Outdoor picnic style Workshop: bring a drinking water bottle, 3-ring binder, paper, pencils, clipboard.
- Optional Materials (provided by student/family) Suggested optional stuff to bring: picnic blanket, color pencils, pens, markers, hat, snacks, camera.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1 - Jan 30	Class Intro: Nature, Community, and Art
2 - Feb 20	Shelter
3 - Apr 10	Water, Fire, and Food
4 - Apr 17	Cleaning, Culture, and Landcare
5 - Apr 24	Tools and Clothes
6 - May 1	In Harmony with Nature
7 - May 8	Many Arts
8 - May 15	Review

## End of Semester: Finished Work

Scrapbook Each student writes and or draws a weekly journal page - a “story of the day” of something the student learned about and or experienced in class that day. Thus, by the end of the semester, each student will have about a 8-page journal (scrapbook) on the class, plus a semester of a variety of nature experiences.