



Rotary Environmental Center

Camp ASCCA Environmental Education Programs

*your window to
discovery*





The Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Environmental Center is a state of the art, 3,600 square foot facility located along the shoreline of Lake Martin on site at Camp ASCCA. Opened in 2004, the Center is divided in three large areas including an exhibit room, audio-visual room, and classroom. The exhibit area features world class exhibits designed by internationally known Greg Morrow of Southern Custom Exhibits. Hand painted murals, ecosystem displays, and interactive displays are all integrated into the theme of land, water, and sky.

Visitors and students are able to learn specific information applicable to each theme, such as the land-based topic of “Life Below the

Surface -- Dens and Burrows.” Students actually have a life-sized tunnel to explore with displays of creatures found underneath the ground. Or they might want to concentrate on the water theme of “The Tiny World of Invertebrates” and how they are reliable indicators of water quality. “Extreme Weather” and a live feed weather station are a couple of the sky displays. These and many other are available as part of the Dunn Center programs.

The audio-visual room is available for educational films, power point presentations, and general meeting area. The classroom is available for use as a supplementary area for teaching programs related to the exhibits and our outdoor programs. The Dunn Center also connects to a 1,500 foot long boardwalk trail that winds through the woods along the shoreline of the lake. Plaques with information on identified trees indigenous to our area are located along the trail.

***Camp ASCCA
is available to custom
design a program that
meets your specific
needs.***

Camp ASCCA Environmental Education Programs

Camp ASCCA offers excellent “hands on” programs that are a unique combination of supervised instruction and self guided discovery. Classes are conducted on-site utilizing the beautiful 230 acres including streams, forest, pond, Lake Martin, and the newly completed Dunn Environmental Center. Programs are customized to each group’s level and compliment the Alabama Course of Study in both Science and Social Studies. Instructors include ASCCA staff as well as professional volunteers from organizations such as Lake Watch of Lake Martin, Alabama Forestry Association, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Auburn University Department of Curriculum and Teaching.

Environmental Education Programs

Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students in PreK-grade 12. Meeting state and national education standards, this versatile program is adaptable to the classroom, outdoor classroom, nature centers, and home. Topics range from forest, wildlife, and water, to community planning, waste management and energy. Students can expect to learn environmental content that correlates to course of study in science and social studies, among others. Students will also strengthen their critical thinking, team building, and problem solving skills.



Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary, supplementary environment and conservation program emphasizing wildlife. Activities are “hands on” and may vary from active games to outdoor classroom settings. Project WILD is designed to prepare young people for decisions affecting people, wildlife and their shared home, earth. The expected outcome is that each participant will be assisted in developing awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment upon which all life depends. Project WILD Aquatic emphasizes wild animals that depend directly upon aquatic environments for survival.



Pond Study

The Pond Study is very similar in nature to the Living Streams program in that it is “hands on” in a wetland ecosystem. This is a very broad based program that can be customized to teach specific lesson plans in areas such as water quality and plant and animal identification (including macroinvertebrates and fishes). The pond study program can also be utilized hand in hand with Project WILD Aquatic programs. The activities foster investigation and exploration in a particular ecosystem.



Living Streams



Living Streams offers young people a hands-on opportunity to learn how to assess water quality in streams by the presence or absence of certain aquatic insects (benthic macroinvertebrates or “bugs”). The session begins at streamside with a discussion of how the stream fits into the watershed concept and how macroinvertebrates are tolerant or intolerant of pollution using a picture guide to help with their identification. Students then spend 30-45 minutes in the stream using special nets to collect macroinvertebrates that live in the water. Next they conduct a streamside assessment by identifying the macroinvertebrates and placing them into specific categories using universally accepted biological techniques. The session closes with a discussion of what the “bug message” is concerning the water quality of the stream and what types of human actions adversely affect our water.

Environmental Education Programs

Outdoor Resources

This is a program put on by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for many of our three-day camps. Alabama is one of the most diverse states in the nation and this program highlights many of these differences. Beautiful slides explore the natural wonders of Alabama from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to the white beaches on the Gulf of Mexico. Alabama's abundant waterways are discussed as well as the plant and animal diversity that are second to none. Students also have the chance for a guided nature walk on the 230 acre campus bordered by Lake Martin, cleanest of Alabama's lakes.

Explore the natural wonders of Alabama



This program can be a great follow-up to the Living Streams Program.



Step Outside and Fish

This is a fun "hands on" program that is educational as well as recreational in nature. Students are treated to a great fishing experience on camp's beautiful 5 acre stocked pond. Participants not only catch fish but learn how to fish, how to tie specific knots, how to rig poles and rods, learn preferable habitats specific to each species, and ecological issues related to fishing and the environment. This program stands alone but is also a very nice follow up to the Living Streams program.

Forestry & Geology

Tree ID - Students will learn how to identify trees through use of a "dichotomous key" method. Developing their own "key" and then applying that knowledge during a guided nature walk highlight this educational activity. Focus will be on trees indigenous to this area.

The First Alabamians - This program will focus on Native American History in Alabama and in particular Tallapoosa County. Students will examine the camp's arrowhead and artifact collection and learn more about how the "First Alabamians" selected their village sites and provided their food and shelter.

Geology - Students will concentrate on learning the rock cycle and its application in our area. The camp's rock collection will be a part of this program as well as a guided hike to explore on site geological features and rock identification.



Environmental Education Programs

Geo Caching and Map Reading

In this modern age of technology we are able to virtually know our position in relation to the globe at all times through the use of satellites and GPS (Global Positioning Systems) Units. This program teaches students the basics of map reading, direction finding with the use of compass, and understanding of latitude and longitude. After these basics are understood, students are taught how to operate GPS Units and are able to participate in a sample of the highly popular "geo caching." Students are divided into small groups of 2-3 each and are given a compass and GPS Unit. They are then given specific coordinates of previously hidden treasures, or caches, and are challenged to utilize their new found skills by searching the camp grounds and locating these caches. This program also emphasizes the environmental applications of Global Positioning Systems.



Evening Program Activities

Every overnight group that attends camp has several options for night time programs. These range from programs with environmental educational emphasis to traditional camp programs. Some of the options include:

Astronomy

This program gives students a better understanding of the stars and their importance to life on earth. Students will be able to identify a few important stars and understand how our predecessors used to stars to indicate changes of the season as well as direction finding. Students may also be introduced to terms such as solstice and equinox and their importance to star gazing. With the help of some local volunteers we are often able to offer groups the opportunity to view the night sky through high quality telescopes. Students learn locations and view specific planets, constellations, satellites, etc. depending on the time of year.

Night Hike

Students are taken on a nature hike after sunset to experience the wonders of nature at night. Emphasis is on nocturnal wildlife and being comfortable in the night setting. Students are briefed and debriefed prior to and after the activity, and are closely supervised at all times.

Ballfield Games

Students are able to participate in organized group activities and games at the lighted ballfield. The camp staff will work with teachers and administrators to offer fun and goal orientated activities.

Campfire

This program gives students the opportunity to experience a tradition rich camp experience. Sitting around the campfire, camp songs, story telling, and smores make up part of the campfire experience.

Recreation Programs

Canoeing

The Camp ASCCA canoeing program consists of basic flat water canoeing and instruction on scenic Lake Martin. Students will be taught basic stroke techniques and equipment use. Everyone is required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and the program is taught by one of camp's qualified staff members. There are 2 students per canoe and teachers and chaperones are welcome to participate. This session is also educational in that students learn to read a topographic map of this area as well as learn some Native American history pertinent to this area.



Learning Outcomes

- To increase the participant's sense of personal confidence
- To increase mutual support within a group
- To develop an increased level of agility and physical coordination
- Improve group dynamics by increased communication, leadership and teamwork
- Students will apply problem-solving skills in a group setting
- Students will learn about trust and overcoming fears in a safe environment

Camp ASCCA has been a leader in providing safe, educational outdoor adventure programs for people with and without disabilities for over 25 years. The students will learn through hands-on experiences that will focus on the previously stated outcomes.

Group Elements

Camp ASCCA has a series of group Low Elements that are specifically designed to promote teamwork and leadership among the students. Each group of students work together to solve tasks such as weaving through the "Spider Web" or climbing over "The Wall". At the end of the activity the students are debriefed by the Adventure Staff to explore decision-making processes, leadership, and teamwork dynamics. The Adventure Staff will give specific safety instructions and monitor all activities.



Cargo Net



This is a High Ropes Element in which students attempt to climb a vertical net extended 30 feet high between two trees. Students can compete against each other two at a time or they can encourage each other to climb as high as possible and help overcome any fear of heights. Harnesses and support ropes are used.

The Adventure Staff will give specific climbing and safety instructions.

Recreation Programs

Zip Tower

Students will begin by climbing one of our 3 climbing walls; beginner, intermediate, or expert. Once they reach the top of the 35-foot tower they will ascend the tower by taking a ride on our zip line. A zip line is a steel cable where the student is attached to a rope and pulley system. This system runs about 300 feet long and levels off to about 15 feet from the ground. Harnesses, helmets, and support ropes are used. The Adventure Staff will give specific climbing and safety instructions.



An enthusiastic camper makes his way up the intermediate climbing wall.



A full view of the tower.

Here are some pictures of the many activities and challenges the tower has to offer.



The zipline is a favorite activity among campers.



Anxiously awaiting her turn on the zipline, this camper surveys the ground below.



The climbing wall offers one of the most advanced challenges of the tower.

Package Information

Camp ASCCA offers a wide range of options to meet the specific desires of each and every group that wishes to attend. The professional full-time staff works closely with teachers and administrators in advance of each trip to customize a program that is age and level appropriate and meets your specific objectives.

Three day - Two Night Package \$110 per student

This program can accommodate 100+ students (min 40 students) and offers the most comprehensive learning experience of the packages. Students are rotated through 6-8 different programs as well as 2 nighttime evening programs; one specific to environmental education and one to group team building and leadership. Over the course of this time period, students foster a greater appreciation and understanding of our environment and are better able to develop their own philosophy in this area. In addition, students gain learning experiences in social interaction and independence.

This package includes 7 nutritious meals, lodging, 1 chaperone free per 10 students, and no cost to teachers and school administrators.

Two Day - One Night Package \$75 per student

This program can also accommodate 100+ students (min 40 students) with ideal numbers being around 90 students. Very similar to the three day camp, students are rotated through 6 different program groups. The nighttime program is your choice with emphasis either on environmental education or the group team building and leadership activity. Students also benefit, as described above, from the experience of being together in an overnight environment.

This package includes 4 nutritious meals, lodging, 1 chaperone free per 10 students, and no cost to teachers and school administrators.

Day Camp Package \$15 per student

This program is specifically geared to groups that are limited in their ability to participate in the overnight camp or are just looking for that first time experience. Most groups follow a 3 - 5 group rotation with a combination of educational and recreational activities. Ideal group size is approximately 45-75 students. Groups with larger numbers might want to choose additional days.

This package includes 1 chaperone free per 10 students and no cost to teachers and school administrators. Lunch is not provided although with prior arrangements camp can do so at a cost of \$6.25 per person.

*Price subject to change. Call for more details.

How do I book a trip to camp?

Making your reservation is easy! Call Geni Payne, Director of Environmental Education or Matt Rickman, Camp Director, and they will handle the arrangements. You can also e-mail them and they will contact you at their earliest convenience. All packages require a minimum of 40 students.

Phone toll free from within Alabama at **1-800-The Camp** (1-800-843-2267) or 256-825-9226

Geni Payne geni@campascca.org

Matt Rickman matt@campascca.org

Sample Schedules

Day Camp

Three Group Rotation

8:50	Arrival
9:00 - 10:30	Activity Period 1 Group 1 - Pond Study Group 2 - Zipline Group 3 - Project Wild Activity
10:30 - 12:00	Activity Period 2 Group 1 - Project Wild Activity Group 2 - Pond Study Group 3 - Zipline
12:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30	Activity Period 3 Group 1 - Zipline Group 2 - Project Wild Activity Group 3 - Pond Study
2:30	Depart for home

Five Group Rotation

8:50	Arrival
9:00 - 10:30	Activity Period 1 Group 1 - Pond Study Group 2 - Zipline Group 3 - Project Wild Activity Group 4 - Dunn Center Group 5 - Camp Activity of your choice (boatrides, archery, canoeing)
10:30 - 12:00	Activity Period 2 Group 1 - Camp Activity Group 2 - Pond Study Group 3 - Zipline Group 4 - Project Wild Activity Group 5 - Dunn Center
12:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30	Activity Period 3 (Groups keep rotating through the five activities)
2:30 - 4:00	Activity Period 4
4:00 - 5:30	Activity Period 5
5:30	Depart for home

Sample Schedule

Overnight Camp

Day 1

10:00	Group Arrival/Cabin Preparations
11:00	Orientation at Dunn Center
12:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30	Activity 1 Group 1 - Outdoor Resources Group 2 - Zip Tower Group 3 - Project Wild Group 4 - Living Streams Group 5 - Step Outside and Fish Group 6 - Project Learning Tree Group 7 - Group Elements Group 8 - Dunn Center
2:45 - 3:00	Snack/Restroom Break
3:00 - 4:30	Activity 2 Group 1 - Dunn Center Group 2 - Outdoor Resources Group 3 - Zip Tower Group 4 - Project Wild Group 5 - Living Streams Group 6 - Step Outside and Fish Group 7 - Project Learning Tree Group 8 - Group Elements
4:30	Clean up for Dinner
5:30	Chow time!
7:00	Evening program - Team competition at ballfield
9:00	Back to cabins
10:00	Lights out ... Hit the sack!

Day 2

7:45	Flag Raising: Groups 1-4
8:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	Activity 3 (Groups keep rotating through the eight activities)
10:30 - 12:00	Activity 4
12:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30	Activity 5
2:30 - 3:00	Snacks/Restroom break
3:00 - 4:30	Activity 6
5:30	Supper
7:00	Evening program - Night sit / Environmental Center
9:00	Back to cabins
10:00	Lights out!

Day 3

7:45	Flag Raising: Groups 5-8
8:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	Activity 7
10:30 - 12:00	Activity 8
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Depart for home!