



Maple Syrup and Forest Ecology

Woodland Dunes *Sweetest* Program!

Overview:

Explore the Brouhoud Field Station during a time of year when sap starts flowing and animals are waking up from their long wintry nap. During the program, students will explore a forest ecosystem and learn what a forest NEEDS, CONTAINS and PROVIDES through learning about maple syrup, tapping trees, boiling sap, snowshoeing through the forest and playing games that highlight the forest ecosystem.

Purpose:

To introduce students to the forest ecosystem and a Wisconsin tradition – Maple Syruping!

General Objective:

1. Learn about the natural resources we receive from forest ecosystems
2. Understand how trees survive winter and how a tree uses sap
3. Learn how early pioneers and Native Americans adapted to winter weather, and explore the winter world on snowshoes
4. Explore how forests were viewed by different cultures and in different time periods.
5. Understand how humans can influence the natural environment.

Wisconsin's Science, Environmental Education, Physical Education & Social Studies

Model Academic Standards:

1. Standard E.4.7 Using science themes, describe resources used in the home, community and nation as a whole
2. Standard F.4.2 Investigate how organisms, especially plants, respond to both internal cues and external cues (changes in the environment)
3. Standard B.4.6 Cite examples of how organisms adapt to their habitat & Standard B.4.2 Adapt a physical skill to the demands of a dynamic unpredictable environment.
4. Standard B.8.12 Provide examples of how different cultures use natural resources reflecting the economic, aesthetic, and other values of that culture
5. Standard B.8.10 Explain and cite examples of how humans shape the environment

Procedure:

Your students will rotate through a series of learning stations focused on the different phases of maple syrup making: tree physiology, tapping, collecting and boiling. During these learning stations they will use math, science and observation skills to figure out the history and mystery of syrup making, what a forest needs to function, what it provides us as humans and what plants and animals live in our Wisconsin forests. Weather permitting you and your students will have the opportunity to snowshoe and explore the forest as it is waking up for Spring! If no snow – we will hike through the woods.

Your group will be divided into small learning groups to increase hands-on exploration and naturalist interactions for each student. The majority of the program takes place outside, students should be dressed for the weather.