

Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

Community Class Title: Building in Nature

Grade or Age Levels: Ages 6 and up

FORMAT: In-Person

Day AND TIME OF THE WEEK: Wednesdays from 10-12

Class runs from September 10 - October 29th

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 hours (in class instruction)

ADD'L POSSIBLE HOURS: students may write/reflect in a weekly journal that they will be given in class.

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16

LOCATION:

Circle "C" Stables
905 Pine Hills Ln.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

INSTRUCTOR: Cindy Nimtz

CONTACT INFORMATION:

phone: 269-468-3292

email: circlecstable@hotmail.com

website: www.circlecstable.com

Additional Registration is not required at the site but we will ask participants and their guardians to fill out a liability release form at the beginning of the first class.

**see attached instructor qualifications*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will explore nature through the building of various projects that can be used in your own backyards and gardens. We will build bird houses, plant stake signs, and bug houses just to name a few. With each project, we will learn the importance use of them in your garden/back-yard and some basic wood working skills such as drilling, hammering, sanding and wood gluing!

Building in Nature

Wednesdays from 10-12
September 11 - October 30th

Syllabus/Outline: Weekly Breakdown of Project-Based Learning Activity

Each week's class centers around a different project that could be used in your garden or your backyard. We will learn why the project is valuable to Nature and the proper skills needed to build the project. We will be outside during each class, but we do have an indoor classroom to use if needed.

Week 1 -

We will go on a Spring Nature Walk around Circle "C". We will learn how to construct a raised flower bed as a group.

Week 2-

We will observe birds in our woods and then construct our very own wooden bird-houses.

Week 3-

We will finish our birdhouse construction and decorate them.

Week 4 -

We will tour our raised bed gardens that our Backyard Farmers are planting and learn how to identify some plants and herbs. We will then construct plant identification signs out of wood.

Week 5 -

We will go on a bug hunt around Circle "C" and then construct bug house frames out of wood.

Week 6 -

We will go on a nature scavenger hunt and collect “homes” for our bug houses. We will finish our wooden bug houses.

Week 7 -

We will go on one last nature walk together and build a simple bird feeder out of wood for your backyard.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

*Students will understand basic horse behavior, how to care for a horse, the responsibility of horse ownership, and how to build positive relationships with them through their care.

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. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.
- 3) This is a pass/fail course. If students successfully complete their final project with effort, they will receive a passing grade.

CLASS SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT:

Students will be asked to maintain a journal on what they have learned in class. During each class meeting, students will be asked to share their journals if they wish.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance: Please let me know if your student will not be attending due to illness or vacation. You can just call us and leave a message.

Behavior: If your student is disrespectful in class, distractive or puts other students or horses in danger, I will ask they be picked up early.

Weather: I follow the local district for closures. If the district the class is held in closes we will not have class. If you do not feel safe going out, then please stay home and just let me know. We will hold a make up lab or arrange an at home activity.

Other: We will be outside everyday. All students are required to have close toed shoes and to wear pants and dress for the weather. Always bring layers to wear. We will have hand sanitizer available to use throughout our class time.