

## **Atwood Center Courses**

*Each course is tied to ISBE, Common Core, and/or NGSS state standards*

Half Day - Please pick any 1 Class

Full Day - Please pick any 2 Classes

All But the Bunks (ABtB) - Please pick any 2 Day Classes and 1 Evening Class

### Day Classes:

- Birds of Prey
- Conservation
- Field Science
- History Hike
- Map and Compass Skills
- Native American Studies
- Outdoor Living Skills (OLS)
- Predator v. Prey
- River Study
- Teams

### Evening Classes:

- Alpha Wolf
- Sensory Night Hike

## Day Classes

### **Birds of Prey Program**

*Zoology*

The Atwood bird handlers will introduce students to one or two raptors in a birds of prey presentation. This program can be held either outdoors or indoors. Have your cameras ready for a real treat.

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### **Conservation**

*Ecology, History, Integrity*

Students will learn about the history of conservation and how humans are responsible for the environment. Teachers will be able to choose one activity between the options of park volunteer and park improvement project.

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### **Field Science**

*Ecology, Outdoor Enjoyment*

This class features a guided hike that highlights the major ecosystems inside Atwood Park, incorporating a wide variety of seasonal topics, current events, and historical landmarks. Have the students prepare to explore all that Atwood Park has to offer!

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### **History Hike**

*History, Outdoor Enjoyment*

Instructors will lead your class on a walk through history. The timeline begins with the woodland Native Americans and continues through Atwood Park's rich history, including its Camp Grant heritage. Students will get to see the original target pits and bunkers of the military days and evidence of the Civilian Conservation Corps work projects constructed during the Great Depression.

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### **Map and Compass Skills**

*Geography, Mathematics*

Students will learn basic orienteering with maps and compasses through warm-up activities. Once comfortable, they'll play a game applying the skills they've learned. Teachers can choose one game from the options of orienteering, treasure hunt, and follow the flags.

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### **Native American Studies**

*History*

Students will learn about the culture and lifestyle of local Native American tribes, including the Potawatomi, Ojibwa, and Odawa. Teachers will be able to choose two activities from the options of trade blanket, tomahawk toss, and honor games.

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### **Outdoor Living Skills (OLS)**

*Outdoor Enjoyment*

This class focuses on teaching skills that can increase students' comfort level in an outdoor setting while having minimal impact on the environment. Teachers will choose two activities from

firebuilding, tomahawk toss, archery, and shelter building. This class can be tied to the novel Hatchet.

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### **River Study**

*Ecology, Outdoor Enjoyment, Chemistry*

Students will investigate the life in and around the Kishwaukee River through collection and observation. Using macroinvertebrate identification and chemical testing, participants will determine the health, chemistry and turbidity of the river. Then students will discuss ways to make the river a better natural environment. Weather and river conditions permitting.

*Bring extra clothes and a pair of shoes or boots that can get wet (no sandals).*

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### **Predator vs Prey**

*Ecology*

Nature contains many dramas, and one example is the predator/prey relationship. Questions like, "What do animals eat?", "Who are the hunters?" or "Which animals are the prey?" are of particular interest. What better way to answer those questions than through a food chain simulation using the best game of tag you'll ever play.

*Have students dress in long pants and long sleeves.*

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### **Teams**

*Teamwork*

Our teams' course is the place for participants to learn how to support and trust one another. Problem-solving activities and games are also used in encouraging the participants to accomplish common goals. The sequence of events will be determined based on weather conditions, skill level, and how well the group works together.

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## **Evening / Night Classes**

### **Alpha Wolf**

*Zoology, Outdoor Enjoyment*

Students will learn about the history of wolves in Illinois and what led to their extirpation. The students and their evening instructor will then go in search of the "Atwood-trained alpha wolf" (an Atwood staff member) in a hide-and-seek style activity.

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### **Sensory Night Hike**

*Outdoor Enjoyment, Biology*

Groups will learn about how human senses change in darkness through various sensory tests as they explore the Atwoods trails. After the hike, students will head to a campfire for songs and stories. Bring along some S'mores to complete the campfire experience! An optional short solo hike can be added to the evening, between the sensory hike and campfire.