

Blair Outdoor Education Centre
Program Outline: Grade 4 Habitats and Communities (Fall, Spring)
Pond Study

- This topic is a half-day program .
- Pond Studies are conducted at Countryside Camp and Conference Centre/Camp Shalom, 1985 Beke Road, Cambridge, **NOT** at the Blair OEE Centre
- Outdoor activities will focus on expectations from the Science and Technology curriculum for Life Systems, Grade 4. These include some of the following:

Overall Expectations

By the end of Grade 4, students will:

1. analyse the effects of human activities on habitats and communities;
2. investigate the interdependence of plants and animals within specific habitats and communities;
3. demonstrate an understanding of habitats and communities and the relationships among the plants and animals that live in them.

Activities will be of a hands-on, experiential nature. In order to prepare your students, please try to present or review some of the above concepts prior to the trip. Also please ensure that they are well dressed for the season.

Bus Times:

Schools are responsible for booking the bus for the trip. Please complete the form, **Off-Campus Excursion Category 1 IS-11-FA** Busing costs are paid for by Learning Services.

Please book your bus according to the following times:

If your school start time is between 8:30 and 8:50, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:15 a.m.	Depart from Blair 11:30 a.m.	Arrive at Blair 12:00 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:15 p.m.
If your school start time is between 8:55 and 9:25, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:45 a.m.	Depart from Blair at 12:00	Arrive at Blair 12:15 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:30 p.m.

- **All planning information for this trip is either contained in this document, or can be found on the Blair website.**
 - [Blair Teacher Planning Page](https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/blair-teacher-planning/)
- **Please complete the [Centre Visit Planning Form](https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/centre-planning-form/) at least one week prior to your visit date.**
 - <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/centre-planning-form/>
 - This is the only written information I have regarding your class and I cannot be fully prepared for your visit without it. Of particular importance are life-threatening allergies that require an epipen or other medication.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me so we can find a solution.

Sincerely,

Nathan Mantey
 Blair Outdoor Education Centre
 519 653-9855
 nathan_mantey@wrdsb.ca

Pond Study

A visit to the pond at Countryside Camp (Camp Shalom) to learn about its inhabitants. We will spend time collecting pond animals with dip nets, then identify and classify them according to roles in the food chain.

**Ministry of Education Expectations met:
Students will...**

- classify organisms according to their role in a food chain (e.g., producer, consumer);
- demonstrate an understanding of a food chain as a system in which energy from the sun is transferred eventually to animals, construct food chains of different plant and animal species (e.g., grass'rabbit'fox), and classify animals as omnivore, carnivore, and herbivore;
- identify, through observation, various factors that affect plants and animals in a specific habitat (e.g., availability of water, food sources, light; ground features; weather conditions);
- recognize that animals and plants live in specific habitats because they are dependent on those habitats and have adapted to them (e.g., ducks live in marshes because they need marsh plants for food and shelter and water for movement);
- describe structural adaptations of plants and animals that demonstrate a response to the living things in their environment (e.g., the height of a plant depends on the amount of sunlight the plant gets; many animals that live in the Arctic have white fur);



Notes:

- Please note special busing arrangements for this program – go directly to Camp Shalom, I will meet you there with all equipment!!
- Please take the enclosed map to Camp Shalom with you on the bus – bus drivers are sometimes unfamiliar with the location and may take an unnecessarily long route, or get lost!
- If you are lost or in difficulty en route, call **my cell phone** at **519-635-1020**
- **Please organize your class into 5 groups for work around the pond.**
- We have no indoor shelter at Camp Shalom, so in the case of steady rain or thunderstorms, I may suggest either coming to Blair instead, or rescheduling the trip. Cancellation would be a last resort, but a possibility.
- It can be wet and muddy around the pond, so students should wear rubber boots if they have them, or old shoes, and have dry socks/ shoes for when they return to school.

Worksheets required: I will provide all necessary worksheets.

