



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

COME EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Outdoor Education

At the Outdoor Center at
CAMP JEWELL YMCA

CampJewellYMCA.org

A Branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford

The Original Social Network Since 1901



Letter From The Director

Here at **Camp Jewell YMCA** we believe in delivering the best possible **Outdoor Education Programs**. We have experienced instructors who work with us year round to hone their skills for you and your groups' arrival. Meeting your needs as educators is our number one priority and our extensive class options give you the flexibility to find the trip that is right for you and your students.

We believe in a well rounded approach to Outdoor Education. At Camp Jewell we make sure the educational experience is enhanced by personal challenge and student engagement through play and questioning.

As the Director of the Outdoor Education Programs here at Camp Jewell it is my mission to get as many kids into the outdoors while having positive and impactful experiences. I will do everything I can to make sure that that experience happens for you and your students.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your school!



Camp Jewell offers Educational Programming for school groups from grades K-12. We offer a fully customizable schedule to create the perfect educational experience in the outdoors for you and your students. Our experienced and knowledgeable staff will captivate your students' imaginations while meeting NGSS and State Standards for you. We cannot wait to work with you and your school.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We believe in utilizing the outdoors as an amazing learning space. Learn natural sciences in nature with our instructors in Pond Study or Forest Ecology classes. Wanting to focus on STEAM? Give our Catapult or Egg Drop a try. Or are you feeling adventurous? Try Outdoor Living Skills and Orienteering! Your students will have an amazing time and learn tons along the way.



PROGRAMS

A fully customizable schedule with three areas of focus. You can pick from an extensive list of classes that fall under each type of program.

BEAVER FEVER

Students canoe or kayak to an area that has been occupied by beavers for many years. Students will learn about certain physical and behavioral adaptations of beavers, including living in a colony, building lodges, dam construction, and why beavers look the way they do. They will learn the beaver's impact on the environment, and the beaver's relationship with humans.

CATAPULT

This class engages students in small groups to build a catapult that will project their object as far as possible. Every group is given the same set of objects with which to build their catapult. Students must use basic physics to figure out how to propel their object across the room farther than other teams.

EGG DROP

Students will learn about basic physics as they participate in this exciting small group activity where they will build a capsule to protect an egg to drop from varying heights. Students will use math and science skills to decide which materials to "purchase" to build their capsules. This class meets S.T.E.A.M. requirements.

FOREST ECOLOGY

Learn fun facts about common trees of our region, play interactive games that demonstrate tree structure and forest competition, and learn about key concepts of forest succession and dynamics while hiking our vast trail system. With over 500 acres of gorgeous woodlands on our property, there's never been a better place to "take a hike." Participants should be prepared for moderate walking.

MINI-FARM

In this session, students have the chance to visit our mini-farm and meet a variety of animals including goats, llamas, sheep, and our famous 750 pound pig, Stanley! While visiting the mini-farm we will talk about our animals, their diets, their needs, and their adaptations. During early morning sessions, students may get to see and help feed the animals.

OUTDOOR LIVING SKILLS

Students will work in small groups and be involved in building a natural shelter, building a fire, and learning the Rules of Three for survival in the outdoors. Through hands-on experiences in the natural environment, students gain a sense of teamwork and develop critical thinking skills. They learn proper camp setup and breakdown and gain knowledge of leave no trace ethics. The importance of outdoor skills which will keep them safe in the wild as well as responsibility for others and their surroundings is stressed.



ORIENTEERING

During orienteering participants will learn the basics of using the compass as a navigational tool. They will learn what cardinal directions are and how to find a bearing using a map and compass and a topographic map. Finally, they will test their skills by using only those tools to navigate the natural terrain of our Orienteering Course.

POND STUDY

Even the smallest pond is often teeming with life; however, it's not always obvious to the naked eye. The presence or lack of aquatic invertebrates is an indicator of the environmental health of a pond or stream. The goal is to collect, identify, and study these fascinating and wonderful creatures up close and personal to determine the health of our pond.

PREDATOR & PREY

All things are interdependent in this come-to-life roleplay activity where students learn about food chains, predator/prey relationships and the web of life that connects all living things. This is a very active outdoor activity where students interact as predator or prey species around camp.

LARGE GROUP GAMES

A great way to kick off a trip or to raise the energy of your group throughout a busy day! Instructors lead a variety of games that will allow all students to be actively involved. The games range from rock-paper-scissors tournament to giant banana grams. A perfect activity to get the group in an energetic mood!



TEAMBUILDING

Teambuilding programs focus on problem solving and communicating face to face. These skills are becoming harder and harder to come by in our increasingly digital world, and problem solving without answers at your fingertips is a real challenge for today's youth. Beyond this we will explore leadership styles of individuals and how different personalities fit in with group dynamics. We utilize High Ropes, Low Ropes and Ground Initiatives to touch on all of these topics and have over 50 years of experience doing these programs with our groups.



GROUND INITIATIVES

This class can last from one hour to three hours depending on each group's size and goals. Students will be challenged to use their critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills to complete several group-oriented physical and mental initiatives.

LOW ROPES

Low ropes elements are teambuilding activities ranging from having ropes a few inches to a few feet off the ground in which students are responsible for each other's safety through spotting. These elements help foster trust, respect, caring, and responsibility for fellow students. All elements will be followed by a debriefing discussion and will tie back into students' roles in your school's community.

HIGH ROPES

Our high ropes course has a variety of obstacles, 25 feet in the air, designed to promote group cooperation and individual achievement. Participants will navigate through the course with state-of-the-art climbing gear while our trained staff provide support and encouragement. Students will learn to support each other and work together through a course that challenges small groups to work together for success while in the air.

CARGO NET

Our cargo net is a tube net made of heavy-duty rope and is nearly 25 feet tall. Students are encouraged to go out of their comfort zones and climb while belayed to the top. This activity is conducted indoors and allows students to test themselves year round and in inclement weather.

CRATE CLIMB

During this indoor activity, students have a chance to work on group dynamics. The goal of this activity is to build a tower out of crates for one harnessed student to climb all the way to the ceiling. The student climbing receives help from other students, who will begin to pass them crates via a pulley as the tower grows too tall for the climber to reach the crates on the ground. This activity allows students to stay engaged during each climber's turn and invest in someone else's success.

CLIMBING TOWERS

This class allows the use of either of our two outdoor climbing towers. Our first tower, Mt. Wood is located right outside the main camp dining hall and is approximately 25 feet tall, while our other tower, Mt. Meggido, located at Hideaway Ranch on the other side of our lake, is about 50 feet tall. All students will be instructed on safety tips and equipped with harnesses and helmets. Our instructors will teach climbing technique and encourage growth in overcoming challenges.



GIANT SWING

With the Giant Swing, the participant decides how high up they want to go. The group pulls the participant to the desired height, then the participant releases themselves into a safely harnessed free-fall swing. These activities, while very safe, provide a sense of perceived risk for those who choose to take on this challenge. Each participant requires steady support from the rest of the group. Afterwards, staff facilitates a debriefing discussion to help students process their experience and express their feelings.

VERTICAL PLAYPEN

During Vertical Playpen, participants use teamwork to climb to the top of a giant 50-foot ladder. Two people must use teamwork to make the climb from one rung to the next and there are smaller elements attached to the ladder to make the journey upwards easier to accomplish. This is the perfect way to encourage teamwork in one-on-one scenarios. Students watching are urged to offer support and instructions from the ground for the climbers.

ZIP LINE

Students can challenge themselves to cross over our lake on our dual racing zip lines. Students will overcome personal challenges as they step off the platform to embark on a zip line ride of almost 800 feet. Following the first zip line, students will walk a short distance to our second platform and enjoy another incredible 450 foot ride over our stunning lake. Students will use proper climbing equipment and learn to support each other in an adventurous and exciting activity.



RECREATION

Our Rec programs are here to give students positive experiences in the outdoors, as we have great opportunities for students to explore new things in a safe environment. From Boating to Candle Making to Archery we have many exciting options for exploring the outdoors.

RECREATION



ARCHERY

Archery is conducted inside our indoor archery range in the winter and outdoors in the spring. Participants will learn the basics of archery, including how to perform a proper shot with a bow as well as the parts of the bow and arrows. Participants will also learn about the safety considerations and responsibilities that must be used during this activity.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Our arts and crafts program focuses on developing creativity and exploring different forms of visual art. In a world that's reducing art education, our staff will help campers unlock their artistic talents. Whether you're an aspiring artist or just looking to try something new, our arts and crafts activities will unleash your imagination!

BB GUN SHOOTING

Our instructors will teach proper handling and firing of a BB gun. Afterwards, students will shoot at targets that they'll be allowed to keep as a reminder of their sharp-shooting abilities.

BOULDERING

During this class, students will be introduced to our indoor bouldering room. Instructors will teach students how to climb on the wall safely while not harnessed. Once students grasp how to safely boulder and their boundaries, instructors can introduce challenge games such as Cat and Mouse and Follow the Leader to increase students' ability to boulder quickly and safely.

CANDLE MAKING

Students will have the opportunity to practice patience and creativity while making an original candle during this class. Each student will be able to carve their candle in a custom way to make the candle even more special. This activity allows students to use their imagination and have positive social interactions with their peers as they spend time making their candles.



CANOEING/KAYAKING

Students will learn to canoe or kayak in our 70-acre man-made lake. They will be given instructions on the use of proper flotation devices, how to get in and out of a boat safely, different paddling techniques and strokes, and will participate in water-based activities. This class is dependent on weather and availability of lifeguards.

FIELD GAMES

This block allows students to release some energy in a recess-like setting. During field games we offer a variety of free play activities. Some of the activities include our giant slide, basketball, foursquare, gaga, tether ball, and many more. This is the perfect way to allow students to have unstructured fun and encourages them to choose how they want to spend their time.

TT'S GROTTO

TT's Grotto is a wonderful place to spend a part of your trip during our warmer months. During this block, students are encouraged to bring swim suits so, they can play in any of our three splash pads. They have the chance to play under a waterfall and enjoy the gorgeous view of our lake during grotto time.

WIFFLE BALL

Wiffle ball is a staple at Camp Jewell. We even have our very own wiffle ball stadium to be used during field games or tournaments during your stay. Wiffle Ball tournaments are a fun way to learn an organized sport and have a competition between classes or age groups while encouraging comradery and good sportsmanship.



EVENING

EVENING



CAMPFIRE

On any evening, nothing could be more suitable than a beautiful campfire in one of our amphitheaters with yummy s'mores! Our talented staff can get the campfire off to a roaring start with stories, songs and skits that will entertain young and old alike. Camper and teacher skits and songs are also welcome and encouraged.

DUTCH AUCTION

A fun team activity where various, random items or skills are called upon. For example, a person who can wiggle their ears, funniest joke, smelliest item, tallest shoe tower and so much more!

NIGHT AWARENESS

This session includes games, activities and demonstrations to show students how good their night vision can be. Students will learn about the parts of the eye and their functions, along with what adaptations animals use to help them navigate in the night. They will also learn about the ways in which the nocturnal world comes alive through games and experiments involving all of the senses.

NIGHT TIME WIFFLE BALL

During one evening, your group can have a wiffle ball tournament under the lights in our very own wiffle ball stadium! This high-energy activity is a favorite of many groups. It involves loud, upbeat music and a fun atmosphere to get all students involved and playing! It also provides the opportunity for students to cheer on other teams and learn good sportsmanship by doing so.

TRIVIA NIGHT

For a more relaxed activity, Trivia Night allows students to bond in small groups. Instructors will come up with a variety of relevant topics to test students' knowledge. Trivia will go through various rounds and topics giving everyone a chance to answer some questions.

ZINGERS

Time management is crucial in this fast-paced, action-packed game. Students are divided into teams and travel from station to station, with each station consisting of a high-energy task. Teamwork and fun are emphasized in this activity.



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

DAY ONE

- 10:00 • Arrival & Move In
- 10:30 • Orientation and Large Group Games
- 11:45 • Dining Hall Orientation
- 12:00 • Lunch
- 1:00 • Class Block #1
- 3:00 • Class Block #2
- 5:00 • Free Play
- 5:30 • Dinner
- 7:00 • Evening program
- 9:00 • Back To Cabins



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

DAY TWO

- 8:00 • Breakfast
- 9:00 • Class Block #3
- 11:00 • Modified Free Play
- 12:00 • Lunch
- 1:00 • Class Block #4
- 3:00 • Class Block #5
- 5:00 • Free Play
- 5:30 • Dinner
- 7:00 • Evening program

DAY THREE

- 7:00 • Wake Up & Pack Out
- 8:00 • Breakfast
- 9:00 • Class Block # 6
- 11:00 • Group Debrief
- 12:00 • Lunch
- 1:00 • Travel Home



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