



## **Mount Rainier Institute Curriculum Overview**

Mount Rainier Institute programs foster an appreciation for science and nature, build confidence in being outdoors, connect students to Mount Rainier National Park, and illuminate potential career paths in environmental science and outdoor related fields. Mount Rainier Institute students spend up to five days immersed in the ecology of the Pacific Northwest region. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates science, math, and social studies in a cooperative learning environment. Mount Rainier Institute educators facilitate small group field activities (averaging 12-14 students) with these curriculum goals in mind:

1. To improve students' scientific literacy, and inspire an interest in environmental science and outdoor fields.
2. To help students understand their role as resource stewards of the Mount Rainier region and their home community.
3. To provide students with an understanding and appreciation for the outdoors through enjoying Mount Rainier National Park.
4. To develop students' connection to nature.
5. To foster a sense of community among students through shared outdoor experiences.

The curriculum illustrates the various benefits working forests and other natural areas provide us, and the complexity of decision making related to managing sustainable resources. For example, students do a mini-timber cruise where they discover that Washington forests have significant economic value. For many students, this activity is their first exposure to the idea of forestry and provides a critical lesson on the importance of forest products and the need to manage our renewable resources wisely. They also explore the inspirational and recreational benefits of forests, and learn about their ecological benefits, such as wildlife habitat, erosion control, and carbon storage.

## Mount Rainier Institute Sample Schedule

Arrival at 10:00am by Bus	Goals: To have hands on life science experiences.			Cabin Assignments
Departure at 1pm by Bus	Classroom inquiry has been: Structured & Guided			
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Welcome</b>			
10:00	Arrive at Pack Forest, move into cabins, orientation, and chaperone meeting			
11:15	Pack Forest	Pack Forest	Pack Forest	Pack Forest
5:00	Free Time on the Field or in Pack Hall			
5:30	Kitchen Patrol report to the Dining Hall (1 from each Cabin)			
5:45	Dining Hall Orientation and Dinner			
7:00	Values of the Past			
8:15 - 9:00	Welcome Campfire			
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Pack Forest Field Science</b>			
7:20	Kitchen Patrol report to the Dining Hall (1 from each Cabin)			
7:30	Breakfast and Pack Sack Lunches (Bring all gear for the day to the Dining Hall)			
8:30	Field Study	Field Study	Field Study	Field Study
5:00	Free Time on the Field or in Pack Hall			
5:50	Kitchen Patrol report to the Dining Hall (1 from each Cabin)			
6:00	Dinner			
7:00	Symposium Prep			
7:45 -9:00	Evening Program Varies per Season			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mount Rainier National Park</b>			
7:20	Kitchen Patrol report to the Dining Hall (1 from each Cabin)			
7:30	Breakfast and Pack Sack Lunches (Bring all gear for the day to the Dining Hall)			
8:30	Mount Rainier	Mount Rainier	Mount Rainier	Mount Rainier
5:00	Free Time on the Field or in Pack Hall			
5:50	Kitchen Patrol report to the Dining Hall (1 from each Cabin)			
6:00	Dinner			
7:00	Evening Program Varies per Season			
8:00 - 9:00	Farewell Campfire			
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Science Symposium and Culmination</b>			
7:45	Cabin Check out: Please Roll up blinds, sweep, and take trash out to designated can Please wait on an Instructor to check you out of your cabin			
8:00	Breakfast (Must have dropped all luggage at the Pavilion before entering)			
9:00	Symposium Prep	Symposium Prep	Symposium Prep	Symposium Prep
9:30	Research Symposium			
10:30	Culmination on Trail	Culmination on Trail	Culmination on Trail	Culmination on Trail
12:00	Lunch in Dining Hall			
12:50	Group Photo			
1:00	Departure			