

Middle Schools at work create a supportive environment to reach all adolescent learners. Students at Titusville Middle School celebrate learning achievements AND nurture their "inner authors" through...

MIDDLE MATTERS

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SURVIVAL

by: Peyton Hunter, Angelina Falco & Cindy Vu

Peyton:

At Wilderness Quest one of the stations is Survival with Mr. Huck. One of the things I learned in this station is that you should always tell somebody where you are going at all times. If you leave and don't tell somebody that you're leaving and get hurt, you won't have anyone to help you.

We also learned that you need to make sure you have a flashlight with batteries, tarp, snacks, water, flint, and a first aid kit. You need those things so that if you get lost, you won't die. Flint and a battery will help you in the starting of a fire, so you don't get hypothermia.

The last thing we learned in survival is to have your phone at all times when you go somewhere far away or in a weird place. You can call 911 if you have your phone to get help.

I learned a lot at Wilderness Quest but I learned the most at the survival station.

Angelina:

At Wilderness Quest the survivor station with Mr. Huck was very helpful. The first thing I learned is you want to have food and water to survive. Without food and water you can die from starvation or dehydration.

Another thing I learned from survivor is that you need to have a shelter to be safe from the bad weather or get out of the hot sun. Without shelter you can get sun poisoning or maybe even get struck by lightning in a bad storm.

Finally, one of the last things I learned was how to stay warm in a shelter at night. You can make a fire with different materials, but if that doesn't work, you can cuddle up underneath a fallen down tree stump and try to stay warm. Wilderness Quest was very helpful for me and other students. *I hope my children get to go to Wilderness Quest and learn about surviving like I did someday.*

Cindy:

The survivor class at Wilderness Quest was a great learning experience. We learned how to use a flashlight to signal for help. Flashing a flashlight three times means S.O.S.

I got the chance to build a house or cover with nature. They gave us a rope to wrap the sticks around a tree and a tarp for cover. They told us what to bring if we were out in the woods. You would have to have extra food with calories to give you energy, supplies, and water.

I also learned how to make fire with different kinds of tools. Mr. Huck showed us how to make fire with a battery and tin foil. At Survivor class, Mr. Huck gave us a lot of informative information on how to survive in the woods. *It was an amazing learning experience at Wilderness Quest!*



WILDERNESS QUEST

Wilderness Quest takes place each year in September. For this learning experience, sixth grade students partake in an outdoor adventure at Wesley Woods Campground. While there, students learn a

variety of outdoor activities, including archery, hunter safety, and learning about the land. In this issue of Middle Matters, sixth grade students speak out about their experiences at Wesley Woods.



In the picture, above, Frank McGuigan, Chase Mong, and Ashton Burleigh sit beneath a tent that they made for survival training.

Archery

by: Cole Enright & Faith Benner

Cole:

The Archery session at Wilderness Quest was very informative. In this session I learned how to properly set up a bow. It's actually quite easy! I also learned how to properly carry an arrow. I should always carry an arrow by the shaft.

To wrap it all up, the final thing I have learned at the archery session for Wilderness Quest is to properly shoot a bow. I line up the tip of the arrow with the target and let it fly!

Archery, in my opinion, was not only the most informative, but the most fun!

Faith:

Archery at Wilder-

ness Quest was a fun experience. I learned how to put the arrow on the draw back string. I did not know how or where to put it. Next, before you shoot, you identify the target, and what is beyond your target, also. The reason why you look beyond and identify the target is because you don't want it coming back at you. When you are going to shoot, you have to put your index finger on top and the four on the bottom where the nock is. The main point to doing the finger thing is so you won't have it go and as soon as you let go, have it fall. *Thank you so much for this opportunity to go to Wilderness Quest.*

Native Americans

by: Chloe Watkins & Zaden Dale

Chloe:

The Native American class at Wilderness Quest taught what it was like to hunt in the Native American times. We learned how to use a spear, an atlatl, and a throwing stick. It was fun to throw things at the bull. We learned about what animals they hunted. They chased buffalo off cliffs and then harvested what they needed. We learned how to throw a throwing stick. We threw the throwing stick at a target. We learned a lot about the Native American times.

Zaden:

The Native American class at Wilderness Quest was very informative. Mr. Parks taught us how to throw a spear by hand. You have to throw a certain way. We also learned how Native Americans hunted. They used so many different tools and techniques.

We learned how to use an atlatl. An atlatl is a piece of wood that helps throw father and better. The Native American station was informative.

Hunter Safety

by: Nicole Smith & Lindsey Rodgers

Nicole:

The Hunter Safety manual had a lot of important things for us to learn for beginner hunters. One rule is that you need to wear orange during hunting season. This is for your safety so you do not get shot by another hunter who isn't able to see you. If you want to hunt on someone else's property, ask permission first. This is so other people don't worry about you harming them and get scared. For your safety never ever look down a muzzle of a rifle. If you were to look down a muzzle, you could wound yourself, so always keep the muzzle away from your face. Always follow the manual

for your safety.

Lindsey: Rifle Range

The most knowledgeable part of Wilderness Quest was most definitely the rifle range. We were taught lots of techniques, like how to load an unload the rifle. Mr. Burns helped us by talking us through the steps. After the first round of shooting, our counselor told us if we pull the trigger with the tip of our finger, we'll have a better chance of hitting the target. I also learned how to find out which eye is my dominant eye. Then we got to experience shooting a 22. I really loved Wilderness Quest. *I hope more sixth graders get to experience what I did!*

Water Safety

by: Sarah Murphy & Rylea Lesh

Sarah:

Wilderness Quest was a great experience and a knowledgeable one, too, especially the water safety course for multiple amazing reasons. First of all, we learned how to canoe! That was great because some people have never been in a canoe, like me!

We learned how to switch sides of the canoe. They told us that one person would get on their hands and knees in the middle of the boat, and the other would climb over top of the first person to the other seat.

Then they taught us how to save someone's life if they were drowning. For example, to lie on our stomach on the pool's siding and extend our hand to the victim. *Wilderness Quest is an extraordinary program*

that should stay around for generations!

Rylea:

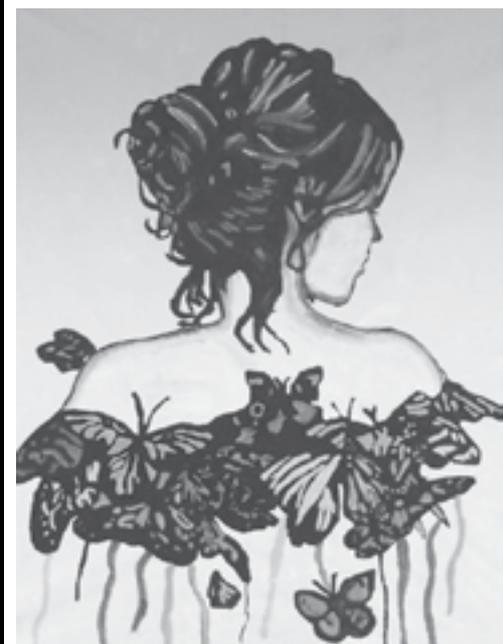
Swimming can be very challenging and fun, but safety is more important. At Wilderness Quest I learned about water safety. One thing we did was try to keep ourselves warm in the water. What we did to keep warm was we hugged ourselves and crossed our legs. With a group we had to huddle like football players.

They taught us life guarding skills to save people with our arms and legs. We also had to use a pool noodle.

The last thing we were taught was how to steer and work a canoe. We had to wear life jackets and get in the water. We had to go around the pool. *Thank you for the great experience of Wilderness Quest!*

Artists' Corner

Artwork below was submitted by Titusville Middle School teacher, Jessica Salapak. The picture, left, is an example of Realism/Surrealism by Kylee Propheter. The portrait, right, was created by Roman Sculimbrene.



Ecology

by: Lance Enright

At Wilderness Quest ecology was a really good learning experience. At the ecology station I learned about carrying capacity. We did a bear simulator and only 2 people in my advisory survived. We also learned how cool nature is! Mrs. Frye had paint tiles and we had to find the same exact colored thing. Finally, we learned how hard it is for bears to survive. In the simulator I died because I only collected 58 pounds of food. I couldn't use my fake bear leg. In conclusion, I learned a lot from Wilderness Quest and *I think next year's sixth graders should be able to enjoy it also.*