

Exploring New Horizons Curriculum Goals

Focus Areas	NGSS/Natural History	Unplugged & Healthy Fun Outside	Social Emotional Learning	Environmental Stewardship
Central Concepts	Interdependence, Food Chains & Watersheds: everything is connected!, symbiosis, predator/prey relationships, movement of matter and energy, photosynthesis...	Exploring: nature can be as diverse as video games, movies, so much to discover and learn and wonder about...	Relationships: growth of student/teacher; peer/peer; cabin leader/student relationships; students who are challenging in classroom are successful outdoors, developing trust in community...	Continue Learning: the journey doesn't end here, there is more to know and learn about interdependence and understanding of place at home...
	Cycles: water, rock, populations fluxuations & food availability, metamorphosis...	Laughter and Smiling: being outside is fun...	Empowerment: Take a chance, greater self-esteem, courage, resilience, independence, & confidence...	Climate Change: Discussion about what it is, the effects of it, and what we can do about it...
	Adaptations to environment: reproduction, pollination, habitats, natural selection, evolution...	Hiking: moving across the land with your friends is fun & good for your body...	Nature Observation & Mindfulness: increased awareness of and attention to thoughts and surroundings...	Leadership: You can make a difference by standing up for what is right, ownership in improving environment...
	Resources: Natural & synthetic relationships...	Imagination: being in nature helps expand your imagination...	Serenity: letting go of anxiety, tension, depression, loneliness...	Consumption: you vote with your dollar, sustainability, Native people's traditional relationship with ecosystem...
	Astronomy: Relationship of planets, sun, stars, moon & effect on tides...	Arts: expressing yourself creatively outside feels good...	Teamwork: team-building challenges, cooperation, getting to know each other, better conflict resolution & problem-solving skills...	Interdependence and Watersheds: We are all connected and what we do here and at home impacts the Earth...
Tools	Place-based, hands-on learning, observation, and exploration in forest, chaparral, creek, and tidepools; songs; nature writing, drawing, art, & acting; tag games; night hike; meals; town hall meeting; puppet show; barnyard boogie; skit night; cabin time...			
Outcomes	Improved interest in and understanding of: science, ecology, CA ecosystems...	Feel more connected to the environment and want to spend more time outside...	Strengthened relationships with teachers & peers; more empowered, aware, and calm...	Deeper ecological knowledge and understanding of human impact; better citizens of Planet Earth...