



# Echo Hill Outdoor School

## Program Summaries

**Outdoor Education Program:** Echo Hill Outdoor School was founded on the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore in 1972. Students of all ages come from five states and the District of Columbia for a variety of programs lasting anywhere from an hour to five days in residence. The Outdoor School provides students with positive educational experiences in an outdoor setting. The three main areas in the school's curriculum are Science and Ecology, History and the Human Environment, and Individual and Group Development (Adventure Program). The school teaches students specific concepts while fostering their ability to learn on their own.

**Adventure Program:** The Adventure Program is designed to foster individual and group development. The program offers courses to any group including colleges, faculties, human service professionals, management and employee teams, high school leadership groups, and other groups with particular needs. Participants use the adventure/challenge course for experiences that foster cooperation, communication, and imagination. Under the guidance of experienced Outdoor School instructors, a group's handling of these adventures becomes a catalyst for personal and group growth.

**Chesapeake Heritage Initiative:** In the Spring and Fall the Outdoor School offers a truly unique experience for small groups of up to twelve students. The historic Skipjack Elsworth and Buyboat Annie D are used to explore the Chester River for three - five day intervals. Students take a step back in time as they live aboard these rugged Chesapeake Craft and study the traditions and folklore of the people as well as the science and ecology of the estuary.

### **Summer Explore Programs:**

**Three-Five Day Expedition Trips:** During the summer, the Outdoor School's Explore program runs three, four and five day educational expeditions in the unspoiled regions of the upper Bay and its tributaries. Students participate in this program on an individual basis. The trips, which focus on the ecology and history of the Bay, travel by water and offer students opportunities to search for fossils and artifacts, bird watch, learn map and navigation skills, predict weather, fish, clam, crab, gather specimens and set up aquariums, swim, sing, cook over open fires, hike secluded beaches and surrounding fields and forests and sleep under the stars. The trips travel in groups of six or eight students with two or three Echo Hill teachers.

**Group Programs:** Single and multi-day outdoor education programming in Science and Ecology, History and the Human Environment and Individual and Group Development is available for groups of 6-40 participants.

**Little and Middle Explorers:** Nature and ecology-based day camps for younger children (Little Explorers for 4-6 year olds; Step Up Explorers for 6-7 year olds; Middle Explorers for 7-10 year olds.)

**Educational Retreats:** The Outdoor School accommodates up to 80 participants in a variety of meeting formats - from informal, small group meetings to classroom, boardroom or theatre-style presentations. Meals are provided in Harris Hall, a rustic lodge complete with hardwood floors, a fireplace and full kitchen facilities. The school is able to accommodate groups of varying sizes as the seasons change. All curriculum areas can be incorporated if desired.

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