



OUT SIDE OF THE BOX THINKING HAPPENS OUTSIDE



ABOUT C.O.D.E.S.

Mile High Pines was founded in 1945 and has operated primarily as a guest group camp site over the years. When Gabriel Valencia assumed the position of Executive Director in 1998, he had a vision to begin an outdoor science program that would introduce children to the visible works of God in nature. In the summer of 2012, Mile High Pines began orchestrating the next step for the ever-growing Mile High Pines ministry. Dr. Rick Oliver, who founded the Mount Hermon Science Program in 1993, was brought on board.

Curriculum was designed for our specific location in the San Bernardino National forest and the program was officially launched in 2013. Since, then attendance has doubled or tripled every year. The California OutDoor Education and Science program (or C.O.D.E.S) is quickly becoming the choice location for 5th-6th grade classes in Southern California.

We strive to provide programs that exceed the science standards to enhance lessons teachers are giving all year. We instill the importance of stewardship in the environment and seek to instill curiosity and love of learning in each student. Studies show that outdoor science camps not only increase a student's desire to learn but can actually increase test scores by 27% on average.

OPPORATIONAL VALUES

- I. **To introduce to Children the Visible Works of God.** When we have the opportunity to work with Christian students we are able to do this more directly. We know that God has already done the work for us by making His handiwork clearly apparent to the observer. (Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1). However, we do not evangelize and hold fast to the idea that we first and foremost are here to teach solid science and not infringe upon a public school's desire for the separation of church and state. Our curriculum has no religious affiliation.
- II. **To be Intentionally Relational.** The second way we can display God's handiwork is in our interactions with each other and with the students. (John 13:35)
- III. **To Build Individual Confidence and Teamwork.** According to an American Institutes for Research, at-risk students who participated in a week-long outdoor education program received higher teacher ratings for self-esteem, conflict resolution, relationship with peers, problem solving, motivation to learn and behavior in class. At camp students will be able to grow as an individual and in as a valued member of a community. (Phil 4:13; Eccl 4:9-12).
- IV. **To Encourage Respect.** Students will learn to respect each other, leadership, and the environment as they interact in their trail groups. Cabin leaders will implement these goals to the students encouraging peer respect. (Phil 2:3)
- V. **To Promote Environmental Awareness.** Students will clean cabins, pick up trash, participate in the no food waste challenge, KP duties, understand natural resources, and endangered species as a means to understanding the environment and how we interact with it. With Christian students this may also be a time to talk about our responsibility over the earth. (Genesis 1:26)
- VI. **To Instill Science Literacy.** Naturalists will use science lessons to teach life lessons. After a week at camp student's scientific vocabulary should increase and students should be taught with lessons closely aligned to the California State Science Standards. (Psalm 111:2; Job 38:4-30).



STAFF VALUES

The Mission Statement
“To create a lifelong passion
of learning through
experiential education in the
natural environment.”

Community

It is a part of our DNA to be focused on community. As such, there may be additional optional opportunities for you throughout your time here. We emphasize, weekly staff bible studies, day trips to themeparks and tourist spots, a staff retreat, volunteer opportunities in our local community, and the opportunity to go on mission with our partner orphanage in Malawi, Africa. These opportunities will be made available to staff; some are at no or a reduced rate for staff. Other opportunities and missions will be made available but support may need to be raised on your own.

Formation & Development

At CODES every team member is an educator. Whether you are teaching science on the trails, or character building as a cabin leader, you are helping develop young minds. We create a safe haven where creativity, critical thinking and personal achievement are explored and celebrated! Not only are we teaching first-hand many of the fields of scientific endeavor, including geology, botany, zoology, ecology, etc. We are teaching them about integrity, the value of exploring science, how to work together as a team, and most importantly we are investing in their lives.

Stewardship

This is a part of our core staff values at camp. We believe that students should understand how to care not only about natural resources but all resources, whether that is time, money, food, or whatever they are given it is our hope that they would be good stewards of these things. Students will grapple with current environmental issues and they will develop strategies to properly manage and conserve our natural resources. They will learn this during dining times, cabin times, on the trails, and throughout their classes.

Hospitality

Not only do we serve students every week by running an awesome outdoor science program, but Mile High Pines also operates as a retreat facility serves over 10,000 campers a year. It is our goal to create an atmosphere for life changing encounters with God. We strive to offer a friendly, welcoming staff that is eager to cater to the needs of hundreds of churches, and organization. We anticipate and meet the needs before they are asked, and resolve issues as efficiently as possible. Whether you spend your service day in our food service department, with the accommodations crew, or assisting campers on adventure activities excellent hospitality is key.



WHAT IS A NATURALIST?

A CODES Naturalist is not only a person who specializes in the study of plants and animals in their natural setting, but is also a person who is enthusiastic about nature; able and excited to teach. CODES Naturalists have the rare opportunity to show 5th and 6th grade students hands-on experiences that bring textbooks to life!

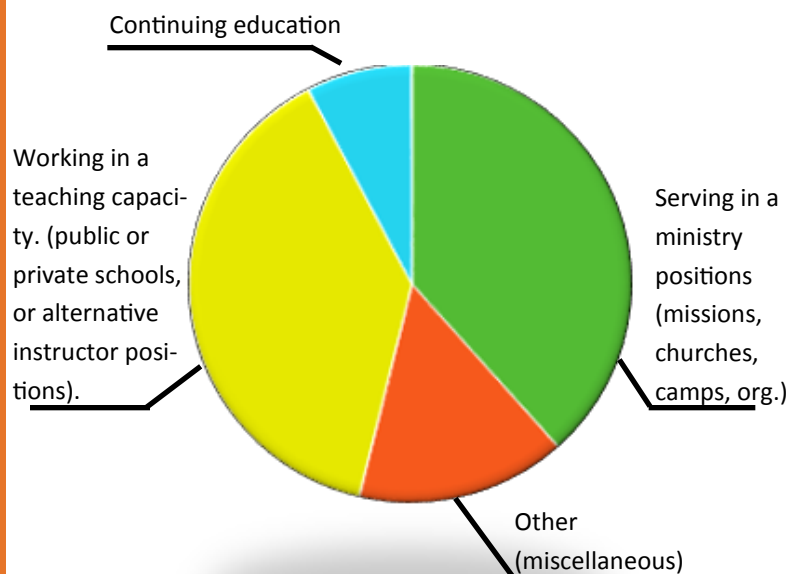
WHAT DO PAST EMPLOYEES THINK?

“As a naturalist in the Mile High Pines CODES program, I have been able to grow in just a brief amount of time. ...I have grown in the way I teach science to younger age groups, I have grown in my walk with God through the influence of the staff, and I have been able to grow eternal fruit for Christ. The camp is one of the most beneficial growing experiences I have had in recent years. I had come to Mile High Pines so that I could gain a little more teaching experience after finishing my master’s degree in science education. This program challenged me to develop lesson plans and a teaching methodology that were both informative and interesting.”

Chris Heater, 25
Science and Math Teacher

WHERE ARE OUR NATURALISTS NOW?

Most of our naturalists have gone on to teach, or get involved in a ministry that involves youth or missions.





OUTDOOR EDUCATION NATURALISTS

APPLY ONLINE: WWW.MILEHIGHPINES.COM/APPLICATION

AN AVERAGE WEEK

CODES Outdoor Education Program has the unique opportunity to serve a new school every week. We reach out to children who are How many people get to hike for a living? Well, here at CODES Outdoor Program you hike all throughout the San Bernardino National Forest; with 2 hour long classes you lead educational hikes teaching science, survival and basic wilderness knowledge to students both in 5th and 6th grade. From night hike to extended lake hike and everything in between, you have the platform to enrich the lives of young people, to not only learn about outdoor science, but to also work better with their fellow classmates and build character though team building exercises. One night of the week is a night of skits, performed by both Naturalists and Cabin Leaders. This night gives you the chance to be silly and put on an evening of laughter and entertainment, preparing your students for their own night of skits completely designed and performed themselves and inspired by your silly and fun example.

BENEFITS OF EXPERIENCE

Hiking and molding young minds, what could be any better? Not only do you get ample time in nature but you will gain practical experience with lesson planning, teaching, and refining your classroom management skills. Weekends are planned with fun and exciting excursions with trips that range from local tourist site here in Southern California to educational trips to museums and observatories. All in the company of other Naturalists, Cabin Leaders and administration staff giving you the chance to connect with your fellow coworkers. Alongside other Naturalists, living on site has its perks as well. Living in an environment with other like-minded believers gives you the opportunity to grow in your walk, with ministry opportunities right here in your very own living space. With weekly bible studies for both guys and gals and fellowship with other believers. And since you will be outdoors for the majority of your time, you will be trained in Wilderness First Aid and certified before the students and your first class week begins.

THE CABIN LEADERS

FUN CREATOR
CHARACTER BUILDERS
FRIENDSHIP CURATORS



WHAT IS A CABIN LEADER?

When you think about your own experience at science camp as a kid, one of the first and greatest impressions was made through a particular person. Cabin Leaders have the privilege of directly working alongside students, day in and day out, on trails, at meal times and in their cabins. In that leadership role, a cabin leader teaches character by deed and example as soon as that student steps off the bus at science camp up till the day of departure. With all that time in between, cabin leaders take on the role of a counselor/chaperone with the motivation to resolve conflicts to keep peace and maintain focus on the educational material and team environment that the C.O.D.E.S program offers.

TYPICAL DAY

On a full day of C.O.D.E.S you will wake up with the students around 7am and supervise as your students get ready for the day ahead. At breakfast and all other meals, you accompany the students

at their table and get to know kids from other cabins as well as your own. Then it's back to the cabin to help them prepare for class, making sure every student has all essential items needed and ready to take a hike for the next two hours with their Naturalist. Now, depending on the schedule of rotations you or your corresponding trail cabin leader, will assist the Naturalist on the trail while the other takes the next two hours to rest and recoup for their next scheduled time on. After class, students meet up at the same lineup location where you will pick your students up. Heading back to your cabin you will have some time to play games, or talk with your students. After lunch, there is another two-hour class for your students. Every afternoon there is Recreation Time, where cabin leaders will instruct kids at archery on the basketball courts, gaga ball pit, at our archery range or at the crafts corner. All week long you will help your students prepare for their end of the week skit. Every evening we offer a fun program, as fun creators, you help get the students excited for evening games, campfire songs and skits, or a night exploring nocturnal animals and experiments!



CABIN LEADER 9 POINT PACT

- 1. AS A CABIN LEADER. I WILL BE SERVING IN A CAPACITY OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST FOR THE CARE OF THE YOUTH STUDENTS IN MY CHARGE.**
- 2. I WILL CONDUCT MYSELF IN SUCH A WAY THAT MY PERSONAL BEHAVIOR AND APPEARANCE WILL SERVE AS A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL TO THE STUDENTS.**
- 3. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE YOUNG STUDENTS IN MY CHARGE ARE VERY IMPRESSIONABLE AND MUST BE PROTECTED FROM UNWHOLESOME LANGUAGE. JOKES. AND ACTIVITIES. I WILL REFRAIN FROM SUCH BEHAVIOR.**
- 4. I WILL TRY TO HELP EACH CHILD BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CABIN GROUP AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHOOL. IN CONTROLLING MY GROUP. I WILL NOT EMBARRASS OR HUMILIATE ANY MEMBER OF THE GROUP. I WILL CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE STUDENTS CAN FEEL FREE TO BE THEMSELVES.**
- 5. I WILL CREATE A FUN ENVIRONMENT. GET TO KNOW MY STUDENTS BY NAME AND HAVE A BLAST WITH THEM!**
- 6. I WILL. DURING CABIN TIME. CREATE LESSONS THAT ILLUSTRATE GREAT CHARACTER. AND I WILL MODEL THAT IN MY BEHAVIOR.**
- 7. I WILL BE SILLY. GOOFY AND ENGAGED DURING ALL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES TO MAKE SURE EVERY CHILD CAN DO THE SAME.**
- 8. I WILL. MAKE SURE THAT STUDENTS LEAVE WITH STRONGER FRIENDSHIPS THEN THEY ARRIVED WITH.**
- 9. I WILL MAKE SURE THAT MY CABIN GROUP FEELS LOVED. VALUED. AND RESPECTED.**