Title: Howell Nature Center Field Trip Experience
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School: Priest Elementary Middle School
Date: 5/24/10
Target Grade: 6th
Duration: 1 day (8:30-3:30)

Lesson Overview
We are in the midst of our Environmental Education unit. In becoming a part of the “No Child Left Inside” movement, the students will see the ecological concepts studied in our classroom come alive in a beautiful outdoor setting, where they naturally occur. The concepts we have studied include, communities, populations, and the relationships within, adaptations, energy roles, predator-prey relationships and how we impact the earth and the ecosystems.

Student Learning Objectives
SWBAT:
• Name and describe energy roles that organisms play in an ecosystem.
• Explain how energy moves through an ecosystem.
• Identify the needs that must be met by an organisms surroundings.
• Explain how an organism’s adaptations help it survive.
• Describe the major kinds of interactions among organisms in an ecosystem.
• Work together as a team, cooperate and speak positively throughout challenging activities with a common goal.

Grade Level Content Expectations addressed

L.EC.06.11 List examples of populations, communities and ecosystems including the Great Lakes region (1)
L.OL.06.51 Classify organisms (producers, consumers, and decomposers) based on their source of energy for growth and development (2)
L.OL.06.52 Distinguish between the ways in which consumers and decomposers obtain energy (1)
L.EC.06.21 Describe common patterns of relationships among populations (competition, parasitism, symbiosis, predator/prey).
L.EC.06.23 Predict how changes in one population might affect other populations based upon their relationships in the food web. (2)

Activities
We will participate in 3 hour long programs at the nature center.

Basic Ecology Students will explore the basic concepts of ecology which may include habitats, species relationships, adaptations, predator/prey relationships, food chain and food web.

Survival with Shelters
Students will learn basic outdoor survival strategies through the use of hands-on activities. Small groups will then build their own debris hut for shelter.

Obstacle Course
On obstacles ranging from 1 foot to 3 feet off the ground, your group will traverse wire cables and swing on ropes while encountering such things as the Alligator Swamp, Cobra Island and the Raging River.
Student Assessment

Students will be asked to write a reflection essay of their experiences at HNC and what they learned in participating in the activities. I will be sharing some of their writings with all of the people involved with making this fieldtrip possible! I will also be giving them an Ecology test later next week on the topics of energy roles and the types of Relationships within populations and communities.