COOSA RIVER SCIENCE SCHOOL CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

It is the aim of our CRSS program to involve visiting teachers in our program by giving them an active role. We would like for the visiting teachers to handle one evening of programming. Please read the following to help you plan activities that would best suit the needs of your students. Please use the form provided in the back of this guide for class selection.

DAY CLASSES: 1 HR 45 MINUTES EACH

SCIENCE-BASED CLASSES

**Entomology:** This class introduces students to the diverse world of insects through hands-on exploration and activities designed to explore insect adaptations and behaviors. Students will learn to see the world through the eyes of bugs and better understand their role in our environment.

**Forest Ecology:** Take an in-depth look at the world of a forest ecosystem. The focus of this class will be to explore the forest floor, learn the identifying characteristics of common species of trees, and learn about the process of decomposition in forests. Students will also enjoy a hike through seldom seen areas around the center.

**Herpetology:** Students get the opportunity to handle, observe, and learn about reptiles and amphibians. Characteristics and adaptations of each animal will be discussed, along with dispelling many of the misconceptions about these beneficial, but often-misunderstood animals.

**Ichthyology (Study of Fish):** Students will learn about the largest group of vertebrates in the world, FISH! They will be introduced to the three different types of fish as well as the adaptations these fish have that allow them to thrive in their specific habitat.

**Ornithology:** Students will learn about our avian friends by visiting our resident raptors, learning how to use binoculars and field guides, to observe and identify birds, and visiting our new bird blind where the students will learn how to make their own backyard a bird-friendly habitat.

**Macro Invertebrate Study**
Explore the 4-H Center’s lake habitat and discover the amazing world of macro-invertebrates. Students will need to wear old clothes and shoes as they use nets, stereoscopes, and a dichotomous key to collect, examine, and study aquatic insects and other water critters. These hands-on activities will allow students to learn about animal adaptations, aquatic ecosystems, and the role of aquatic insects in this fouling community.

**Rivers and Reservoirs**
Students will learn the history of the Coosa River and how the many lakes including Lay Lake were formed. The class will also focus on watersheds and the effects that pollution can have on our environment.

HISTORY

**Pioneer Village:** Students will travel across Lay Lake and back into time as they take a trip through our Pioneer Village. Students will literally take a hike through history on their tour through the village as they are introduced to the way of life in the 1800s.
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CLASSES

**Archery:** Students will learn the basics of archery under the supervision of one of our trained staff. They will learn proper safety procedures while at the archery range and proper technique for shooting with the emphasis being on hitting the target not necessarily hitting the bull’s eye.

**Canoeing:** Students are given basic canoeing instruction before venturing onto the water to try for themselves. The instructor will cover canoeing techniques, procedures, and basic water safety. Students are required to have parental permission to participate and must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times.

**Challenge Course (5th grade and up):** Students will learn the importance of teamwork and problem solving. Each group varies on how they approach the course, the number of elements completed, and the lessons learned. We are not concerned with the number of elements a group completes, but rather what they have learned from completing each element.

**Climbing Wall (4th grade and up):** Students will attempt to climb our new climbing wall. Students not only experience rock climbing, but also feel the exhilaration of attempting a daunting feat. Encouraged by their peers and led by a certified climbing wall instructor, students truly enjoy this thrilling experience.

**Geocaching:** Students will work in teams to learn and use Global Positioning Satellite technology (GPS units) to explore the 4-H Center’s different ecosystems. Teams will be sent on a scavenger hunt that will test their ability to work together and test their newly learned skills to locate different points on campus called “Geocache Sites.” There must be one adult with each team as they travel around the center.

**New Games:** This class provides an excellent outlet for energy while at the 4-H center. This class is a combination of traditional and nontraditional games. Task, trust, and initiative games will enhance a group’s cohesiveness and ability to work together. Emphasis is placed on promoting enjoyable interaction between students.

**Orienteering:** Students will be introduced to some basic orienteering skills (compass use and pacing). After being refreshed on some math concepts, students will get an opportunity to test what they’ve learned by venturing out onto an orienteering course.

**Pool Time (Seasonal):** The pool will be staffed by certified lifeguards and will give students a chance to get wet and unwind with pool games and free swim time.

**Team Initiatives (3rd grade and up):** Students are introduced to the concepts involved with teamwork, team building, and problem solving by the use of Initiatives or “Field Activities.” Again, each group varies, so the emphasis is on what they have learned and not how many initiatives they have completed. This may be taken separately or as part of the Challenge Course.

Call the Program Coordinator to find out more information about **Air Rifle** and **Swing by Choice**, two new outdoor education classes.
Evening Programs

NIGHT CLASSES (1 HR EACH)
Led by CRSS Staff (Please Choose Two)

A.I.R.E.S (Alabama Injured Raptors Educating Students) (Please do not choose this program if you have chosen Ornithology):
This class will introduce students to the unique adaptations that set our raptors apart from other birds. Students will focus on the adaptations of nocturnal raptors, the importance of raptors and what they can do to help our raptors.

Night Hike: Students take a quiet hike in class groups, usually without flashlights. Students learn to use their senses in a nighttime setting. Topics such as night vision, sensory awareness, nocturnal wildlife, astronomy, and comfort with the darkness are discussed and explored during this activity.

Snakes (Please do not choose if already taking Herpetology): Take a look at snakes found in the state of Alabama. Students will explore the life of native species of snakes in the Southeast and get an up-close encounter with these misunderstood animals.

Campfire: Students will participate in a number of stories and skits performed around an evening campfire. This activity is a great addition to the overnight residential experience. Please make sure to let the EFS staff member coordinating your trip know if you want to have marshmallows. The center can provide them for a minimal fee.

People Pondering Puzzles: Spend an evening in small groups pondering our puzzles. This class encourages students to use logical thinking and group cooperation in order to succeed.

Astronomy: Spend an evening under the stars. Students will learn about our night sky by learning about stars and identifying various constellations.

LED BY VISITING TEACHERS
Time varies depending on teacher, most are 1 hour each (Please Choose Up To Two Classes)

Talent Night: Skits, songs, and other creative acts are presented by students and adults.

Movie Night: You provide the movie, and we’ll provide the video equipment. Great for a relaxing evening!

Dance: We can provide the sound equipment, you provide the music and DJ, and dance the night away!

Miniature Golf: Spend an evening on our Mini-Golf course. Have a golf tournament or just a fun-filled round of mini-golf.

Discovering Alabama Series: Choose an episode of the Discovery Alabama series. The complete set was donated to the EFS program by Dr. Doug Phillips in honor of their 20th Anniversary. Teacher guides and a list of the episodes available can be found at the following website: www.discoveringalabama.com.

Sports Night: Choose from volleyball, basketball, kickball, or any other sports-related activity. Please let the office know what activities you are planning so that we can have the equipment ready for you.

Guest Speakers: Have a specific topic that you want your students to learn about, like Bats or Square Dancing? Contact the Program Coordinator and we will try to help locate someone that can meet your needs.

Teachers may choose to have a supervised time to work on journals or other activities.
Please feel free to suggest your own program ideas!