



Foothill Explorations at Silver Spur Class Options Brief Overview

(209) 928-4248 | www.silverspur.com | fess@silverspur.com

Daytime Class Options:

ONE -HOUR CLASSES

STEM Classes:

Look and Look Again

Using observation and deduction, students get to practice critical thinking with natural objects. Working in small groups, students observe a natural object and draw conclusions. They will then look again at their object using a Dino-Lite microscope, draw new conclusions, if any, and compare their results. This is a STEM class with the focus on science and technology.

Conservation:

Art In Nature

Students will create a masterpiece in nature. The intention is not to “make their mark” on the landscape, but rather to create a nature scene that will allow for a new perception and an ever-growing appreciation of our natural world.

Life Science:

Adaptations and Instincts

Utilizing a combination of instruction and interactive games and learning activities, students will learn how animals survive using adaptations and instincts – and the difference between the two concepts.

Nature Hikes

There are 2 great trail options at Silver Spur. Groups are led by one of our instructors, with educational stopping points during the hike.

1. *Turnback Creek* - Experience a water wonder. Turnback Creek offers gentle cascades, calm eddies, diverse plant life, and many opportunities to view wildlife. Enjoy a refreshing time of exploration right on camp!
2. *Flume Trail*—Travel through our own transition zone – from deciduous lowland species to a conifer wonderland. See how the two worlds blend along the trail. Take time to appreciate the cool canopy of our wooded land.

Oh Deer!

Through playing a fun, interactive game, students will learn how and why some animal populations grow and shrink. They will also learn how some animal populations affect other animal populations.

What’s in a Tree?

Through interactive role-playing and first-hand observation, students will learn the functions of a tree and how the environment impacts it.



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ONE HOUR CLASSES CONTINUED...

Math/Physical Science/Physics:

Math Magic Land

Students will begin to understand the concept of the Golden Segment, and where it is found in nature. They will also be able to find and sketch an example of the Golden Ratio in nature.

Survival Skills:

Wilderness Survival 101

Students will participate in a scenario-based activity that promotes discussion on how to survive in the wilderness. Students will also learn what to do should they become lost. Pre-requisite to Wilderness Survival 201.

Teambuilding and Skill Development:

Folk Dance Class

This class is designed to expose students to the joys of group dance by exploring fun rhythmic movements, common dance steps, as well as learning and participating in several traditional folk dances.

Zipline (1 or 2 hours, depending upon group size)

Students have the opportunity to face their fears and practice encouragement at the same time with our unique "Argonaut" Zipline. Wearing a harness, helmet, tether, and pulley, everyone gets the chance to push their personal limits on our 450' line across the field - it's a rush!



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Daytime Class Options:

TWO-HOUR CLASSES

STEM Classes:

Go Fly a Kite

Students have the opportunity to engineer a simple sled kite to use in a series of experiments to test different variables important for flight. This is a STEM class with the focus on science, engineering, and math.

Going With the Flow

Hands-on, outdoors, and maybe a little wet! Students have the opportunity to measure stream flow rate and learn how to calculate the volume of water in the same stream to determine flow. This is a STEM class with the focus on science, technology, and math.

Earth Science:

From Here to There – Oh Way Up There!

By creating a scale model of our solar system, student will gain an understanding of the size of our planets and the distances between them.

Gold Rush

Students will learn about the California Gold Rush, the properties of gold, and about mineral exploration all while trying their hand at some real gold panning – each student is guaranteed to find a form of “paydirt”.

Nature’s “Barbecue”

Students will learn first hand that energy from the sun is renewable, abundant, and easy to harness by building AND using a solar oven – nature’s barbecue!

Rock Hounds

Students will have the opportunity to explore the many properties of rock and minerals through 5 different experiments.

Secrets in the Soil

As “Soil Scientists”, students discover the physical and chemical properties of soil through a series of hands-on investigations with soil samples.

Math/Physical Science/Physics:

3-2-1 Pop!

Students construct a rocket powered by the pressure generated from an effervescing antacid tablet reacting with water. Through this activity, students have the opportunity to see Newton’s Laws of Motion in action!

Pop Can Hero

Students have the opportunity to construct a pop can Hero engine and with it, test Newton’s Third Law of Motion. Through hands-on experimentation, students learn about prediction, data collection, and analysis of results.



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Life Science:

Green Giants

Students will demonstrate how to take different measurements of trees and what the measurements mean, and learn about the need to manage our urban and national forests to a sustainable level.

Hungry Bears

Through interactive games and activities, students will gain an understanding about bears and their habitat requirements here in the United States.

Pond Scum

How healthy is our pond? Find out using hands-on analysis and tests. Based on test results and critters found in the water, students will learn about water quality and the environmental impacts on our local water sources.

Who's Eating Whom?

Students learn about predator/prey relationships – specifically related to owls. They also get to practice their dissecting skills.

Survival Skills:

Orienteering

Through practical application, students will learn the basic skills necessary to handle a compass and practice on an orienteering course. It is fun for students to use such a seemingly simple device and still develop analytical and problem-solving skills.

Wilderness Survival 201

Students will further develop a basic set of skills and knowledge to survive in the wilderness and will have the opportunity to practice a few key skills. Recommended to partner with Wilderness Survival 101.

Teambuilding and Skill Development:

Archery

Through hands-on instruction, students will learn how to properly use a bow and arrow, understand the history of archery, and its importance beyond being a sport. This class activity provides a fun and safe environment to experience archery, an historically important skill, and be able to practice it.

Giant Swing

Fly with the birds on our **3-person** giant swing. Each student is safely harnessed in and given an opportunity to enjoy a rush through the air. At the same time, classmates are provided a chance to help in the fun – as a group they will pull participants into the heights, and cheer as the riders take flight!

Teambuilding/Team Challenge Series - see included brochure with more information

Zipline (1 or 2 hours, depending upon group size)

Students have the opportunity to face their fears and practice encouragement at the same time with our unique "Argonaut" Zipline. Wearing a harness, helmet, tether, and pulley, everyone gets the chance to push their personal limits on our 450' line across the field - it's a rush!



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ALL NIGHT OPTIONS ARE ~1 HOUR IN LENGTH

Earth Science:

Star Study - Finding Constellations in the Sky

Students will learn about many different constellations and how to locate them in the night sky (by season). They will walk away with a greater appreciation for our night sky and their own star map.

Life Science:

Night Hike (1-2 hours, depending upon request of group)

Students will better understand how our visual and audio skills function in the dark after a series of practical demonstrations during a hike around camp.

Story Tellers:

Campfire

Students will enjoy a mix of skits, songs, and storytelling performed by Silver Spur Staff and then finish their time with a snack while at our fire circle (weather permitting).

“Hardluck Lin” – Living History Presenter

Enjoy an exceptional storyteller with unique stories from the California Mother Lode Gold Rush. Great around a campfire. A Silver Spur favorite!

Juggling Performance or Fire Show (Extra cost)

Kevin Axtell, a local juggling and fire dancing guru with over 8 years of experience, performs for kids of all ages. Through energetic comedy, skillful juggling, amazing stunts, and volunteer participation, the Juggling Show delivers a positive “you can do it” message to the audience while the dramatic Fire Dancing Show is a thrilling spectacle of sight and sound. Please call for pricing.

BZ Smith: Basketful of Tales... BZ has been spinning yarns since 1974. This former librarian and classroom teacher hold audiences in rapt attention with a host of fine stories for all ages, interests and curricular needs. From adventures of the Gold Rush and tales of caring for our little planet to stories of building community, she offers memorable cohesive programs, always adding a sparkle of music and song. Choosing from the wide tapestry of stories from the wide-world of folklore, BZ often includes her own original tales. BZ has garnered significant recognition throughout her career. Her website: www.hive-arts.org.

Cynthia Restivo - Storytelling Programs

From whimsical to serious, historical to fantastical, traditional to original, Cynthia’s powerful storytelling captures an audience’s imagination. Together they journey to faraway places as listeners are unwittingly guided ever closer to their own hearts and homes. Her website is www.cynthiarestivo.com.

Fun Activities:

Folk Dance Class

This class is designed to expose students to the joys of group dance by exploring fun rhythmic movements, common dance steps, as well as learning and participating in several traditional folk dances.

Group Games

Students burn off energy and have fun playing a variety of active, big-group games.