

Greenwood Environmental Education Program Celebrates 18th Successful Year at Camp Victory



ABOVE: Danville Students Learn About Topography and Mapping at the Camp Victory Treehouse

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2024 | Millville, PA

The Greenwood Environmental Education Program (GEEC) at Camp Victory celebrated its 18th successful year, continuing to provide a unique environmental education experience to local students. This year, 1065 students from Shamokin, Berwick, Milton, Central Columbia, Benton, Millville, Bloomsburg, and Danville school districts participated in the program, immersing themselves in outdoor activities that brought their classroom lessons to life.

The GEEC program, held in May, focuses on three environmental main study areas: water testing, pond study, and mapping and orienteering. Additional activities included birdwatching, owl pellet dissection, snake art, climbing wall, ziplining, and archery. Students rotated through learning stations, each lasting 40-50 minutes, ensuring a diverse and enriching experience.

Key Activities:

- **Water Testing:** Students learned about pH levels, nitrates, dissolved oxygen, and other factors affecting water quality. They collected water samples from a nearby creek and conducted various tests, gaining practical insights into environmental science.
- **Pond Study:** At the pond, students explored the ecosystem by identifying macroinvertebrates and understanding the food chain. Using nets, they examined muck and captured critters, fostering a hands-on understanding of aquatic life.
- **Mapping/Orienteering:** Students were introduced to topographic maps and compass use, enhancing their navigation skills. Their explorations around camp led to exciting discoveries, including deer antlers, turkey feathers, and animal tracks.

The program's success is attributed to the dedicated efforts of experienced teachers and nature enthusiasts who share their passion for the environment with curious young minds.

"The Greenwood Environmental Education Program is a unique opportunity for students to experience the wonders of nature firsthand," said Camp Director Gail Truax. "Watching our GEEC teachers ignite a passion for the environment in these children is truly inspiring. It's wonderful to see kids getting to explore and have a sense of adventure as they dig in the pond and explore the creek, making real-world learning."

Over the past 18 years, the GEEC program has received outstanding reports from students and teachers alike, highlighting its impact on environmental education in the community. The program's success is made possible through the generous supports contributing through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Camp Victory invites individuals with a love of nature and a passion for education to join the GEEC team including teachers and Nature Center interns. If you are interested in participating in this fun and educational outdoor adventure, please contact Gail Truax, Camp Director, at campvictorygail@gmail.com.

About Camp Victory:

Camp Victory is a beautiful 130-acre summer camp in Millville, PA. Camp Victory creates a fun, safe camping experience for children, families, and individuals facing a variety of medical and life challenges. To learn more about Camp Victory, visit www.campvictory.org and follow Camp Victory on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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