

## Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus – Fall 2023

### **CLASS TITLE: GVNCP - Nature and Community Arts**

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS:** ages 5 to 18

**START DATE:** Sept 20, 2023 **END DATE:** Nov 8, 2023

**# WEEKS TOTAL:** 8 weeks **DAY/TIME:** 3 PM to 5 PM (2 hours per day)

**DAY OF WEEK:** Wednesday, the class is 8 Wednesdays in a row

**# HOURS (REQUIRED):** 16 hours total (16 total lessons)

#### **LOCATION/ADDRESS: DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION :**

**Fernwood Botanical Gardens, (attending class covers admission for class days)  
13988 Range Line Road, Niles, MI 49120**

**MAIN INSTRUCTOR:** Zoe Elrick

#### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Phone:** 269-612-8172

**Email:** [galienvalley@gmail.com](mailto:galienvalley@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html](http://www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html)

Please email the instructor to let her know that you signed up for her class.

#### **INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS: Zoe Elrick**

Zoe Elrick has a background in education, culture, science, art, history, as well as landscape architecture and ecology. In 2011, she started the Galien Valley Nature and Culture Program (GV-NCP), in Three Oaks, Michigan. Also, she is a registered landscape architect in Michigan and has worked for Pizzo and Associates, an ecological restoration firm of prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. Her landscape architecture degree is from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Plus, she has taken nature classes in New Jersey at the Tracker School of nature awareness, wilderness living, and wilderness survival.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Class is all outdoors. Dress for weather. Class will not be indoors.

This class is both informative and fun! Come enjoy Fernwood, explore its natural habitats, as well as make art: nature-art. Learn about nature, cultures, communities, and art through a variety of hands-on nature-exploration skills and art skills. Bring the family and a blanket, it's a family picnic style class. One or two parents (or adult relatives) must attend class with student(s) ages 10 and younger, per family, to help students with nature activities and crafts. One or two parents (or adult relatives) may attend class with student(s) ages 11 and older, per family.

**Nature and Community Arts Topics** include: making many aspects of a community from scratch from nature; Debris Hut Shelter; Water Filter and Purification; Fire-Making; Food and Foraging; Plant Identification; Cleaning; Community Culture; Landscape Stewardship; Community and Art in Harmony with Nature; up to 17 Nature and Community Art Skills; and many other arts and relating them to nature. Plus, each class day, students get to enjoy the features and nature of Fernwood. During each class, students will be outdoors, studying nature.

## COURSE MATERIALS:

Teacher provides some info sheets

**(Required) Required to bring to class (provided by student/family):**

**Dress for weather, class is all outdoors. Family to bring a blanket to sit on.**

**Bring a drinking water bottle, 3-ring binder, paper, pencils, clipboard.**

Optional Materials (provided by student/family) Suggested optional stuff to bring: color pencils, pens, markers, hat, **snacks**, camera.

## SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY 2 or more lessons per week (within 2 hours)

Week 1 - Sept 21 – Class Intro, and Nature, Community, and Art

Week 2 - Sept 28 – Shelter, and Natural Materials

Week 3 - Oct 5 – Water, Fire, and Food

Week 4 - Oct 12 – Cleaning, Culture, and Landcare

Week 5 - Oct 19 – Tools, and Clothes

Week 6 - Oct 26 – Harmony with Nature, and Nature Crafts

Week 7 - Nov 2 – Many Arts, and Nature Sketches

Week 8 - Nov 9 – Review, and Nature Books

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (websites):

[www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html](http://www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html)

[www.z-hub.org/nature.html](http://www.z-hub.org/nature.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/GalienValleyNCP/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Nature-Environmental-Advocacy-45111822807/>

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Each day of class, a student will draw / sketch and write in his Nature Art Journal.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?** All classes abide by the following:

1. Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
2. The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff.

**Student Assessment: Students to:** 1. Be prepared / bring materials. 2. Listen to teacher. 3. Ask questions, if don't understand. 4. Be on time to class. 5. Do class activities. 6. Do activities to the best of ability of age. 7. Respects classmates. 8. Be open to suggestions. 9. Stay on task of class activities. 10. Brings required materials (see list below).

## CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

**Attendance:** Students need to attend 80% of class hours.

**Parents Needed to be in Class.** Bring the family and a blanket, it's a family picnic style class. One or two parents (or adult relatives) must attend class with student(s) under age 11, per family. The parents / adult relatives are to help guide their kid(s) with nature activities and crafts.

**Behavior:** Students are expected to be on time, bring required materials (see list below), listen to teacher, follow directions, participate in class activities, and respect classmates.

**Weather:** Class will be postponed until next week, if there is severe weather.

**Y(Bring) Bring Required Materials:**

**Blanket(s)** large enough for whole family. **Dress for outdoor weather.**

**Water Bottle, 3-ring binder, paper, pencil.**

**Students should come to class with a story of the week, briefly talk about something the student saw or experienced outdoors, in nature or a backyard.**