



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Camp Maria Retreat Center Environmental Education Program is designed to provide an interactive, hands-on, real world experience for students to explore the interconnectedness between themselves, organisms, and their environment. This program is designed to foster a care for Creation that inspires advocates to build a more sustainable future.

OUR PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- ✓ Hands-on pier experiences
- ✓ Aquarium observations
- ✓ Water quality testing from canoe



NEW PROGRAM STARTING
SPRING 2025

PRIMARY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



The multi-faceted approach allows for smaller group sizes, increased opportunity for unique experiences, and presentation of diverse content.



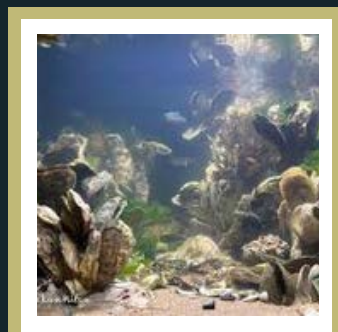
Hands-On Pier Experience

- ✿ On-site pier with wheelchair lift provides an accessible location close to nature.
- ✿ Handle, interact, and observe live spat-on-shell and adult oysters growing alongside the pier



Water Quality Testing

- ✿ Using safe paddling technique, operate a canoe access and obtain a water sample
- ✿ Conduct water quality assessments including temperature, turbidity, salinity, etc.



Aquarium Experience

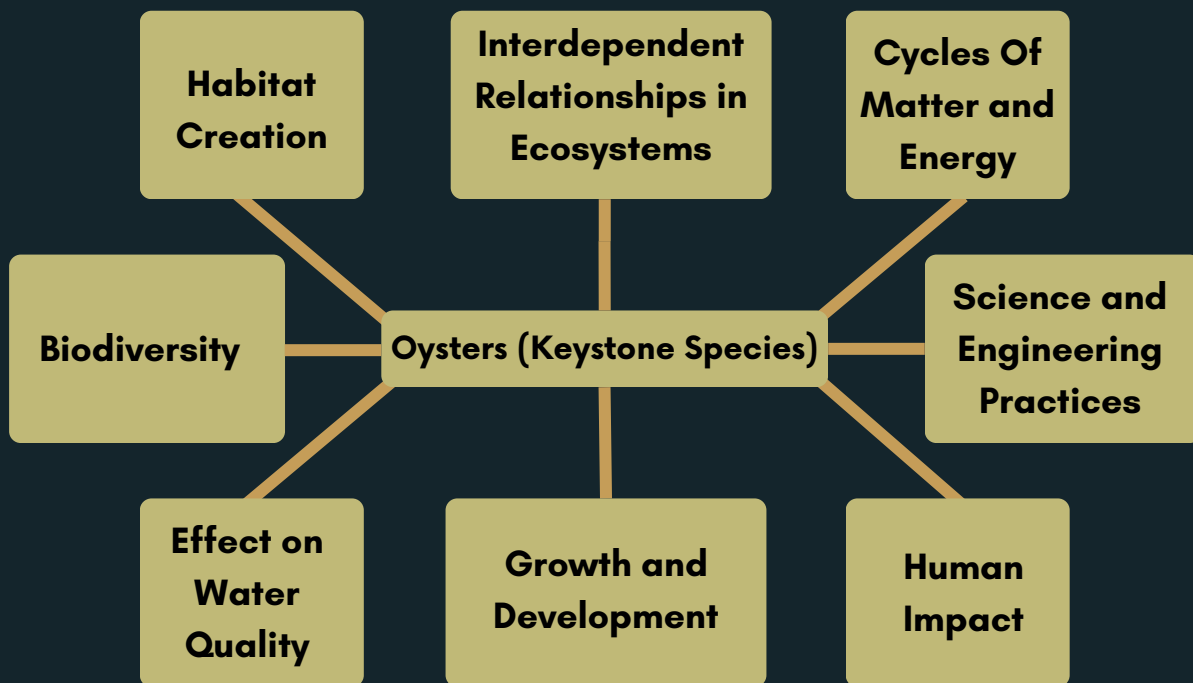
- ✿ Become immersed in a local aquatic environment with a mural, microscopes, and various tanks containing live organisms for observation



CURRICULUM



Using the Oyster (a keystone species) as the focal point of this program, we are able to easily connect to a large number of learning goals and objectives. Using similar activities we can adjust the outcomes of the lesson to fit the curricular and instructor needs for most grade levels.



EXAMPLE SCIENCE STANDARDS THAT CAN CURRENTLY BE MET THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. (NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

Archdiocese of Washington Standards

- SC.1.LS.1, SC.1.LS.2, SC.1.LS.4E, SC.2.LS.1, SC.2.LS.3, SC.3.LS.1-3, SC.4.LS.3-4, SC.5.LS.1, SC.5.LS.3-4, SC.6-8-ESS.3-2, SC.6-8.ESS.3-3, SC.6-8.LS.3-1 - 3-5, (E) Engineering Standards

NGSS Standards

- ESS2.E, ESS3.A, ESS3.C, LS1.A-D, LS2.A-D, LS3.B, LS4.C-D, ETS1.A-C

PROGRAM INFORMATION



Program Facilitators



Greg Shedd

- Director at Camp Maria Retreat Center
- Former science teacher at Chopticon High School and Chelsea Academy
- B.S in Biology, M.S. in Recreation, Parks, and Sports Management



Christine Kunze, SCN

- Associate Director at Camp Maria Retreat Center
- Member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (22 years)
- B.S. in Nursing. M.S. in Theology with concentration in Ecology and Spirituality

Program Fee: \$15 per student

Transportation to and from the site and lunch is the responsibility of the school/visiting group.

Please contact us if you have questions, would like to schedule a site visit, or are ready to lock in a date for your class/group.

 director@campmaria.org  campmaria.org  301-475-8330



Sample Schedule

9:30AM



Arrival and Introduction

This time is provided as a general introduction of learning objectives and to provide details regarding student safety and program structure

10:00AM



**Rotation 1
Group A**

Pier Activity – Students will be observing and interacting with live oysters, as well as other organisms, that are being grown in baskets off the pier.

10:45AM



**Rotation 2
Group A**

Aquarium Activity – Students will be able to see and consider the interconnectedness of brackish water organisms. Microscope activity

11:30AM



Lunch

A time to share a meal together in a beautiful environment and reflect on the events of the day and world around them

12:15PM



**Rotation 3
Group A**

Water Quality Activity – Students will learn safe canoe practices and operate the watercraft to obtain a water sample for testing.

1:00PM



**Final Activity
and Dismissal**

Complete a closure activity that includes a human impact component and action steps to extend the lesson into everyday life.