

Source 1:

“School Outreach Programs.” *The Schuylkill Center*. 13 Sept. 2024. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education’s School outreach program didn’t have much information on it, but the center hosts lots of events on outdoor education. These programs aim to make students more aware of their impact on nature and teach them how to care for it. Some of the activities include outdoor lessons, games, and experiments that let students explore nature in real life. The Schuylkill Center website is a really great resource for researching potential ideas for lesson planning for my mini-course. I think these programs would be a great way to help students understand environmental issues and develop a stronger connection with nature, maybe bringing in a staff member from the Schuylkill Center to talk about the importance of the natural environment with the students.

Source 2:

“Home.” *Friends of Wissahickon*. 2 Jan. 2025. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

The Friends of the Wissahickon is a non-profit organization working on trail maintenance and protecting the woods across the Wissahickon Woods in Philadelphia. Their website provides information about the park’s history, conservation efforts, and different programs to help maintain the park’s trails. There are many different volunteer opportunities and events that the FOW hosts across the year. This organization would be a great resource to get in touch with to go on an educational hike in the Wissahickon. This website is useful for students who are interested in environmental conservation and want to learn about local efforts to protect nature.

Source 3:

“Friends of Fairmount Park.” *Friends of Fairmount Park | Preserving Philadelphia Parks*. n.d. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

Fairmount Park is the biggest Urban park in Philadelphia, holding lots of different trails and historical landmarks. They host educational programs to get people in Philadelphia in touch with their natural environment. The website shares how the organization helps clean up the park, plant trees, and host events that bring the community together. It also talks about how people can get involved by donating, volunteering, or joining in on activities like park clean-ups or tree-planting projects which would all be really engaging and fun opportunities to take the kids out for the mini course. This website has a lot of good information on the conservation of green spaces in urban areas like Philadelphia and its importance, it's a good example of how the community keeps the parks clean.

Source 4:

“Philadelphia Parks & Recreation: Homepage.” *City of Philadelphia*. n.d. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

This is a website that has descriptions of all of the different parks and green spaces across Philadelphia, including the recreational programs and services the city provides. The site also includes details on activities and programs like sports leagues, fitness classes, summer camps, and volunteer opportunities. Diving more into the volunteer opportunities will give me a better understanding of what I will be able to accomplish in my mini course and the time it will take to actually take to coordinate a volunteer event with one of these programs. It also gives useful information about how parks in the city are maintained and the variety of activities that are available to everyone, from kids to adults. It’s a great way to learn about your city’s green spaces and how they can be used for fun and to stay active.

Source 5:

“Step out of the Classroom.” *Philadelphia Outward Bound School*. 5 Dec. 2024. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

The Outward Bound Philadelphia website talks about programs for schools and groups, offering outdoor adventure experiences that help people build teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills. They provide a variety of programs, including wilderness expeditions and outdoor challenges, that are designed to push people out of their comfort zones while teaching important life skills. Although an outward-bound trip would be something that would be much too difficult to pull off for a mini course I want to use this resource as a way to come up with lesson plans for the kinds of things we will be doing, which is a much more scaled-down version of an outward bound trip.

Source 6:

Robinson, Matt. “Outdoor Learning Ideas.” *Learning through Landscapes*. Learning through Landscapes, 7 Aug. 2023. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

This website has a lot of well-established resources that are centered around lesson planning for outdoor education programs both in the classroom and outside in nature. The site provides a lot of different activity ideas, lesson plans, and guides that would be helpful to use in nature and outdoor spaces to teach. The resources cover topics like science, environmental education, and teamwork, which would keep kids engaged in the lessons. Overall, it’s a good tool for learning how outdoor spaces can be used to teach important life skills and academic subjects which I will need to be able to teach this mini course well and make sure that it’s engaging.

Source 7:

McKee, Heather. "11 Activities for Your Outdoor Education Curriculum." *EPI*. EPI, 10 July 2024. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

This is a website that has a lot of different way that educators and teachers can get different kinds of outdoor education into their classrooms. This website is going to be really helpful for me in figuring out the different ways that I can incorporate what I've learned about outdoor education in the outdoors back into the classroom. Some suggestions include nature walks, outdoor science experiments, and creating outdoor classrooms, all aimed at engaging students in hands-on learning. I think that this could also be a good opportunity to be able to teach the students about the importance of their natural environment on more internal subjects like their mental health and their creativity.

Source 8:

"Get Involved." *birdsafephilly*. n.d. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

The site talks about different volunteer opportunities, including helping with birdwatching, educating others about bird safety, and participating in events or campaigns to raise awareness. One of the main focuses is preventing bird collisions with windows, which is a big problem for birds in urban areas. This is a very important topic to me because of the bird I brought into SLA last year so getting someone to be able to come in and talk about the importance of wildlife conservation in urban areas. It's also a good option for students who want to volunteer and make a difference in their community by helping protect birds and raise awareness about environmental issues that I can bring into the classroom for my mini course. I want to get kids engaged in the importance of wildlife conservation.

Source 9:

*The friends of the Cresheim Trail*. n.d. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

This website is another resource that is related to the trails in Philadelphia in the parks in the area. The mission of this organization is to make easily accessible trails for people across the city while still being safe and scenic. The site shares information about the trail's design, updates on its progress, and how people can get involved in supporting or volunteering for the project, which I will be able to present to the kids in my mini course as an example of an ongoing trail maintenance project and spark their interest in participating in a program like this. It's also a good place to learn about ways students can contribute to making their neighborhoods more connected and environmentally friendly.

Source 10:

"Outdoor Activities: Girl Scouts." *Girl Scouts of the USA*. n.d. Web. 21 Jan. 2025.

Honestly, I just used this website to be able to think of good potential outdoor activities I could do with different age ranges, depending on the level that everyone in the mini course is at in terms of their outdoorsiness. These badges focus on skills like camping, hiking, and environmental conservation, and encourage girls to explore nature while learning important life skills which I can use in a context outside of Girl Scouts. It is a resource that will let me understand how I can get kids involved and comfortable with their surroundings in nature and how to get them to interact with their natural environment.