

Independent Study

Service Learning in Natural Resources Education (3 hours)

Instructors- Jeff Kirwan and Llyn Sharp

Pre-requisites: Permission of the instructor (contact jkirwan@vt.edu)

Overview: Students will lead environmental education activities at local elementary schools using Project Learning Tree and Project Wet- two national environmental education curricula that use hands-on activities to teach youth about natural resources. Students will learn how to adapt curricula for use in Virginia public schools, using the Virginia Standards of Learning, and for use with informal education groups such as 4-H. After completion of training, students will assemble teaching kits for eight activities and lead a minimum of eight activities with K-12 and informal education groups.

Syllabus

Week 1. Overview of the national environmental education curricula, concept of service learning.

Week 2. Project Learning Tree Instruction (six hours)

Week 3-6. Service-learning with PLT (lead four PLT activities at local schools/clubs)

Week 7. Project Wet Instruction (six hours)

Week 8-11. Service-learning with Wet (lead four Wet activities at local schools/clubs)

Week 12. Complete Service Learning activities

Grade

70% based on teacher evaluations of the presentations

30% based on class attendance, reflection activities, diversity of experiences, communications with teachers, scheduling, etc.

Service learning activity locations

- Montgomery County After-School Program (10 schools) Each student will be assigned to two schools.
- Floyd County has 6th and 5th grade programs at eight schools. Students could each take one school and do a presentation for each grade. Would cover 1st two weeks of March and April only.
- Service Learning Center will provide a list of elementary teachers
- Mountain Lake Wilderness Conservancy
- Holiday Lake 4-H Center