



## **AN INTRODUCTION TO PEEC PROGRAMS**

*For Scouts, Families, Conferences & Retreats,  
Friends, Colleagues, and Youth Groups.*



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***PEEC IS CLOSE TO HOME, WHERE LEARNING COMES NATURALLY!***

Thank you for your interest in the Pocono Environmental Education Center (P.E.E.C.)! In cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), PEEC has the distinction of being one of the most respected and recognized residential environmental education centers in the northeastern United States. This unique public/private partnership has withstood the test of time and has served the education community for over thirty years. Approximately 24,000 people visit our non-profit facility annually.

## **Welcome to PEEC....**

*...a perfect place for learning, exploring, getting away and connecting for...*

**Schools**....to extend your classroom...a unique center for programs and field studies designed to meet the individual interests, needs and goals of each school ...

**Families, Friends & Colleagues**... to spend time together... to re-connect ...

**Scouts**... to fulfill badge requirements for boy and girl scouts ...

**Youth Groups**... to build lifelong friendships ...

**Nature Lovers**... to enjoy the great outdoors ...

## **PEEC is a perfect place to enrich the quality of your life...**

Host a reunion, retreat, training and leadership program for your group, family and organization. PEEC will design and deliver your entire program or supplement your existing program with its numerous activities and services.

## **About PEEC...**

The enjoyment and study of nature and natural systems is a focus point for us at PEEC. Our proximity to 200,000 acres of public lands, including the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), numerous state parks, forests and game lands offers a world of opportunities for all of our guests to explore:

- shady hemlock gorges,
- the scenic Delaware River,
- diverse lowland and upland forests, fields, ponds, streams & waterfalls,
- the unique flora and fauna found in boreal bogs,
- a quarry containing 400 million year-old fossils.

## **Where is PEEC...**

PEEC is located on the Pocono Plateau in northeastern Pennsylvania. The campus is situated within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA/NRA), twenty miles southwest of the tri-state junction of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. PEEC is accessible by car, train or bus and is only 2 hours travel from major metropolitan centers including New York City, Philadelphia, Newark and Trenton.

## **PEEC People...**

PEEC employs ten permanent employees, ten to fifteen intern/environmental educators and a varying number of supplemental resource persons to facilitate all programs and daily operations. Staff members are warm, friendly, highly motivated, educated and well trained professionals available to assist you in planning and delivering a successful program.



# PEEC PROGRAM FACILITIES

## Housing...

**Cabins** – Guests are housed in PEEC’s cabins which can comfortably sleep 2 – 16 persons on wooden bunk beds with camp-type mattresses. Cabins have heat, electricity and private bathroom facilities. Guests can either bring their own sleeping bags and linens or rent a complete set of linens for their stay. Participants are asked to leave their living units clean and well ordered.

**Guest Lodges** – Two new duplex style Guest Lodges which can comfortably sleep 20 – 40 persons on bunk beds with camp-type mattresses are now available. Guest Lodges have semi-private rooms for ‘chaperones’, heat, electricity and private bathroom facilities. Guest Lodges meet ADA standards.

**Duplex Cabins** – PEEC’s 4 new duplex cabins sleep up to 6 guests on each side. Each side has heat, electricity, bunk beds and private bathroom. Two of the duplex cabins are also ADA accessible.

**Group Tenting Area** – Includes 5 tent platforms with tents that comfortably sleep 6 persons/tent. Tent site is located in a spruce and pine forest and is a short walk to/from main campus facilities.

**Yurt Village & Bathhouse** – PEEC’s new Yurts are circular, canvas-covered structures that have plywood sub-floors, wood lattice walls, windows and skylight. The Yurts are furnished with bunk beds, heat, electricity and ceiling fans. The village has 4 Yurts that sleep up to 8 guests in each structure and 3 larger Yurts that sleep up to 12 guests each. Four of the Yurts are also ADA accessible. A new, heated bathhouse completes the village!

## Food Service...

Meals are prepared by a professional food service staff and are served buffet style in the new dining hall. Special dietary needs will be addressed when PEEC is notified 3 weeks prior to your visit. Participants are asked to set, serve and clean their tables.

## Dining Hall...

PEEC’s new multi-purpose dining hall is open for both dining and program events and is centrally located within a short walking distance of all cabins and meeting areas. The dining hall is a ‘natural’ choice for your special events in the Poconos and boasts several award-winning, ‘Green’ strategies incorporated in its design, construction and function. The dining hall is a 3600 sq.ft. multi-purpose facility, seating 250 persons. Catering services are available. Call PEEC at 570-828-2319 for information and availability.

## Indoors...

The Main Building is the hub of activity at PEEC housing a large meeting area for presentations and gatherings, three classrooms, administrative offices, educational displays and book store. Classrooms are equipped with tables, chairs, chalkboards and write-on/off boards. Slide, power point, dvd and cd equipment is also available. The Nature Lodge at PEEC offers an additional meeting space for activities and indoor events. Internet access in our area of the Poconos can be erratic from time to time; however, wireless internet access is now available in the Main Building.

## Outdoors...

PEEC’s 38 acre campus is situated in the middle of the 67, 000 acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and is surrounded by an additional 70, 000 acres of public land...giving our guests access to an enormous outdoor classroom. PEEC programs and activities take full advantage of the opportunities afforded us by location alone. Depending on the season, visitors can canoe or fish (with valid PA license) on PEEC ponds or cross-country ski through towering pine forests. Currently, there are two low-ropes courses, two challenge courses, three orienteering courses, two sensory trails, 12 miles of hiking trails, a log cabin, craft center, several picnic areas, two campfire rings and a number of outdoor teaching venues, including a new pavilion and gazebo.

## EARNING SCOUT BADGES AT PEEC...

PEEC offers a variety of classes and activities that will fulfill most, if not all, of the necessary requirements for scout badges. A day or overnight program at PEEC will be individually designed to meet your scout troop's needs. *Call PEEC at (570) 828-2319 for more information.*

### BOY SCOUTS

#### Tiger Cubs

- Achievement 5: Let's go outdoors
- Elective 31: Learn about animals
- Elective 32: Feed the birds
- Elective 47: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

#### Wolf Cubs

- Elective 13 b, d, e, f: Birds
- Elective 1 a: Fishing
- Elective 18 c, e, g: Outdoor Adventure

#### Bear Cubs

- Achievement 5: Sharing the world with wildlife
- Elective 1 a, b, e, f: Space
- Elective 12: Nature Crafts
- Elective 15: Water and Soil Conservation

#### Webelos

- Forester Activity Badge
- Naturalist Activity Badge: Requirements 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Geologist Activity Badge: Requirements 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

#### II. Boy Scouts

- Tenderfoot- Requirement 11
- Second Class- Requirements 1a, 1b, 4, 5
- 1st Class- Requirements 1, 2, 6

#### Merit Badges\*

- Astronomy
- Orienteering
- Geology
- Reptile & Amphibian Study
- Mammal Study
- Fishing
- Nature
- Bird Study

### GIRL SCOUTS

#### Brownie Try-it

- Animals
- Earth and Sky
- Eco-Explorer
- Ready, Set, Go Camping
- Senses
- Watching Wildlife

#### Juniors

- Camp Together: Requirements 3,6,8,9
- Finding Your Way
- Hiker: Requirements 4,5,7,8,9
- Outdoor Creativity: Requirements 1,3,4,7,9,10
- Outdoor Fun: Requirements 2,4,6,7,8
- Small Craft: Requirements 1,2,3,4,5,8,9
- Water Fun: Requirements 1,3,4,5,6,7,8
- Wildlife
- Your Outdoor Surroundings
- Rocks Rock
- Sky Search
- Frosty Fun
- Earth Connections

#### Cadettes and Seniors\*

- All About Birds
- Wildlife
- Orienteering
- Outdoor Survival

*\*Additional time outside of PEEC may be necessary to fulfill these badge requirements.*

## PEEC ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS...

(E=Elementary ~ M=Middle School ~ S=Secondary ~ A=All)

*(Most lessons run 1.5 hrs. Optimum group size is 12-15.)*

### SCIENCE/NATURAL HISTORY

**Forest Ecology (A)** – Learn about the structure of a forest, the importance of food webs and energy flow within the forest ecosystem. Various activities encourage exploration and identification of connections within forest habitats.

**Geology (A)** – Participants will learn about the geologic history and processes that have shaped this region.

**Stream Ecology (A)** – Ecological study of a local stream. Includes explorations of stream organisms and hydrology.

**Botany (A)** – Delve into the fabulous, intriguing, and beautiful world of plants!

**Soil Ecology (S)** – Investigate the origin of soil and the importance of soil to whole ecosystems.

**Wildlife Study (A)** – Explore the world of wildlife through hands-on learning inside and outside of the classroom.

**Pond Ecology (A)** – Two ponds on campus provide a perfect opportunity for studying aquatic creatures. This activity focuses on the different habitats in a pond and the creatures adapted to living within each habitat.

**Interpretive Hikes (A)** – The PEEC campus contains 5 hiking trails ranging in length and difficulty.

**Night Hike (M/S)** – Students will take a hike in the dark and learn about night vision and nocturnal animals.

**Bat Study (A)** – This lesson will cover the myths and misconceptions about bats and show students how important these creatures are to humans.

**Tracking and Stalking (A)** – Practice the art of tracking and stalking wild animals in this class!

**Ornithology (S)** – Learn about the diversity among bird species and the unique adaptations these creatures have developed and observe many different species of birds by using binoculars and a field guide.

**Astronomy (M/S)** – Study the stars, the moon and the planets in the night sky during this indoor/outdoor class.

**Winter Ecology (A)** – Participants learn about adaptations that plants and animals have developed in order to keep them alive in the winter. Other topics may include winter tree identification and snow studies.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

**Air Quality (A)** - Learn about air quality topics such as acid rain and ground level ozone.

**Water Quality Assessment (S)** – An extended stream study class geared toward understanding the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of a local stream.

**Watershed Ecology (M/S)** – Understand the concept of a watershed through classroom and field activities.

**Global Climate Change (M,S)** – Global Climate Change is all over the media, but what does it really mean?

**Sustainable Living Strategies (a.k.a. “Go Green!”) (A)** – Learn about reducing consumption and waste. Discuss the three R’s and how to implement them.

**Town Meeting (M,S)** – Simulate a meeting of community members with different interests for a piece of land.

**Leave No Trace Practices (“LNT”) (A)** – Learn the “Principles” of LNT and participate in interactive, participatory activities that will help participants to understand how to implement them.

## RECREATION

**Canoeing (A)** – An introduction to canoeing basics (equipment, safety and paddling techniques) followed by a paddling adventure on one of PEEC's ponds. Available May through October.

**Hikes (A)** - See description under Science/ Natural History programs.

**Orienteering (M/S)** – Students are taught how to use a map and compass to find various points in the woods.

**Cross-Country Skiing (M/S)** – An introductory lesson in basic techniques, safety and equipment, followed by a ski tour through PEEC's pine plantations. Shoes and skis are included in this session.

**Campfire (A)** – A PEEC staff person will prepare your campfire. S'mores are available upon request for a small fee.

## ARTS IN NATURE

**Nature Journaling (A)** – Participants are encouraged to write or draw about their experiences in nature. Make or bring journals and use them to record observations, explorations and values about the natural world.

**Environmental Art (A)** – A wide range of crafts are possible here. The focus will be on using natural materials or reusing household materials to create works of art or functional items such as journals, birdfeeders, or decorations.

## INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

**Teambuilding (A)** – A series of challenges which promote team building, cooperation and decision making within a group. Participants must work together in order to accomplish the task with minimal help from teachers or staff.

**Confidence Course (M/S)** – Increase your confidence level and develop trust between group members.

**New Games (A)** – These games provide participants with a fun way to work on group cooperation, coordination and concentration!

**Wildlife Games (A)** – Play a variety of games in order to learn biological concepts as well as interact with peers. Focus will be placed on learning about habitats, limiting factors, predator/prey relationships and animal adaptations.

**Sensory Awareness (E/M)** – Activities that will build confidence and trust while promoting the use of senses, especially the senses that they typically do not rely on.

**Discover PEEC Scavenger Hunt (E)** – Get to know PEEC by going on a scavenger hunt. A great way for visitors to become familiar with their new surroundings!



## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ...**

These activities incur additional rates. Please call PEEC at (570) 828-2319 to confirm prices.

### **Local Field Trips...**

**Child's Park (A)** – A 1.5 mile walk along the Dingmans Creek to enjoy scenic views, cascading waterfalls and an historic wool mill.

**Delaware Water Gap (M/S)** – A geographic phenomena, referred to as the “eighth wonder of the world,” where the Delaware River has cut a path through the Kittatinny Mountain Ridge.

**Dingmans and Raymondskill Falls (A)** – Majestic waterfalls located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

**Grey Towers (A)** – Tour the home of the early conservationist, Gifford Pinchot, former governor of Pennsylvania and founder of the U.S. Forest Service.

**Rock Quarry (A)** – A trip to a local active rock quarry to hunt for fossils.

### **Special Presentations...**

Birds of Prey – Reptiles & Amphibians – Square Dances/Variety Dances – Storytelling

## **HOW TO ARRANGE FOR A PEEC EXPERIENCE...**

You can arrange for your group to come to PEEC by simply calling (570) 828-2319 with your questions and to confirm availability. After selecting your date, you will be sent a contract that must be signed and returned with a deposit to secure and confirm your date and number of participants. At this time, PEEC's program staff will help you plan your entire program.

The staff works closely with all individuals, groups and schools to insure a shared and successful program combining educational, recreational and social experiences. PEEC guarantees to lead and/or instruct 75% of each group's program. The individuals, groups and schools who participate in PEEC programs are responsible for supervising their participants during their stay at PEEC. Arrangements can be made for PEEC a staff member to visit, in-service and orient you and your support staff.

## **BE OUR GUEST...**

We invite you to be our guest and come take a look at all of the things that PEEC has to offer.

Call (570) 828-2319 to arrange your personal tour or visit [www.peec.org](http://www.peec.org) for more information.

*We look forward to hearing from you soon!*





