



Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) – Where Learning Comes Naturally!

As a 501c3, non-profit organization, PEEC's mission is to advance environmental education, sustainable living, and appreciation for nature through hands-on experiences in a national park. For over 50 years, PEEC has cultivated this love of nature in the tens of thousands of visitors to the site each year, which include school groups, informal learning groups, families, and the general public. PEEC is one of the largest residential environmental education centers in the US. Through experiential learning in the classroom and out in the field on PEEC's environmental education campus, PEEC provides visitors with immersive opportunities to learn about the flora, fauna, high-quality water, and unique landscapes of the Delaware River watershed.

Located within the 70,000 acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in northeast PA, PEEC's campus offers on-site lodging and dining facilities with accommodations for over 300 visitors. Additionally, PEEC hosts visitors on its 12 miles of free, publically accessible hiking trails with destinations to high-quality streams, ponds, waterfalls, forests, old fields, and overlooks of the Kittatiny Ridge and Delaware River. PEEC is also a short drive to several river access points providing program participants with the ability to canoe or kayak the Middle Delaware River.

PEEC's message of environmental stewardship is accessible to all students regardless of cultural background or socio-economic status. In addition to connecting with the communities and schools local to PEEC, students also visit from the urban areas of Philadelphia, New York, and New Jersey. All programs focus on watershed stewardship and education. PEEC aims to educate and empower students around the protection of their local and regional watersheds thus encouraging their roles as environmental stewards in their local communities.

With a focus on engaging pre-K through college age students through immersive, hands-on experiences, PEEC offers programming ranging from in-classroom visits, to day-long or multi-day class trips. PEEC's programs are tailored to the level of knowledge of each group and compliment classroom learning, thus supporting the continuum of learning. PEEC offers classes on a variety of watershed related topics including Pond and Stream Ecology, Wildlife and Habitat Studies, Forest Ecology, and Geology. Learning objectives for all programming are closely tied to and up-to-date with state standards. In addition to hands-on learning in the classroom and out in the field, PEEC instructors provide holistic learning opportunities during guided interpretative trail walks, night and day!

Beyond fulfilling the standards of learning, a trip to PEEC provides a multitude of social and emotional learning opportunities for students and educators. Groups are encouraged to spend time on the team-building course, low-ropes course, orienteering course, and engaging in PEEC's other semi-guided group initiatives. Physical and intellectual experiential challenges develop leadership, teamwork, negotiation, and conflict resolution life skills which ultimately the student takes back school and their local community to approach real life challenges. Though the lessons taught at PEEC shape the student, the time in nature with peers further develop these young adults.

www.peec.org