

Georgia 4-H Environmental Education:



Rigorous, Relevant, and Relationship-Building!



Goals

- To make the school program more meaningful by applying knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations
- To cultivate curiosity, critical reasoning and evaluation
- To develop positive relationships among students and teachers
- To develop self-confidence and physical fitness
- To develop an awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the environment
- To develop appreciation for the local and natural history of an area
- •To provide experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring, and classifying





Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Rigor

- 1 Product Focus
- 2 Clear and Compelling Standards
- 3 Protection from Adverse Consequences for Initial Failures
- 4 Affirmation Of The Significance of the Performance
- 5 Affiliation
- 6 Novelty and Variety
- 7 Choice
- 8 Authenticity
- 9 Organization of Knowledge
- 10 Content and Substance



"Inventing Better Schools: An Action Plan for Educational Reform" (1997). 10 Critical Qualities of Student Work:

Phil Schlechty



Relevance

"...an exceptional environmental education program...Their highly qualified instructors provide a hands-on, learning-based environmental science curriculum that motivates and challenges students. Their curriculum enhances the Georgia Performance Standards for science."

-6th grade teacher, Fayette County



Building Relationships

"Using the environment as a context for teaching science [and other subject areas]...reduces discipline and class management issues, increases student engagement in the learning process, facilitates student pride and promotes ownership in achievements."

The State Education and Environment Roundtable (1998). Closing the Achievement Gap:

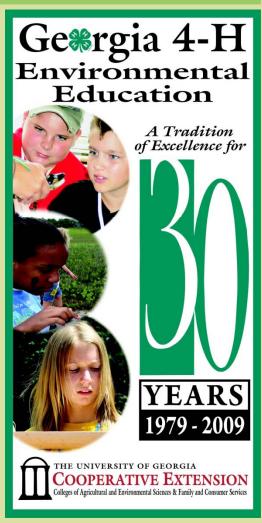
Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning.

www.seer.org/pages/ research.html.



Program Overview

- 30 Years of Experience
- Rigor, Relevance, & Relationships
- GPS Correlations
- Quality Staff
 - Minimum Bachelor Degree
 - Intensive Onsite Training
 - 1st Aid & CPR Certified





From the Mountains to the Sea





Wahsega 4-H Center

- 15 acres in North GAMountains
- •Sleeps: 222
- Offers Forest & Stream
 Ecology, Team Building,
 Pioneer Life, and more
- www.wahsega4h.org





Fortson 4-H Center

- 77 Acres in Atlanta's
 Piedmont
- •Sleeps:
- Offers Ecology, Living History, Team Building, & More
- •www.fortson4h.org





Rock Eagle 4-H Center

- 1428 Acres in middle Georgia's piedmont
- •Sleeps: 400
- Offers Forest and Lake
 Ecology, Living History,
 Team Building, and more
 www.rockeagle4h.org





Burton 4-H Center

6 Acres on TybeeIsland

•Sleeps: 156

Offers Marsh &
 Beach Ecology,
 Invertebrate
 Studies, and more

•www.burton4h.org





Jekyll Island 4-H Center

 9 Acres One of Georgia's Pristine Barrier Island

•Sleeps: 238

Offers Marsh, Beach, &
Forest Ecology,
Invertebrate Studies,
Orienteering, and more
www.jekyll4h.org





N.A.T.U.R.E.

Naturally gets students outside and connected with the environment Aligned with the current state curriculum standards

Taught by well-trained and college educated instructors

Uses the outdoors as a classroom without walls

Reaches students through physical & active classes up to 8 hrs/day

Excellence: a tradition since 1979





Activity Time



Hands on with David Weber



Any Questions?

Melanie Biersmith melmel@uga.edu www.georgia4h.org/ee

