



Welcome to AP Environmental Science!!

I am so excited that you've decided to take APES in the 2019-2020 school year. Yes, we will from now on often refer to it as APES, because there has never been a better acronym for something ever. Environmental science is an engaging, relevant, hands-on subject, but also a very broad topic. In order to cover all of the topics and skills necessary for the AP test, there is a summer assignment that you need to complete before school starts. Since some of you have never taken an environmental science course and biology may have been quite a while ago, this will help refresh your memories and we can start the year with everyone on the same page. It will also be a way to start getting excited about the subject and an excuse to get out in nature!



1) Your first assignment is to complete the Experience Survey ([click here](#))

PART 1 IS DUE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 5TH (do it now...)

2) Environmental Scavenger Hunt! The goal of this part of the assignment is to experience some nature, start thinking about your role and interaction with the environment, and just have fun! There are a variety of possibilities that I hope you will find enjoyable. You should pick at least **TWO** different experiences to complete this assignment, and they must be from different categories. (For example: you can't do two trips to the farmer's market.) Each experience needs to be documented separately, but can be completed on the same trip (such as camping overnight then going for a nature hike the next day). You should keep electronics to a minimum during these experiences- consider leaving your phone at home and taking a good old fashioned camera with you, and don't listen to music but rather the pay attention to the sounds of nature. You can use experiences while on vacation, or close to home. Feel free to meet up with others in the class to do an experience together (but you each need to document the experience separately).

Expectations:

1. Each activity must be documented by providing picture evidence.
 - You must appear in your picture (not just your hand etc. I must be able to identify you)
 - Pictures can be shared via email to me (awilliams@pallottihs.org), uploaded into Google Slides ([upload here](#)), and/or printed out and brought to school on the first day.
 - Feel free to be creative in how you document the experience.
2. Each activity must have a 1-2 paragraph reflection answering the following questions. This can be typed or handwritten.
 - Which activity (from the list provided), when, and where
 - Sensory description (what did you see, hear, smell, feel, taste); trying to pay attention to details that you might not have noticed otherwise
 - Was the experience a new one for you or something you've done before? How did the experience reinforce/change your outlook on nature etc?
3. You will choose **ONE** of the experiences to share with the class the first week of school. This can be in the form of a PowerPoint, scrapbook, blog post, video, etc. This will be a way of getting to know each other the beginning of the year. These presentations will take place throughout the first two weeks of school, and you won't know when it will be your turn so it should be ready to go since the first presentations will be on the second day of school! A presentation should be 3-5 minutes long only.
4. **PART 2 IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Scavenger Hunt Options

1. Camping- spend at least 1 night sleeping outside in a tent (or if it is nice no tent!). This can even be in your own backyard. Cabins/cottages do not count for this activity. If possible, build a campfire and try cooking a meal over it!
2. Non-motorized water activity- paddle boarding, canoeing, river rafting, sailing, paddle boating, even surfing if it is available to you!
3. Beachcombing- Wander a beach and search for interesting shells, various algae, different types of sand, etc. Compare what you find at two different beaches! Should have photo evidence of at least 4 unique, natural items found.
4. Nature hike- explore an area of woods or wetlands while focusing on nature. Look high and low, stop to listen to the sounds, and occasionally stand perfectly still to see if you observe anything that you might miss otherwise. Should have photo evidence of at least 4 unique, natural items found.
5. Farmer's market- visit a farmer's market and find a food you've never tried before. Find out where the farmers are from and how far they've traveled to bring their food to the market. Compare the prices at the market with prices in your grocery store. Are foods offered at the market that are not offered in the store? What other goods besides fruits and vegetables are available?
6. Bike trip- variation on a nature hike, this time on wheels. Do a countryside tour, follow a greenway, or do trail riding.
7. Gardening experience- whether you plant a small plot of land or try out container gardening, flex your green thumb a bit! Herbs, tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, or salad greens are good ones to try. Pick items you enjoy the most to see if you can grow your own instead of buying them. Try making a salsa garden and making your own salsa! Document your progress throughout the endeavor, and if you are successful you could even bring in some of the fruits of your labor.
8. Park exploration- Visit a State or National Park. What natural features are found in the park that make it important to preserve? Learn about the ecosystem of the area through visiting the park welcome center or nature center or reading the brochures.
9. Nature art- If you are an amateur artist, take your art outdoors. Create a watercolor, sculpture, drawing, or photography of nature. Go macro (landscapes) or micro (details of things like moss and tree bark are fascinating!) Try something different from what you usually attempt!
10. Zoo/nature preserve/wildlife center visit- Explore a new place or go someplace you've been before. Take a guided tour or interact with the staff to learn more about the operation of the facility.
11. Environmental volunteer experience- Many parks and community organizations welcome volunteers to assist with trail maintenance, litter removal, etc. Inquire with a park office if you can volunteer.
12. Composting- Start your own compost pile. Can be an open pile, a small bin, or vermicomposting. Document how much wastes your family is able to reduce, and how the compost breaks down over time.
13. Other approved activity- think of something else that doesn't fit in any of these categories? Just ask!