



Our Program Goals:

- Encourage curiosity and exploration in a natural setting
- Offer a solid academic program and sharpen problem solving skills
- Build community and a cooperative spirit while affirming the individuality of each student

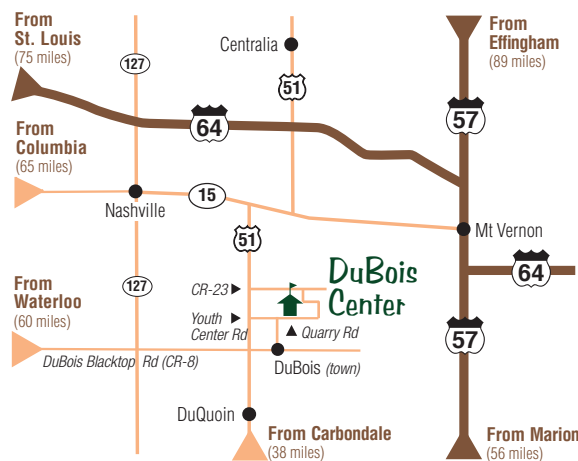


Close to Home yet, a World Away

DuBois Center is located in Washington County, Illinois, just north of the town of DuBois.

An easy 90-minute drive from downtown St. Louis

- 17 miles southeast of Nashville
- 23 miles south of Centralia
- 23 miles southwest of Mt. Vernon
- 17 miles north of DuQuoin



Map not to scale

Take US 51 to Youth Center Road. Turn east on Youth Center Road, which becomes Quarry Road. Follow for 1.5 miles to our entrance on the left. Watch for signs.



DuBois Center
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"Sometimes you don't even know that you're learning, because it's so much fun." --student

NATURE'S CLASSROOM at DuBois Center



*"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember.
I do and I understand." --Confucius*



LEARNING BY EXPERIENCING

WHO This program is designed for classroom groups of students in grades 5-8. Your students and their chaperones (generally parents) participate in classes and activities led by our Nature's Classroom instructors. Your classroom teachers and chaperones supervise during meals, breaks, and overnight in the cottages.

WHAT Nature's Classroom is an educational program that reinforces lessons through hands-on experiences not easily replicated in a traditional classroom. Students may learn about ecosystems and erosion in school, but exploring a creek habitat makes these concepts more tangible. Similarly, studying air currents and temperature in the classroom is reinforced at camp by building a hot air balloon and watching it rise. On the teams course, groups do more than talk about respect and teamwork; they experience greater success through collaborative efforts.

This "sleep-away" program offers 3, 4, and 5-day options. Some one-day events may be possible if scheduling allows.

WHEN Nature's Classroom is offered throughout the traditional school year, though schools generally choose to attend during the fall and spring since most of our classes are held outdoors. Indoor activities are planned for inclement weather. Attending in the fall helps to set a positive tone for the school



year, build the classroom community, and improve interpersonal skills. Spring participation can reinforce lessons already learned, improve and cement relationships, and celebrate the end of a successful school year.

WHERE

DuBois Center is located in Southern Illinois, an easy 90-minute drive from downtown St. Louis. Our 308 acres include tall oak forests, meadows, two lakes, creeks, pastures, and miles of hiking and horse trails for students to explore. Our comfortable heated accommodations for Nature's Classroom include two lodges and four cottages, each with its own indoor bathrooms, shower areas, and relaxing common room.



SO MUCH TO LEARN!

Whether for a full-week or a few days, we will help you customize a program of classes and activities that reinforce your classroom curriculum in history, natural science, geometry, engineering, art, and include team building, critical thinking, and even basic survival.

Customize your program!

Choose from a variety of options including:

- Pioneer Day • Hot Air Balloon Construction
- Horseback Riding • Hayride and Campfire
- Creek Walks • Archery • Night Hikes
- Erosion Simulation • Animal Camouflage
- Teams Course • Geodome • Dream Catchers
- Shelter Building • Fire Building and Safety
- Outdoor Cooking • Colonial Candles
- Burma Bridge • Primitive Pottery

WHY Many schools consider Nature's Classroom to be an integral part of their curriculum because it is fun, adventuresome, and academically-grounded. Teachers have discovered that often students who feel academically mediocre at school blossom in the Nature's Classroom environment.

At DuBois Center, our mission is achieved as we help students grow in their awareness, appreciation, respect, and ultimately, in their responsibility for humankind and the natural world.

