

****NEW** Educational Themes**

Themes are cross-curricular storylines that help bridge learners' experiences at MEC. There are so many wonderful things to explore and learn at camp. A theme helps learners make a connection between their camp and classroom experiences. Our instructors work together to make a cohesive storyline with the classes hand-picked by the lead teachers to create a one-of-a-kind experience.

Most classes can be adapted to fit the theme you've chosen, but some are better suited than others. The classes listed below are **suggestions** for each theme. (**indicates night programs)

Energy

- Energy is everywhere! Most energy originates from the Sun and is transformed by a variety of processes to power the growth and decomposition of animals and plants. It also powers the water cycle, climate, and even aids in weathering and erosion of rocks! In our adventure and skills-based classes, the energy theme incorporates grade-appropriate discussions of Newton's Laws of Motion.
 - *Down to Earth, Forest Connections, Meet a Tree, Nature Hike, Trail of Discovery, Rock Query, Trust Swing, Power Pole, Climbing Wall, Canoeing, Navigation, **Invention Convention*

Community

- A sense of community, teamwork, and collaborative thinking are at the heart of success in today's classrooms and are crucial to finding common ground. Classes taught with this theme focus on fostering teamwork, overcoming personal obstacles in an environment of support, and valuing all voices and choices in the group.
 - *Authors & Explorers, Canoeing, Nature Hike, Connections, Navigation, Meet a Map, Native Americans & the Earth, Trail of Discovery, Survival Skills, Team Challenge, Team Adventure, Trust Swing, Power Pole, Climbing Wall, **Songs, Sparks & Stories, **Invention Convention*

Adaptations

- The woods, streams, and ponds at Camp McDowell are full of life, and this theme seeks to explore why. Classes taught with this theme will explore the reasons behind the diversity of plants and animals, their unique strategies for success and survival, and how they interact with one another.
 - *Aquatic Adventures, Stream Studies, Forest Connections, Meet a Tree, Nature Hike, Survival Skills, Trail of Discovery, Value of a Tree, **Hop, Slither & Slide, **Radical Raptors, **Night Hike*

Connections, Cycles, and Systems

- Sure, all life is connected, but that's only part of the story. Classes taught with this theme continually link the relationship among living things (the biosphere), the Earth upon which they live (the geosphere), the water they drink (the hydrosphere), and the climate in which they thrive (the atmosphere). Learners observe the systems of life, water, nutrient, rock, and carbon cycles in grade-appropriate ways, and discuss the ways in which these seemingly independent cycles are connected to one another.
 - *Authors & Explorers, Aquatic Adventures, Stream Studies, Canoeing, Down to Earth, Forest Connections, Meet a Tree, Native Americans & the Earth, Rock Query, Trail of Discovery, **Big Screen*

The Earth Provides

- Everything you eat and everything you wear come from sun, soil, water, and air. Classes taught in this theme highlight the nature that surrounds us as an abundant resource. Learners connect their wants and needs to their natural origins, and realize that not all resources are renewable, common, or evenly distributed across communities and the globe.
 - *Down to Earth, Forest Connections, Meet a Tree, Native Americans & the Earth, Rock Query, Survival Skills, Trail of Discovery, Nature Hike, Value of a Tree, **McDowell Woods, **Big Screen*

McDowell Stewards

- What are the impacts of humans on our environment? How can something that happens at Camp McDowell affect communities in Mobile? How can changing our behavior today impact everyone's future? There's no doubt humans can change the world, both positively and negatively. Classes taught with this theme ask big questions, strengthen our connection to the place that we call home, and open our minds to ways we can make a difference.
 - *Authors & Explorers, Aquatic Adventures, Down to Earth, Forest Connections, Nature Hike, Native Americans & the Earth, Navigation, Meet a Map, Survival Skills, Connections, Stream Studies, Trail of Discovery, Value of a Tree, Canoeing, **McDowell Woods, **Radical Raptors*