



TANAGH

Outdoor Education & Training Centre

National School Ecology Day



An Investigation of local Wildlife and Ecology for Primary Schools

The morning session will take place in the onsite **Wildlife Garden** which has a wildflower meadow and a large pond teeming with wildlife. **The Canoe Paddle** makes an exciting second half to the day and includes a taste of **freshwater ecology** and **Leave No Trace conservation**. Most of the time is outdoors so its important to **dress for the weather forecast**. **If necessary bring rain jacket, hat, gloves, wellingtons and a change of clothes.**

10am Arrival at Tanagh OETC Field Studies Classroom

- **Short Introduction to Ecology:** Students are divided into teams. Each team is given ecological survey equipment including sweep nets, beating trays, collection jars and magnifying lenses.
- **Investigate creatures great and small:** In the Wildlife Garden check for large mammal tracks and traces. Sweep ground vegetation for bugs. Use beating tray to capture creatures from shrub layer. Check pitfall traps. Check small mammal traps. Identify creatures found. **Plants:** Discover all the amazing diversity of plant life including the native trees that you find in a natural woodland.
- **Leave No Trace:** Learn the Leave No Trace Principles while roasting marshmallows over a Leave No Trace campfire.
- **The Pond:** The pond habitat is surveyed using freshwater nets & large plastic trays. The great diving beetles, frogs, water boatmen, and all the other charismatic pond creatures make the pond one of the highlights of the day.
- Make food webs and chains.

12.15pm Lunch

12.45pm Canoe Paddle: Put Leave No Trace principles into practice during our canoe heritage trail. Use a net to capture creatures living in the water and find out how many different kinds there are.

Investigate water quality using a freshwater creature based water quality index. Less Creatures = Polluted Environment. More Creatures = Cleaner Environment.

2.15pm-2.30pm Return to Tanagh OETC. Depart.



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin
Cavan and Monaghan
Education and Training Board

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