

What Do You Want To Learn?

Open-Inquiry Outdoor Science Education

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The proposed project:

- Engages high school students with the process of science and Animal Behavior in a local setting
- Asks students to design their own Animal Behavior projects
- Connects young people to the behavior and socioecology of animals that exist “in their own backyard”
- Partners with a local organization, Wild Bear Nature Center

What Is Open-Inquiry Learning?

Instead of instructors telling the learners what to do, open-inquiry formats allow learners to define a topic of interest to them (i.e. ant diversity, bird coloration) and then develop a specific project to be completed on-site. Learners are first guided to develop a research question that can be answered in an outdoor setting, they then collect data, analyze their results, and present their findings or accomplishments at the end of the 2 month outdoor learning program.

Expected Outcomes:

- Estimated to support 15 teenagers over a 10 week program
- Professional development in Animal Behavior