

## Curriculum Introduction

Second Nature Uintas has developed a comprehensive academic curriculum in which the wilderness serves as an outdoor classroom. Students have the opportunity to complete courses during treatment at Second Nature Uintas. The wilderness provides a hands-on learning environment where students apply course concepts into their daily lives. Second Nature Uintas Therapeutic Wilderness Programs are accredited by The Northwest Accreditation Commission. All teachers are certified by the Utah State Office of Education ([www.usoe.k12.ut.us](http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us)).

Second Nature Uintas' academic program is based on a 90-hour curriculum in the following subject areas: English, Psychology, Biology, and Physical Education. Students have the opportunity to earn 2 Utah credits during the course of their enrollment (0.5 credit each.) A quarter credit will be awarded for partial completion of subject coursework, as outlined in the course syllabi. All course work must be completed prior to completing the program. Each subject includes at least one course assessment, which provides instructors feedback on material learned.

The State of Utah requires students to complete this assessment in order to earn full credit. The course syllabi are as follows.

### English - Elements of Literature: Fourth Course and Writer's Choice: Grammar and Composition

This English course provides instruction on writing and speech and was developed to enhance self-expression, idea development, and reading comprehension. Each student's wilderness experience includes a variety of reading and writing assignments. Students must carefully read and follow all directions and complete all noted requirements to earn academic credit; anything less may result in a failing grade. This English course will offer one semester of credit for reading, writing, and speaking/presenting and follows all objectives as required by the Utah State Core Curriculum. This course covers components of the following objective:

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Standards 1, 2

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Standards 1, 2

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Standards 1, 2

### Grading:

Students receive points for each assignment completed. The majority of a student's grade is earned through successful completion of written assignments. Students also have a brief final assessment, **which must be completed and turned in to receive full credit for the course**. The student's earned points are then tallied (for a possible 300 points) and averaged for a final grade.

### Points are assessed as follows:

Daily Journal Writing:	70
Writing of Personal Story:	70
First Letter to Parents:	20
Reading of Impact Letter:	10
Fire Metaphor Assignment:	30
Weekly Letter Writing:	10

Reading - Selected Book	
Assignment:	50
Service Learning Project	
Write-Up:	20
“War Story” Assignment:	10
English Exam:	30

To receive partial credit for this English course, students must keep a daily journal, write his/her personal story, and begin writing letters to parents.

### **Psychology – Psychology, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Meyers, David (2006)**

Psychology is the science of why people think, feel, and behave the way they do. Studying psychological concepts help students to develop skills to better understand themselves and others.

Second Nature Uintas’ curriculum provides a variety of practical experiences which relate directly to fundamental psychologically. Students explore a wide variety of psychological concepts including motivation, emotion, problem-solving, leadership, consequence-based learning, personality, substance abuse/addiction, communication skills, conflict resolution, cooperative teamwork, social participation, mental disorders, and therapeutic approaches. Because the wilderness is the “classroom”, it is necessary for this course to emphasize the practical, pragmatic aspects of psychology.

### **This Psychology course will offer one semester of credit, and it will focus on Standard 6340-01 of the Utah State Core Curriculum:**

- Develop observation skills in psychology (6340-0101).
- Develop writing skills in psychology (6340-0102).
- Develop reading skills in psychology (6340-0103).
- Develop listening skills in psychology (6340-0104).
- Develop speaking skills in psychology (6340-0105).
- Develop reasoning skills in psychology (6340-0106).
- Develop critical analysis skills in psychology (6340-0107).
- Develop interpretive skills in psychology (6340-0108).
- Develop critical thinking skills in psychology (6340-0109).

### **Grading:**

A student’s ability to receive academic credit for the Psychology curriculum depends on the number of requirements completed throughout various phases of the program. Final grades for this course will be based on the total number of requirements completed during the student’s stay at Second Nature Uintas. In order to earn credit, students must learn the Psychology vocabulary and display understanding of concepts included in specific course assignments. Additionally, students will need to complete two two final assessments (after Fire and Water Phases.) The grading scale for full credit in Psychology is as follows:

- 31–28 requirements completed = A
  - 27–25 requirements completed = B
  - 24–22 requirements completed = C
  - Less than 22 requirements completed = F (no credit)
- Grades for partial credit are determined by the following scale.

14 requirements completed = A  
13 requirements completed = B  
12 requirements completed = C  
Less than 12 requirements completed = F (no credit)

## **Biology – Prentice Hall Biology Kenneth R. Miller, Joseph S. Levine**

Ecology, studies the interactions between living and non-living things in the world. Learning about biology fosters and appreciation for the environment and helps students to gain a sense of ownership in the world around them.

At Second Nature Uintas, students have daily opportunities to observe the world and environment around them. Students learn to observe direct and indirect factors which affect the environment and apply these these observations through written expression:

### **This Biology course offers one semester of credit, and it focuses on Intended Learning Outcomes and Objectives 1 and 5, and Standard 1 of the Utah State Core Curriculum.**

1. Discuss the Earth Phase story with an instructor and complete written response. (Standard 1: Ecology)
2. Read and respond to Earth Phase story (Standard 1: Ecology).
3. Write about humans' impact on the environment (Standard 1: Ecology, Standard 5: Biological Diversity).
4. Write about the effects of a fire in your camping area (Standard 1: Ecology).
5. Discuss minimal impact camping with staff and practice these conservation measures. Complete write-up on natural disturbances of the environment (Standard 1: Ecology, Standard 5: Biological Diversity)
6. Read and respond to Fire Phase story (Standard 2 Objective 1: Describe the fundamental chemistry of living cells).
7. Demonstrate fire safety. Maintain a complete bow drill set and start 5 fires. Complete writing assignment on living organisms (Standard 2 Objective 1: Describe the fundamental chemistry of living cells).
8. Start 10 additional fires and complete vocabulary paper on fire-making experience (Standard 1 Ecology, Standard 2 Objective 1: Describe the fundamental chemistry of living cells).
9. Carve a spoon and discuss human evolution until tool-using species (Standard V: The Evolutionary Process).
10. Enforce Leave-No-Trace minimal impact camping standards. Write instructions on how to leave no trace (Standard 1 Ecology).
11. Read and respond to Water Phase story (Standard 1 Objective 2)
12. Make a primitive water container (gourd). As you make the container, refer to the water cycle diagram above and write a response on how humans interact with the water cycle and why we need to prevent contamination of the water we have. Write your response (1 page) in the space provided at the end of the Assignments section. (Standard 1 Objective 2)

### **Grading:**

Academic credit for Biology is depends on the number of requirements fulfilled throughout various phases of the student's wilderness experience. Final grades for this course are based on two end-of-phase assessments and the total number of assignments completed during s student's stay at Second Nature Uintas. Each assignment is worth 10 points. A minimum of 10 assignments plus Earth and Fire Phase assessments must be completed to qualify for full credit. Students may qualify for partial credit if they complete at least five assignments.

Grading will be based on completion of each component of requirements along with grammar and punctuation. Note: No credit will be earned if writing is illegible.

### **Physical Education – “Fitness and Lifestyle Management” Edited by Steven G. Aldana & James D. George**

Physical education is critical to overall health. The Second Nature Uintas wilderness experience is designed to enhance personal wellness. Students will participate in activities designed to maintain good health throughout not just during enrollment at Second Nature, but to sustain throughout life.

This Physical Education course will offer one semester of credit, and will meet Core Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Individualized Lifetime Activities Course. To receive full credit for this course, students must be able to do all of the following:

- Demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings.
- Participate in activities to prevent and relieve everyday stress.
- Develop trust through adventure-based and cooperative learning activities.
- Explore new activities individually and with others.
- Demonstrate the ability to work with others in activity settings.
- Participate regularly in activities that promote physical fitness and enjoyment.
- Recognize the importance of personal activity vs. food intake in maintaining a healthy weight.
- Participate in activities while following rules and regulations.
- Demonstrate healthy personal hygiene habits.
- Treat personal equipment and team equipment with respect.
- Participate in activities for the benefit of both the community and individual.

#### **Grading:**

Grading is point system based. Each assignment is given a point value totaling 280 points:

150 points for partial credit.

Physical activity is worth 40 percent of the grade.

To receive full credit for this course, all course requirements must be completed, including a minimum of 90 hours of physical activity.

Partial credit may be awarded if 10 of the assignments are completed with a minimum of 45 hours of physical activity

