

7th Grade Week 11/23/15 Track Pitches

Gardening and Cooking Track

With Mr. Jason

During this week, students will focus on gardening and cooking activities. Our week will start with an overview that will help set goals and will include fun teambuilding and trust games. With a strong cohort of students, we will work together to complete various garden tasks that are needed before the long winter break. Some of the garden tasks that can happen during this week are transplanting out our beet patch, sowing cover crop, apple tree care for our espalier orchard, and laying down straw and woodchip mulch, with other tasks TBD. For the food activity, our group will be responsible for making food for the entire class. We will take the time to harvest ingredients from the garden and make kale pesto, so that as an entire class, we can all sit together and eat on the final day.

Mini-Habitats

With Farmer Tanya

This week, we're going to work with nature to improve our garden by creating several unique mini-habitats. First, we'll explore how to find the contour on a slope using a simple A-frame tool, then mark off the contour and dig out swales, which are like long ditches that capture and hold rain water in their basins. In addition, we'll have an opportunity to plant an apple tree and build a fruit tree guild around it that includes bulbs, medicinal & flowering plants, and many other plants that attract pollinators or help bring nutrients up to the topsoil from deep below. We may also have the opportunity to build out miniature gray water basins around the drinking faucets in the garden if the group decides they would rather do this.

Climate Change

With Mr. Geoff

In this week we will explore the garden through the lens of California's climate and how we can adapt to climate change and the effects of global warming in our region. Through a series of games and activities students in this group will leave the week with knowledge of things we can do and are doing to adapt to our environment. Most of all we're going to have some FUN!

All About Chickens

With Ms. Rachel

Do you love spending time with chickens in the garden? Are you curious to learn more about them? The "All About Chickens" track will spend our week together as chicken zoologists – observing the chickens, discussing their evolution and characteristics, exploring their biological systems, and celebrating their important role in our garden ecosystem. Some discussion of meat processing will be involved, along with a dissection.