



Wilderness Survival

“The LORD, your God has blessed you in all your undertakings; he has been concerned about your journey through this vast desert. It is now forty years that he has been with you, and you have never been in want.” - Deuteronomy 2:7

Introduction

Using St. Kateri Tekakwitha as our model and guide, we will learn how to safely explore the creation that God has gifted us. In this pod, we will learn to identify essential tools for survival and how to avoid undesirable plants, animals, and insects. Through hands-on instruction, students will learn practical tips for shelter and fire building and will have the opportunity to put their skills to the test.

Student Performance Objectives

Through participation in this activity students will:

- Identify essentials needed for wilderness survival
- Demonstrate knowledge of fire building techniques and appropriate safety measures
- Explain how to safely put out a cooking fire
- Design and construct a wilderness survival shelter using materials found in the surrounding environment
- Discuss benefits and drawbacks of various shelter designs
- Identify harmful plants, insects, and animals
- Describe appropriate clothing choices and how to properly layer clothing while in the outdoors

Archdiocesan Standards

- 4th Grade Engineering; Engineering Design 1-3
- 5th Grade Engineering; Engineering Design 1-3
- MS-ETS1-1
- MS-ETS1-2
- MS-ETS1-3
- 4th Grade Religion 1,7
- 5th Grade Religion 1
- 6th Grade Religion 1, 6, 7

Activities

- Ten Essentials Game
 - When presented with cards listing ten essentials to outdoor survival, students will select the most important essentials for their “journey” across camp. Throughout their journey, students will be presented with hypothetical situations and will use their cards to overcome challenges of surviving in the wilderness.
- Fire Building
 - Students will learn the basics of fire building through hands-on experience. After practicing building fires without lighting them, students will have the opportunity to construct a fire to compete in a competition. All fires will be lit at the same time, and the first to burn through the twine suspended above the ground wins.
- Shelter Building
 - Using materials found in the wilderness, students will have 30 minutes to collect materials, design, and construct a shelter suitable for surviving a night in the wilderness. Students will then compare shelters, discussing the benefits and drawbacks of each design.