



JEEF NEWS - FY2022 Initiatives for Utilization of Membership Dues and Donations - Japan Environmental Education Forum) (<https://www.jeef.or.jp/>)

人を育てる、世界を変える。
日本環境教育フォーラム

<https://www.jeef.or.jp/>

Environmental Education that Leaves No One Behind



The Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) celebrated its 30th anniversary last year.

- We have been involved with many stakeholders over the past 30 years.

- The next 30 years will be even more exciting as we continue to engage with many more people. JEEF will take a new step forward together with you.

<Basic Stance>

JEEF aims to realize a "Sustainable Society" where nature and human beings can coexist in harmony, through an approach based on "Environmental Education" that conveys the attractiveness of nature and its importance, and fosters "people who can find issues, learn, think and act on their own initiative. In utilizing **the donations** and **membership fees** we receive in various forms, we have begun to provide more opportunities to meet people who have not had the chance to participate in JEEF programs due to physical, financial, or regional reasons.

In this issue of JEEF News, we report on how JEEF is providing "relaxing" and "exciting" nature, social, and environmental education programs for people who are feeling anxious and stressed in their daily lives. We hope you will enjoy reading this article.

With the declining birthrate, aging population, urbanization, increase in dual-earner and single-parent households, and other social changes in recent years, opportunities for children to experience nature and society on a daily basis in the community have been decreasing. In collaboration with nature schools and other organizations across Japan, we are promoting "nature experience activities" to support the sound growth of children. Spending time in nature helps children regain their energy and vitality, and nurtures their ability to think and act on their own. We provide high quality environmental education programs under the motto of "having fun and learning together."



Activities Case 1

[Initiatives] Introductory bird watching course (elementary school students/parents)

Date and time: Sunday, May 29, 2022

Venue: Morinoie, Kamigo, Yokohama City (Kanagawa Prefecture)

Cooperation: Wild Bird Society of Japan Ranger

The long-running "priority measures to prevent the spread of the disease" were lifted on March 21, and we suddenly thought it would be a good idea to plan a fun event for parents and children to get in touch with nature. The children enjoyed bird-watching with the telescopes they had built in the forest. Having learned how to distinguish the sounds of birds in the course, they were able to see nine species of wild birds, including gabbits, white-eyes, bush warblers, kingfishers, and others! It was an exciting day for participants and staff alike, as it was the first outdoor activity in a long time.



Let's make our own telescope!



Bird watching with the new telescope

Activities Case 2

[Initiatives]

Hokkaido Exciting Children's Camp Autumn

(elementary school students)

Date: September 17th (Sat) to 19th (Mon), 2022

Location: Kitoushi Forest Park

Co-sponsored by NPO Daisetsuzan Nature School

In addition to the general participants, 17 children from single-parent and needy households, from first to sixth grade, who are considered socially vulnerable, participated in the 3-day/2-night children's camp with the publicity support of a local NPO support center. At the camp, the children were able to take on various challenges with confidence, saying, "I can spend 3 days and 2 nights calmly and safely without any difficulty! and to be able to take on various challenges with confidence. Through various experiences such as chopping wood, making a bonfire, cooking rice in a kettle, and taking care of horses, there were many scenes of children who are used to camping teaching first-timers how to do things, and of children working together to prepare rice, nurturing their individuality and independence as well as their cooperation. The children who participated in the camp were diverse, including those whose parents had told us in advance that they had low self-esteem, those who attend support classes, and those who take medication to ease their anxiety, but they all seemed calm and relaxed. The parents also felt relieved to see how the children were doing after returning home.

(From a parent) I am always tired of raising my child and want to leave her somewhere sometimes. I need time for myself. I want my child to participate in camps, and experience nature. But the biggest obstacle is lack of money. My child had a lot of fun and said, "I want to go again!" They had a great experience, made great memories and gained confidence. Thank you very much for this opportunity and experience.



Activities Case 3

[Initiative] Hokkaido Exciting Children's Camp/Winter (Elementary School Students)

Date and time: February 18th (Sat) - 19th (Sun), 2023

Venue: Kitoushi Forest Park/Daisetsuzan Youth Nature Center

Co-sponsored by NPO Daisetsuzan Nature School

Following the camp in September, the winter version of the "KITOUSHI & BIEI CHILDREN'S CAMP" was held for two days and one night this time! As in the previous camp, a total of 20 children participated, including those from single-parent and needy households. The base camp was set up in the dynamic snowy surroundings to make the most of Hokkaido's charms so that the children could enjoy the winter nature to the fullest. Some children had fun playing snowball fights, others worked hard to cut snow blocks to make igloos, and others distributed warm chocolates to everyone... As the children found their own ways to enjoy themselves, they naturally showed respect for each other's individuality and consideration for each other. Children who repeated the fall camp showed great growth from the previous camp by demonstrating leadership skills, such as teaching their friends how to split woods and build a fire. In the parent survey, many parents said that while they wanted their children to experience the joys of winter, they lacked the knowledge and skills for outdoor experiences in winter and felt hurdles in preparing winter equipment. In response to these requests, we were able to provide children with a nature experience that can only be enjoyed in winter.

(From a parent) · She told me about what happened during the camp and seemed to be able to care not only about herself but also about the other children who attended the camp.

· He was not good at organizing his belongings, but I could see his growth when he had his belongings in his bag neatly when he came back home. Before attending the camp, I always had to call out, "Let's get ready!" Now he now prepares his own clothes for the next day everyday. I think he now knows what to prepare and can do it smoothly.



Ezo deer crafts



Many ways to enjoy snow



Wood chopping and starting fire

Activities Case 4

[Initiative] Osaka Exciting Children's Camp

(Elementary School Students)

Date and time: January 28th (Sat) - 29th (Sun), 2023

Venue: Osaka Prefectural Youth Nature Home (Osaka Prefecture)

Instructor: Osaka University of Physical Education Outdoor Activities

In collaboration with the Outdoor Activities Department of Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences, a two-day and one-night winter camp was held for 22 children (15 families) in grades 2-6 from single-parent families. The camp included a walk rally, outdoor cooking, hiking, and crafts. Although the children were nervous at first, they gradually became more comfortable and were excited to participate in activities that they would not normally have the chance to experience. The program was also intended as a “respite” for the parents during the 2-day and 1-night stay. Parents also commented that it was the first time in a long time that they were able to spend time on their own.

(From a parent)My child had a lot of fun and told me many stories. I guess children can release stress in nature. I think they were anxious before they went, but once they are there, they had a great time and seemed content. It was a great opportunity for me because I was too anxious to take them camping on my own.



Osaka University of Physical
Education Outdoor Activities Club
Camp Leaders



Outdoor cooking



Bonfire to keep warm from the cold front



Spectacular view after the hike(no sleeves!)

For children battling serious illnesses a chance to learn in a fun way.

Children battling serious illnesses such as cancer have difficulty finding opportunities for fun and learning due to the Covid-19 disaster. Some children, especially those undergoing treatment at home, have difficulty going outside and have less interaction with other children their age besides their siblings. Therefore, we continue to create opportunities for fun learning and connecting with other children of the same generation from the comfort of their own homes by offering a variety of online workshops and virtual field trips, as well as producing free exploratory videos that can be done at home.

Activities Case

[Initiative] Inquiry workshop caravan

Date and time: ① Sunday, December 4, 2022

② Sunday, January 15, 2023

Place: ① Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture

② Marugame City, Kagawa Prefecture

Cooperation: ① NPO La Famille (Ehime) ② NPO Mirai ISSEY (Kagawa)



The GEMS workshops, a hands-on science and math learning program developed at the University of California and licensed to JEEF, are offered to children with cancer and their support staff throughout Japan to encourage their interest in the outside world and the joy of learning. In Ehime, a Christmas workshop was held for children fighting the disease and their siblings. The adults and children had a lot of fun with the experiment to see if various everyday objects float or sink in water, including mandarin oranges, which are unique to Ehime. All the tools used in the experiments were donated so that children who visited the facility could repeat the experiments and continue their exploration in the future.



① Does the orange Sink or Float?
Having fun using every day items for
experiments



② Training high school and university student
volunteers who are supporting children with
cancer with their studies

Activities Case

[Initiative] "Play Meeting" connects children with cancer

Date and time: August 2022 - once or twice a month

Place: Online

Cooperation: Certified NPO Shine On! kids

Assistant: Red Feather Community Fund

We hold monthly online meetings where childhood cancer patients and their siblings from all over Japan, who are unable to go out or have few opportunities to connect with peers due to the Covid-19 disaster, gather to play and talk together and connect with each other.

<Activities in FY2022>

August: Let's look at distant scenery through a telescope!

September Let's have fun with analog games!

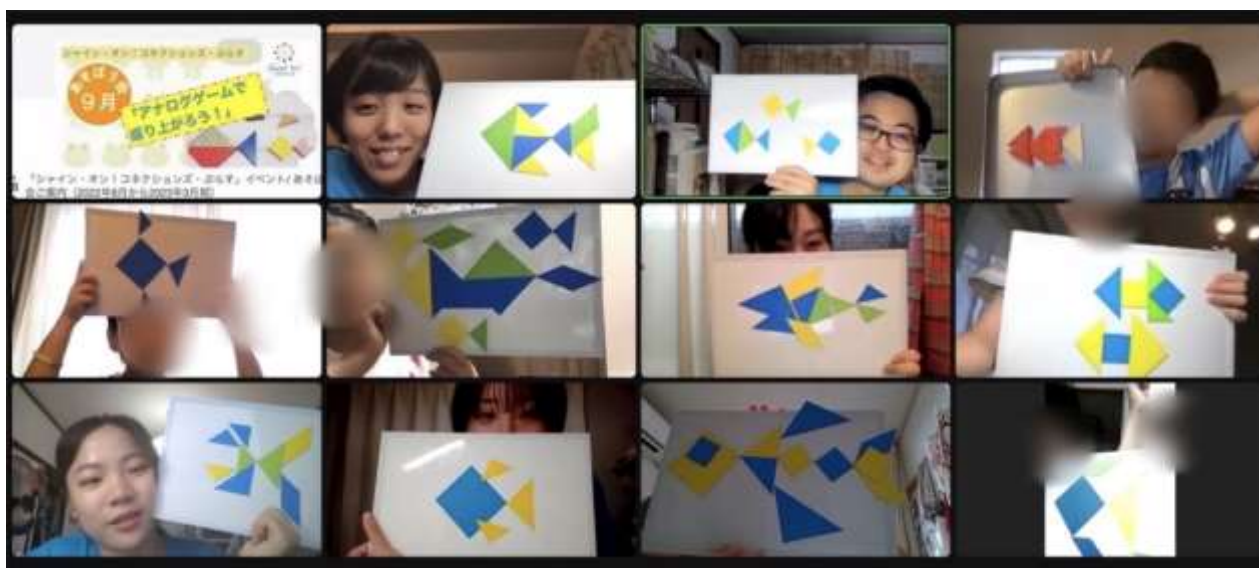
October Let's make a swinging mobile! /Virtual Autumn Foliage Tour at Kiyosato

November Let's make mysterious creatures "Heyanen"!

December: Let's make a kaleidoscope of the sea!

January: Let's make your own original "Karuta cards (words of praise)"!

February: Let's make your own hourglass! /Virtual snow tour in Myoko



Same tangram, different fish. Difference makes us all interesting.



The children shared the words of compliments that makes them happy, and the staff added pictures to the cards.



Delivering beautiful nature live online with collaborations with nature schools etc.

Activities Case

[Initiatives] Production of free exploration videos to enjoy at home

Date: From September 2022

Location: YouTube

Support: Benesse Children's Fund

We offer a variety of online workshops for children battling illnesses, but frequently they are unable to participate due to sudden changes in their health or treatment plans on the day of the workshop. Therefore, we have created exploration videos for them to enjoy at home/hospital when they are feeling well, and we make them available free of charge on our website. All of the explorations introduced in the videos are selected from the GEMS program. The videos are made by taking advantage of the GEMS feature that children themselves create their own explorations using familiar objects.



12 short science and math experiment movies are shared on Japan GEMS Center's site

We work hard every day in a stressful society. Do you have quiet moment to have conversation with your self? We, who have been accumulating "Environmental Education through Nature Experience (= Human Resource Development)," hope that adults living in a stressful society will be able to spend more time in contact with nature. Forests have the potential to be used effectively to realize a sustainable society from a variety of perspectives, including SDGs, human resource development, health, and recreation. Forests are places that give us energy and vitality. They are always ready to welcome you.

Activities Case

[Initiatives] Mori de Retreat Special Edition

Date: November 22nd (Tuesday) to 23rd (Wednesday/Holiday), 2022

Location: Seisen Dormitory (Kiyosato Plateau, Hokuto City, Yamanashi Prefecture)

Co-sponsored by: Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Keep Association

As an attempt to connect "people and nature," we have planned a retreat program in the hope that it will provide an opportunity to consider forests from the perspective of health and self-care, and to think about what we can do to help both people and forests become more energetic. Retreat: To recondition oneself (mental and physical balance) The theme of this adult nature experience is two days in the Kiyosato forest in late autumn, listening to yourself and nature. How comfortable it is to do nothing, just to be alone and lie down. For many of the participants, it was their first time to "walk barefoot in the forest," and I think the 10 participants had a fulfilling two days of relaxing and looking at themselves in the forest. Why not take a retreat in the forest to reset your mind and start over as a new you?

*This is not a program for medical purposes.



Barefoot in the forest



Enjoying tea

Enjoying reading

Enjoying drawing

In FY2023, we will further expand the scope of our activities. Your membership dues and donations support these activities. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

私たちは、環境教育による人材育成を通じて、社会的インパクト志向に基づく評価や事業づくりを目指し、様々な社会課題の解決とSDGsの達成にむけて力を尽くしていきます。



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かけがえのないこの地球で、次の世代も心豊かに、暮らしていけるように。



公益社団法人
日本環境教育フォーラム（JEEF：ジーフ）は、
体験と対話を重視した環境教育で、
持続可能な社会づくりを担う
人材を育成するNGOです。

[お問い合わせ]

◇ E-mail: soumu@jeef.or.jp ◇ TEL: 03-5834-2897 ◇ 担当: 吹留純子、中野真里子、清水誠二