

To Provide Environmental Education That Leaves No One Behind

<Basic Stance>

JEEF aims to realize a "sustainable society" in which nature and humans 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 identify issues, learn, think and act on their own initiative."



In using your donation, we are beginning to provide more opportunities to meet people who have not had the chance to participate in JEEF programs due to physical, financial, or geographical reasons.



In this "JEEF NEWSLETTER," we report on how we provide "relaxing" and "exciting" nature experience, social experience, and environmental education programs for people who are anxious and stressed in their daily lives. We hope that you will enjoy reading this report and that it will help you understand more about JEEF.



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/>



Create an environment where all children can interact with nature

With the declining birthrate, aging urban population, and increasing number of dual-earners and single-parent households, children will have less opportunities to experience nature and grow up in the community on a daily basis.

In cooperation with nature schools throughout Japan, we are promoting "activities to experience nature" that support the healthy development of children. The time spent in nature helps children regain their energy and vitality and nurtures their ability to think and act independently.



**Initiative: Parent-Child Camping in Okutama Forest
(Elementary and Junior High School Students & Parents)**

Date: Saturday, July 22 to Sunday, July 23, 2023

Location: Okutama (Tokyo)

In Partnership With: Earthmanship (Certified NPO)

You can do whatever you want! You can do whatever you like as much as you like, except for the promise that everyone will do the work necessary to make a living! Playing in a mountain stream, making a bonfire, climbing a tree, building a secret base, taking a nap in a hammock...

We held a parent-child camp for single parents. 8 pairs of parents and children were invited to join the camp, where adults could forget about their busy days raising children or working and spend time with themselves while being healed by nature, and children could discover new things and grow in nature.

Many of the participants were aware of the problem of single parents who have few opportunities for their children to experience nature, and the number of applicants far exceeded the number of slots available. We hope to continue to provide similar nature experience opportunities through our donation program.





**Initiative: Cape Taibusa, Minamiboso Parent-Child Sea Program
(Elementary School Students & Parents)**

Date: Sunday, September 17 to Monday, September 18, 2023

Location: Cape Taibusa Nature House, Minamiboso City

**In Partnership With: Chiba Nature School
(Specified Nonprofit Corporation)**

The overnight program was held at Cape Taibusa, surrounded by greenery and the sea, with 12 single-parent families (29 people in total).

The program started with a walk in the nature, and later enjoying SUP and kayak in the sea. At night, they caught and observed sea fireflies with handmade traps. The next day, they made wind chimes with shells they picked up, spent eventful 2 days.

Children and adults, sometimes together, and sometimes alone spent the two days with variation of styles, such as just kids, solo etc. Whether it was SUP, beachcombing, or just floating in the ocean, the children enjoyed the ocean in their own ways.

On their way back the children became friends and said "We want to come back again and play with everyone" and "SUP was so much fun! I want to do it again!" Parents commented that they were "glad to have made connections with other parents" and that "it was a good opportunity for me to connect with my children. I wanted to give my child a lot of opportunities to experience nature, but it's not easy to do so". "I also learned that I didn't have to be with my kids all the time. It was OK to be on my own and enjoy".

In the post-event questionnaire, we received comments such as, "Even after we went home, our family talked about the overnight stay experience, and we were able to communicate calmly with each other.

Through the program, both adults and children become closer to nature and human connections were deepened through the experience together.





Osaka Children's Camp (Elementary School Students)

Date: Saturday, January 28 to Sunday, January 29, 2023

Location: Osaka Prefectural Youth Retreat (Osaka Prefecture)

Supervision: Field Work Club, Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences

In cooperation with the Outdoor Activities Department of the Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences, the program is designed for children in grades 2-6 of elementary school from single-parent families (15 families).

The camp included a walk rally, outdoor cooking, hiking, crafts, and other activities. At first, the children were a bit nervous, but they gradually got excited to participate in activities that they would not normally be able to experience. The program was also intended to provide 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 guardians)

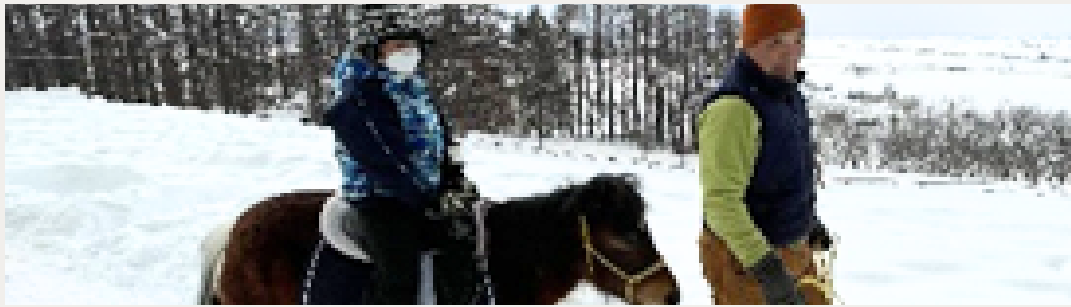
- My child had a lot of fun and told me many stories. I guess children can release their stress in nature.
- I think my kid was anxious before going, but once he got there, he had a great time and seemed satisfied. It was a very good opportunity for me because I was too anxious to take him camping by myself.



Camp leader from the Field Work Club at the Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences



Warming up around the campfire on the first day, which coincided with a cold wave



Hokkaido Winter Children's Camp (Elementary School Students)

Date: Saturday, February 18 to Sunday, February 19, 2023

Location: Kitoushi Forest Park & National Taisetsu Youth Friendship Center

Co-hosted by: NPO Daisetsuzan Nature School

This time, the winter edition of "KITOUSHI & BIEI CHILDREN'S CAMP" was held for two days and one night! As in the previous camp, a total of 20 children from single-parent households and needy households participated in the camp.

To allow children to enjoy winter nature to the fullest, we set up a base camp in the dynamic snow, taking full advantage of Hokkaido's charms. Children had fun having snowball fights, cutting snow blocks to make igloos, and serving warm cocoa to everyone...we could see the children naturally respecting and caring for each other's individuality as they found their own ways to enjoy themselves. The children who participated in the camp again after the fall camp showed great growth from the previous camp, showing leadership by teaching their friends how to split a roll and build a fire.

(From a guardian)

My child was able to talk about what happened during the camp and seemed to be able to take the opportunity to talk not only about themselves 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 his belongings were neatly organized when he came back from the camp. Before attending the camp, I always had to call out, "Let's get ready!" Now he prepares his own clothes for the next day everyday. I think he now knows what to prepare and can do it smoothly.



Yezo sika deer antler crafts



There are surprisingly many ways to play in the snow



**Enjoying the Great Outdoors in Autumn:
Kitoushi & Biei Children's Camp (Elementary School Students)**
Date: Saturday, November 18 to Sunday, November 19, 2023
**Location: Kitoushi Forest Park & National Taisetsu Youth
Friendship Center**
Co-hosted by: NPO Daisetsuzan Nature School
In Partnership With: Asahikawa NPO Support Center

At the fields of Kitoushi Forest Park and National House of Taisetsu Youth Exchange in Higashikawa Town, Hokkaido. The theme of the event was "Let's become a fire-starting expert!"

Seventeen first- to sixth-graders living in Asahikawa City and its suburbs participated in the event.

The first day's program began with chopping wood for cooking rice. Both beginners and veterans concentrated on chopping the firewood, and the time passed quickly. Then, they used the wood to cook newly harvested rice from Hokkaido in a rice kettle and had lunch with hot pork miso soup. The group then moved to the National House of Taisetsu Youth Exchange for a walk in the forest, a campfire, and two days of enjoying the great nature in autumn. Parents also commented, "My son was a little reluctant before we went, but he had a lot of fun! I want to go again next time!"

I was very happy to see his fresh expression.
I think he learned the important lesson of
"Let's try everything first! It seems to have been
an important learning experience for them".
"After the camp, he took the initiative to
chop firewood, which he did not like to do at home.
I am very happy to have been able to
participate in the camp".





Rainbow Adventure Developmental Diversity Nature Classes
Be a Lumberjack! (Elementary School Students & Parents)
Date: Saturday, November 25, 2023
Location: Whole Earth Nature School
In Partnership With: NPO Whole Earth Nature School

"Nanairo no Daiboken" takes developmental disabilities as an individuality and offers opportunity for children and their parents/guardians to discover a new side of themselves through a nature experience at the foot of the majestic Mt. Fuji.

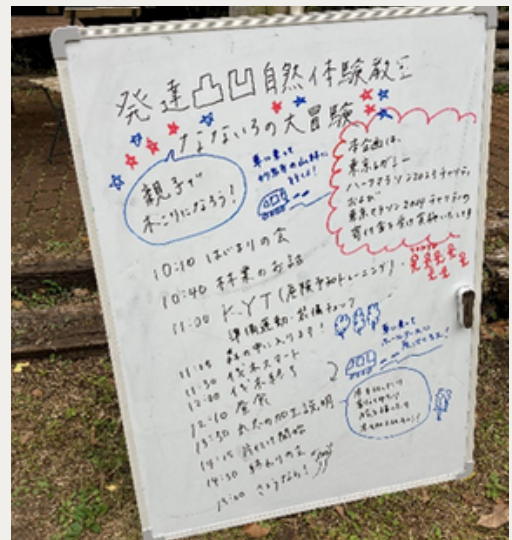
We continue our activities in the hope that children will feel, think, and act in nature to affirm themselves and feel more comfortable at home and at school.

Four parent-child pairs (12 people) participated in the "Let's be a Lumberjack" session.

After learning about forestry work, Japanese forests, and the creatures that live there, all participants went into the forest and cut down a large tree, working together.

all participants worked together to cut down one large tree.

Afterwards, they made coasters and puzzles using the cut down tree. It was a time to think about the connection between forests and our lives.





Miso-Making Workshop at a Children's Cafeteria (Elementary School Students & Parents)

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Location: Fukuta Community Center, Kisarazu, Chiba Prefecture
In Partnership With: Kusunoki Nature Club

/Children's Cafeteria Makuta Plus

We held a lecture on making miso using locally produced soybeans, rice, and malt for about 20 people who use the children's cafeteria.

The children's cafeteria "Umakida Plus" provides low-priced dinners in the form of a buffet, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was changed to take out style.

Which resulted the staff and users not able to interact with each other, the food lectures were held so that they could enjoy the experience and share the food with each other.

The soybeans used to make miso are edamame (soybeans when immature) and there are many varieties of soybeans. We also learned about the relationship with insects and small animals in the process of growing soybeans. The participants learned about the fun of making miso, a familiar food, and the importance of eating it. The program was very well received by those who would not have been able to participate if they had to pay.

*The children's cafeteria is a community place where local residents and local governments take the initiative to provide free or inexpensive nutritious meals and warm gatherings.



**Food tastes better
when eaten together!**



**Everyone works together to
mash heated soybeans by hand**

Creating Fun Learning Opportunities for Children Who Rarely Engage in Inquiry-Based Learning

Children fighting serious illnesses such as pediatric cancer, unable to attend school, or unable to reach urban venues due to geographical or economic reasons often miss out on opportunities for inquiry-based learning.

That is why we visit places where such children are living in and host a variety of workshops as well as teach the adults around these children simple experiments they can do at home and how to interact with the child in an ongoing effort to create opportunities to have fun while learning and connect while at home.



Inquiry Workshop Caravan

Date: (1) Friday, January 13 to Sunday, January 15, 2023

(2) Saturday, July 8 to Sunday, July 9, 2023

(3) Monday, August 21 to Tuesday, August 22, 2023

(4) Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1, 2023

Location: (1) Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture

(2) Okayama, Okayama Prefecture

(3) Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture

(4) Hirosaki, Aomori Prefecture

In Partnership With: (1) NPO Mirai ISSEY / (2) NPO Pocket Support

(3) Hamamatsu Children's Plaza

(4) NPO Tsugaruno Nature School

The project visits locations throughout Japan to offer free exploratory workshops, and to encourage an interest in the joy of learning and the outside world.

In Kagawa and Okayama, workshops were held for children battling illnesses and the adults around them.

In Shizuoka and Aomori, workshops are held for children with difficulties enjoying school environment and the adults around them to create explorations from familiar objects.

At first, the children who were not used to the unfamiliar learning style, "I don't understand it anyway... However, as they got the hang of it, their enthusiasm for learning was evident in the way they continued their exploration, not wanting to leave after the workshop was over.



Adults Need Nature Experiences Too!

We work hard every day in a stressful society. Do you have time to talk to yourself? We, who have been accumulating "Environmental Education through Nature Experience (= Human Resource Development)," hope that adults living in a stressful society will 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 work opportunities.



Forest Retreat: Special Program

Date: (Spring) Friday, April 14 to Saturday, April 15, 2023

(Autumn) Wednesday, November 22 to Thursday, November 23, 2023

Location: Seisen-ryo (Kiyosato Plateau, Hokuto, Yamanashi Prefecture)

Co-hosted by: KEEP, Inc.(Public Interest Incorporated Foundation)

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 healthy.

*Retreat: To recondition oneself (mental and physical balance)

The theme is "Two days in the Kiyosato forest to listen to the voice of self and nature", an experience for adults in spring and autumn, using all five senses, to enjoy the time in the forest with hands and body. Doing nothing, thinking nothing, just lying down for one person is the most luxurious time of the year. The 10 participants in each session had a fulfilling two days in the forest, forgetting the hustle and bustle of daily life and discovering their own selves. Why not take a retreat in the forest to reset your mind and start afresh with a new self?

*This program is not intended as treatment.



The scenery viewed while lying down



Walking barefoot through the forest



In 2024, we will further expand the scope of our activities.

Your donations support these activities.

We would be grateful for your continued support and cooperation.



教育の力で、環境問題を解決する。

Creating sustainable society through environmental education.



Contact Us

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