



## Princeton-Blairstown Center

Promoting positive growth in youth through adventure-based, experiential education







For more than 100 years, the Princeton-Blairstown Center has provided adventure-based, experiential education to youth at our 264-acre Blairstown Campus nestled in the Kittatinny Mountains in northwest New Jersey near the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

What began in 1908 as a summer camp run by a committed group of Princeton University undergraduates to give impoverished boys an outdoor opportunity, has evolved into a year-round program for everyone that offers transformative experiences that strengthen social-emotional skills, develop leadership, and encourage environmental stewardship.

*“To be on someone else’s schedule, our students have to reach inside themselves and figure things out. They don’t have a lot of hands-on puzzles they get to work on in their everyday lives. **They have to think outside the box a lot** when they are at PBC and they don’t always get that opportunity at school.”*

Ellen Muir, Teacher,  
Westfield High School





Through field games and initiatives our experienced, diverse, and well-trained facilitators provide hands-on learning opportunities. Participants are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones on our challenge and ropes courses.



## We Teach Social-Emotional Skills

### Leadership

Participants learn to ...

- Understand and practice the responsibilities of leadership and followership;
- Begin to identify their personal leadership style; and
- Recognize and practice situational leadership through games and activities.

### Team Building

Participants learn to...

- Bond as a group and deepen their understanding of team unity;
- Develop a sense of trust and support with each other; and
- Communicate effectively by offering their own ideas and listening respectfully to the ideas of others during group challenges.

### Communication

Participants learn to...

- Practice active listening skills and strong communication;

- Practice forms of non-verbal communication; and
- Give and receive feedback in a safe environment.

### Problem-Solving

Participants learn to ...

- Practice the basics of problem-solving – brainstorming solutions, hypothesizing risk;
- Practice healthy decision making and risk taking; and
- Reflect on their experiences and think critically about how they may apply in their life at school or home.

### Adventure

Participants learn to...

- Attempt new challenges and expand their comfort zones;
- Set goals for themselves; and
- Think critically about how their experience applies to their everyday life at school or home.



*“There is a camaraderie that exists and creates a closeness and an immense sense of pride in the work that everyone does at The Brooklyn Latin School. I haven't felt the intensity of that pride more at any other time than the three days I spent at PBC. The experience was such an eye-opening one for every one of our students and I left feeling that I had accomplished something as a teacher. Spending a few days in the woods with our soon-to-be graduates reminded me why I choose to teach. PBC provides our students with the opportunity to meet a few life-long friends and time to reflect on the beginning and end to some of the best and most challenging years of their lives.”*

Kate Miller, Teacher,  
The Brooklyn Latin School



Environmental education, S.T.E.M., and stewardship is woven into all aspects of the Center's programming, but can also be focused and designed to meet a group's needs. What better place to study about the natural environment!

The Blairstown Campus offers a wide range of environmental education and S.T.E.M. workshops including:

- Forest Ecology Study
- Wetland Study
- Wildlife Adaptations Study
- Birds
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Insects
- Watershed and Our Drinking Water
- Sustainability and Alternative Sources of Power
- Geology and Soil Study
- Organic Gardening



*"I have learned that being a leader does not mean being a boss. It means to respect any and every person, to make good decisions, and to stand up for what you believe in."*

Alicia, Rivera Middle School Student



Today, the Princeton-Blairstown Center offers customized, structured programs ranging from one to five days that engage young people in developing social-emotional skills critical for success in the 21st Century including the 4Cs of cooperation, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

The Center also provides professional development and team building opportunities to educators, college students, and corporations. Programs focus on building skills and confidence in:

- Leadership
- Team Building
- Communication
- Healthy Risk Taking and Decision Making
- Group Social Awareness
- Problem Solving
- Cooperation
- Awareness of and Interaction with the Natural World

*"Our experience at PBC is always outstanding! The facilitators are enthusiastic, well-trained, and lead the groups with focus on their program goals and objectives. The facilities are wonderful."*

Laura Caruso, Faculty,  
Peck School





*“What’s been most satisfying is to see students have this outdoor experience and be so engaged in the S.T.E.M. work and make real-world connections. **At Blairstown we have been able to see them engage in leadership, community, outdoor experiences, and academics.** It’s gratifying to see the students have the same level of engagement with academics as they do for the ropes course work. Our classroom teachers have built stronger more positive relationships with students here at Blairstown and our high school students have been able to serve as peer leaders resulting in a stronger Great Oaks community.”*

Jared Taillefer, Executive Director, Great Oaks Legacy Charter School

To meet our staff, visit [www.princetonblairstown.org/meet-the-staff](http://www.princetonblairstown.org/meet-the-staff)

We also provide customized Professional Development for faculty and staff, Corporate Team Building, Diversity and Inclusion workshops, and retreat space at our newly renovated Cornwall House. Programs can be held at the Blairstown Campus or at your location.

To book your program, please contact Pat Karl, Operations Manager, for a customized approach to your budget and needs at [pkarl@princetonblairstown.org](mailto:pkarl@princetonblairstown.org) or 908-362-6765, ext. 1.



**Blairstown Campus**  
**158 Millbrook Road**  
**Blairstown, NJ 07825**  
**[www.princetonblairstown.org](http://www.princetonblairstown.org)**