



GROWING WITH NATURE



“Whether we walk among our people or alone among the hills, happiness in life’s walking depends on how we feel about others in our hearts.”

*Anasazi Foundation, The Seven Paths: Changing One’s Way of Walking in the World*



# THUNDERBIRD



## SCHOOL CAMPS



Thunderbird School Camps are crafted specifically for young learners to enjoy the outdoors on our Scawfell bush farm, situated less than an hour's drive from Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

### THE SETTING:

Nestled in the unspoilt and wild \*UMGWAHUMBE VALLEY, Scawfell Farm provides the ideal environment to enjoy magnificent bird watching, walks through nature, and swimming in the river that winds its way gently around granite boulders on the vast 472 hectare property. A secluded space for all age groups, Thunderbird gives all visitors the opportunity to be children, in nature, for just a few days.

Just as the indigenous people of North America have done for generations, we use our 6 metre and 5 metre teepees as accommodation, giving the students the hands-on experience of erecting their sleeping quarters – deepening their appreciation for the dwellings and their environment.

Emphasising the separation of the individuals from all modern day distractions, Scawfell Farm has limited to no cell phone signal, setting the scene for the teens and younger children to get back to the Earth, check animal spoor from the night before, swim or tube-ride on the river and bond around the communal fire with their peers.

### THE ACTIVITIES:

We have customised and affordable packages available for school stay-overs and are happy to accommodate your needs for your students or children.

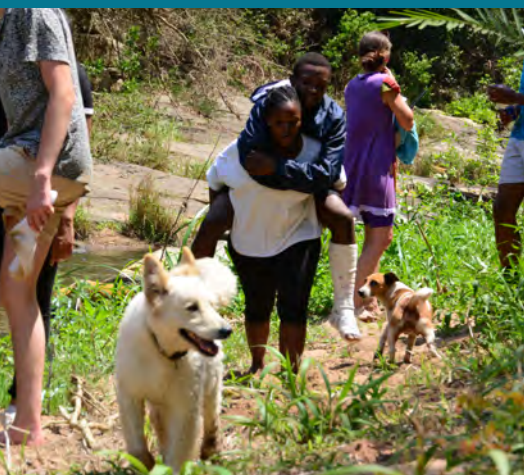
With the surroundings and accommodation taken care of, the artistic side of the children is stimulated with our communal painting sessions (we provide a canvas and paints for those wanting to participate). This time is set aside for individuals to contemplate and expressively add something to paper. Whether it be drawing, painting, poetry or writing.

No camping experience would be complete without fire-making. Various fire-making techniques are practiced, giving everyone the chance to contribute to the group.

We have a variety of craft options, plus the kids can enjoy the hula-hoops and books available on site, or have fun with dress-up, face-painting and more.

There are options for all meal-types, depending on your group's needs.

**WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS:** caracal, bushbuck, wild cat, bush pigs – and we are blessed to have otters!



\***GWAHUMBE** is isiZulu for the rasping sound that the leopard makes in a cave.





"In my opinion, it was chiefly owing to their deep contemplation in their silent retreats in the days of youth that the old Indian orators acquired the habit of carefully arranging their thoughts.

They listened to the warbling of birds and noted the grandeur and the beauties of the forest. The majestic clouds—which appear like mountains of granite floating in the air—the golden tints of a summer evening sky, and the changes of nature, possessed a mysterious significance.

All of this combined to furnish ample matter for reflection to the contemplating youth."

*Francis Assikinack (Blackbird)*



**THE AMENITIES:**

We have a wonderful area for camping, along with the main cabin for coming together, cooking, showering etc . There is no electricity or fridge, but our lights are solar powered. The communal bathroom has a gas water heater. There are also two communal bathrooms a short walk down-river with a donkey boiler water heater. All with shower, basin and toilet facilities.

Our water is pumped up from the river into Jojo tanks which feed the taps. This water is NOT filtered, and therefore not fit for human consumption. We do bring filtered drinking water for our consumption. Cooking is done on the fire pit or the gas stove and oven.

A 4 x 4 is required to get in and out of the valley. If you do not have a 4 x 4 we can arrange to meet at the public parking at Virginia Trails.



The adjoining Wingfield Nature Reserve was awarded its 'Nature Reserve' status a few years ago due to a number of rare flora in the valley.



Scawfell Farm is located in the Mid-Illovo/Eston area, approximately 65km from Hillcrest in the uMgwahumbe valley.



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