Waskowitz Outdoor Education Center

**Washington State Living History Program**

Through experiential hands-on learning, fourth grade students are transported back in time to learn about Washington state history.

**Homestead/Logging**

Students are introduced to log cabin building using teamwork, to build a small cabin (think extreme Lincoln Logs). They go inside a real log cabin set up for the 1850's. The tools, furs, kitchen ware are available to touch and try out. They can climb the ladder to view the sleeping loft. Toys, such as the "buzz saw" and corn dolls, can be tried out. They will meet some of the non-native settlers of the Snoqualmie Valley. The logging area, known as the North Bend Logging Company, has real tools including: cross cut saw, draw knife, Swede hooks and peaveys which students learn to use with proper safety, under careful supervision.

**Native American**

Set in the 1600's, before western intrusion, the students will meet people who have learned the Snoqualmie people’s method of spear fishing and cedar canoe carving. They will help carve the canoe and our version of spear fishing. Our "longhouse" set up does a have a model longhouse. We have some artifacts for students' examination and some music.

**Mining (Gold and coal)**

Gold mining includes using a sluice box and of course gold panning, both right next to the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Somehow each student seems to find a piece of "gold" to take home. We construct a "coal mine" on site that the students, put on their hard hats to go into. They load up a coal cart with coal and pull the rope to roll the cart up to the unloading area. Both mining operations are staffed with those "wild and crazy miners" ...who know mining, if not how to brush their teeth!

**Railroad**

Here students get the chance to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, for 17 cents an hour, building the railroad. Like other areas, students use the real tools: timber tongs, bar claw, rail lifters, and spike maul to move in the ties, rails and build the track. Safety is first, so students are taught how to lift with their backs, and as a team.

**Possibly Telegraph**: The telegraphs were always next to the railroad because of the property right of way. Students will operate either the telegraph at the North Bend or Snoqualmie Telegraph Office. They will learn a bit of Morse code, learn about becoming an apprentice Telegraph Operator and the financial benefits of staying in school! Girls will discover one of the first jobs open to women other than teaching or nursing.