

Character › Scholarship › Liberty



APRIL 2019

# Experiential Learning

## Grades 7 & 8





## Experiential Learning Program Overview

Course Dates: April 22–24

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**What is Experiential Learning?** American Heritage School’s Experiential Learning serves as an intensive implementation of the 4R-ing methodology, with the purpose of bridging academic experiences and exploration of real world applications—all in harmony with American Heritage School’s mission statement.

Middle School Experiential Learning is a three-day course of study devoted to a single subject offered by American Heritage School April 22–24. During Experiential Learning, regular classes in grades 7–8 are suspended and replaced with project-based and place-based learning experiences in academic fields of interest to AHS students under the mentorship of experienced AHS instructors, professionals, guest presenters, and practitioners.

The days consist of a focused, single-course format and allows the school to take advantage of community resources, to be responsive to student needs and interests, and to experience a variety of places and styles of learning.

Experiential Learning courses will include classes at school, educational fieldtrips and guest presenters. Experiential Learning enables students to engage in rigorous learning experiences—to study one subject in depth.

Students and parents choose from a list of offerings provided by the School. Please note that eighth grade students may not repeat the same course that they took in seventh grade. For example, if you had “Athletics for Life” last year, you are not able to take it again. Students should not take a course by the same title (even if the content appears to be substantially different) without approval from AHS administration.

**What was the process for developing Experiential Learning?** The initial concept for Experiential Learning came from the FACE Demonstration School, Stonebridge Academy (Virginia), which has a well-developed and highly successful experiential learning program in its high school. However, hundreds of schools around the nation (middle/secondary/post-secondary) use experiential learning programs to improve the quality of the educational experience for students and teachers. In 2013, the AHS Teacher Development and Curriculum Committee proposed Experiential Learning to the Board of Trustees, which approved the pilot program for the 2013–14 year. As with other programs at the School, we have done a significant amount of refining through the years, incorporating significant input from teachers, parents, administrators, and students. More input is welcome as we move forward and improve the program each year.

**When is Experiential Learning?** Experiential Learning Week will be held for Grades 7–8 during the week of April 22–24, 2019. These dates were carefully chosen in conjunction with teachers and administration to minimize disruption to continuing curricular programs and courses.

## **What is the learning value of Experiential Learning?**

*Focused Learning.* Experiential Learning enables American Heritage School students to engage in intensive 4R-ing through in-depth research, applied reasoning, personal relating, and careful recording of “real-world” lessons and experiences. Experiential Learning should be a character-building experience and should also require hard work from students.

*Portfolio of Learning.* Experiential Learning culminates in American Heritage style portfolios, notebooks or another method of the 4R-ing Record component. The portfolio or another method of completing the Record component, as is most appropriate for each Experiential Learning option, creates an opportunity for students to create a record of what they have learned and the ways in which that knowledge relates directly to them and can help them be useful in the hands of the Lord. Consequently, portfolios are a key component of the Experiential Learning program.

**Who is eligible to participate?** AHS students in grades 7–8 are eligible to enroll in Experiential Learning courses offered in April 2019. Enrollment is a privilege that will be extended to students who meet basic academic requirements and demonstrate self-government in adherence to the Honor Code.

**What expectations must students meet to participate?** Students are expected to work diligently during Experiential Learning Week. Students must understand that this is not a break from studies; rather it is an opportunity to explore in depth an area of personal interest. The standard dress code during Experiential Learning Week is Spirit Apparel Uniform (unless a teacher invites a more formal or casual standard, depending upon the activity)

**Are students required to participate? Can they choose any option?** All students are expected to participate. Not all Experiential Learning options will be available to every student every year. Some options may not ultimately carry based upon low enrollment interest, and some students may not be able to register for courses that are already full (priority registration begins with eighth grades first, followed by seventh grade). Academic performance, self-government, or other pre-qualification requirements may also be considerations.

**Can a student participate in Experiential Learning without being enrolled at the school?** No. Students must be enrolled in curricular middle school offerings, on-campus to participate.

**What is the cost of this program? How will Experiential Learning Week affect AHS tuition?** AHS tuition will not be affected by Experiential Learning Week. All Experiential Learning Week courses have an associated fee that ranges from \$50–\$80. The board and faculty committees that developed the program felt it important to include a nominal participation fee to increase the commitment level of students to the program and to cover basic costs; however, in no case should the participation fee discourage a family or student from participating. Please contact an administrator if financial assistance is desired.

## Experiential Learning Course Registration Instructions

Register at: [american-heritage.org/experiential-learning](https://american-heritage.org/experiential-learning)

Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. on the following days (see below) according to seniority.

- **Grade 8** Registration opens on Monday, March 25
- **Grade 7** Registration opens on Tuesday, March 26

**Registration closes March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. for all students.**

Administration will review and approve all course registrations. If a student registers for a course that administration determines the student does not qualify for (see above regarding limited cases in which students may not qualify for a course), administration will notify the student and help the student to enroll in their next preferred course.

**Parent Veracross credentials are required to register.** All students in a family will be listed, but only middle school students will show active registration links on or after their priority registration day. “No programs available” will be shown until registration is open for them.

For questions about individual courses, please contact the instructor directly.

For technical questions or support issues please contact Tech Support at [support@ahsmail.com](mailto:support@ahsmail.com).

For questions about the Experiential Learning Program in general, please contact Rob Swenson at [rswenson@ahsmail.com](mailto:rswenson@ahsmail.com).





## Biomes of Utah

**Instructor:** Jolyn Mitchell  
**Cost:** \$60

Utah is home to four major biomes: alpine tundra, forests, wetlands and deserts. In this course, students become scientists as they combine the scientific method with the 4-R'ing process to make empirical observations on Utah's four major biomes. A science log will be used to record all activities as we travel around this unique place we call home. Join our adventure as we explore the diversity of each of these four biomes and learn why each is an important part of the overall ecosystem. Highlights will include a visit to Antelope Island as well as Hidden Peak at Snowbird. One breakfast and two lunches will be provided (including a scenic lunch at the Summit of Snowbird!)



## Canyoneering: "A Rope is An Essential Tool..."

**Instructors:** Stu Back and Chase Hale  
**Cost:** \$80

Elder David A. Bednar's rope metaphor (October 2018 General Conference) provides the starting point for this course's exploration of "rope [as] an essential tool." Culminating events include two days of rappelling (Red Ledges, Diamond Fork Canyon) and canyoneering (Leprechaun Canyon East Fork, North Wash). Student preparation for offsite excursions includes learning knot-craft fundamentals, rappelling techniques, equipment usage, safety, and other canyoneering skills. Expect an early departure (6:00 a.m.) and a late return (8:00 p.m.) the third day. Participants must complete a course-specific liability waiver (issued by Utah Canyon Adventures, LLC). Participants will be held accountable to high standards of safety and self-government all three days. A pattern or even a single serious instance of disregard for instructions or rules will result in dismissal from the course."



## Cooking: The Secret Ingredient is Always Love!

**Instructor:** Stephanie Bigelow  
**Cost:** \$80

Students will have hands-on experience cooking and baking. They will see firsthand how executive chefs use their kitchens to create art. They will learn to make meals on a budget as well as the difference between "from scratch" and "from a box". They will visit and talk as they get their hands messy around a kitchen counter. They will learn how to create meals that even the pickiest eater will love. Through it all, they will learn about themselves and the joy that comes from creating and sharing food!



## Floral and Landscape Design

**Instructors:** Laura Yamada  
**Cost:** \$80

In this course participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of both floral and landscape design and learn about the history of different styles throughout the world. They will also explore career opportunities within the fields of floral and landscape design. Participants will learn to select appropriate plant materials from their own back yards to create original floral designs. They will visit a local plant nursery and learn varieties of plant material and explore career opportunities in landscape design. They will spend one day on a field trip to Salt Lake City to visit a floral wholesaler, visit Temple Square, and learn about floral/landscape design on the temple grounds. During the course, participants will create two original floral arrangements and learn to make a boutonniere, corsage, and floral crown—popular in many weddings today.



## Forging an Art Connection

**Instructors:** Chris Raleigh

**Cost:** \$80

Heavenly Father desires that we connect with all things that edify and bear witness of Jesus Christ. Healthy connections serve an important part of physical, emotional and spiritual maturation. Art serves to forge a healthy connection with the Lord, nature and others around us. We will be exploring various aspects of art from the creative process of the mind to a finished artistic piece each student will create themselves. We'll meet artists who will pass along their passion to our students. We will learn how art frames are made as well as how art pieces are restored and preserved. We'll spend time each day on fieldtrips as well as some in class work projects. Come "Forge an Art Connection" and have a ton of fun in the process!



## Health and Fitness

**Instructors:** Brian Smith and Yahosh Bonner

**Cost:** \$65

This course will allow students to get a closer look at the health industry. They will learn about their own bodies and how to unleash the incredible potential inherent in a healthy body. They will have opportunities to speak to and learn from health professionals in the field. From collegiate to professional athletic levels, students will understand that health is more about how a person feels and less about physical appearance. The students will learn how to incorporate healthy habits into their daily routines. This is an interactive course that will be a lot of fun and a lot of work at the same time.



## Horses and Beginning Horsemanship

**Instructors:** Joan Landes and Josee Petersen

**Cost:** \$60

Do you love horses? If you want to learn more about horses and how to handle them this course is for you! Each student will receive a copy of the USPC manual of horsemanship written for middle school students and a binder with information. We will learn to groom horses, do groundwork with them, safety practices, beginning riding (English and Western) and a craft or two! We will provide the riding helmet; however, please wear long pants and, if possible, bring cowboy or riding boots (or as close thereto as you can come) to change into. (Smooth-bottom boots with a small flat heel; not hiking boots with lots of tread)



## Monumental Architectural Design

**Instructor:** Ty Crossley and Lauri Updike

**Cost:** \$75

We all have limitless capacity to dream and to create! As a metaphor for life, architecture is a record of man that reveals profound truths about who we are and who we can become. Come explore the world of architecture with us! We will spend time in some of the state's most magnificent architectural structures as well as spend time learning some of the basics of architectural design. From the foundation up, the world of architecture is full of wonders!



## Outdoor Odyssey 2019: A Journey of Movement, Learning, and Beyond...

**Instructor:** Chrisann Patch and Nichole Lovell

**Cost:** \$80

In this course we are going to head to the Red Ledges Arch located up Diamond Fork Canyon where a professional Guide will teach us the basic elements of Canyoneering and then we will spend the day Rappelling and hiking. Days 2 and 3 we will travel to CLAS Ropes course located along the Provo River where we will start the day on a Zip Line Tour which takes you through the trees along and across the Provo River. We will finish off the course with the Adventure Park. This is a series of platforms and "bridges" with varying levels of difficulty located 30-feet in the air. Throughout the entire journey, we hope the students will gain an appreciation and a connection to the world around them.



## Photography

**Instructor:** Keisha Riker and Tresa Haymond

**Cost:** \$50

READY - AIM - SHOOT! Come experience the magic of the world of photography! Discover not only how photography connects us to each other, nature, and God, but also how and why it evokes so many emotions. You will experience amazing, mini-workshops with talented photographers and be left in awe learning what a "cell-phone-camera" is capable of doing! There will be photo walks both on and off campus, art gallery tours, as well as dining-out in a local restaurant where amazing food and photography abounds! The cost of the class includes the restaurant, the ordering of photo prints, a photo keepsake portfolio book, a photo journal, an ice cream treat, a lunch one day, and other snacks. Note: Please plan on bringing a cell phone with photo taking capabilities.

