

NEW PERSPECTIVES...

[New Perspectives schools and programs are those new to Woodbury Reports, Inc., and are presented to expand your knowledge, with the disclaimer that we know little more about them at this time than what appears here. Inclusion in Places for Struggling Teens™, of course, does not imply any endorsement by Woodbury Reports, Inc. -Lon]

ECKERD ACADEMY OF BLUE RIDGE

Suches, Georgia

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www.EckerdAcademy.org

Situated in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Georgia, Eckerd Academy of Blue Ridge was originally founded in 1996, and was re-opened for private pay clients in October 2007. The Academy is a licensed and accredited outdoor therapeutic program and alternative school for students ages 10 through 17. It is designed for adolescents with low self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse, school suspension or expulsion, negative peer pressure, defiance of authority, depression and confrontational behavior.

The program specializes on "Educationally Challenged Children" who may have difficulty with one or two academic subjects, is on the "borderline" with a learning disability and is unable to succeed in a regular classroom setting. The school features traditional academics and focuses on students with special needs, who may be missing the basic building blocks in their education by helping them "get caught up" in their core classes. State certified teachers utilize "Classworks," a diagnostic/ prescriptive reading and mathematics curriculum that lets students work at any level, including advanced placement courses.

Students also participate in numerous experiential trips, including visits to museums and the symphony, nature hikes, mountain biking and an extensive seven-day canoe trip.

Eckerd Academy of Blue Ridge is affiliated with the Georgia Department of Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Secondary Commission – Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc. (COA), and the National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camps (NATWC). The Academy's Director is Tim McMahon; Clinical Director is Grafton Lamb, LCSW, and Academic Director, Ron Swiftek.

[The information for Eckerd Academy of Blue Ridge came directly from their website and from their brochure.]

SecondNature Wilderness Programs

Second Nature is a licensed treatment program that uses the wilderness setting in a clinically focused intervention to teach students accountability, communication skills and healthy emotional and behavioral habits. Treatment plans are individualized for each student and include flexible lengths of stay, single gender treatment, daily groups and individualized therapy sessions with doctorate level therapists weekly.

Second Nature works with students 13 to 17 with a range of emotional and behavioral issues including: Depression, Learning Differences, Oppositional Defiance, Attention Deficit, Attachment and Substance Abuse Disorders. Typical students fail to respond to limits and rules, act entitled, choose the wrong friends, underachieve, have low self-esteem, experience a decline in performance and may be experiencing parent-child conflict.

For Additional Information
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PENIKESE ISLAND SCHOOL

Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Pamela Brighton – Clinical Director & Referral
Information
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www.penikese.org

Penikese Island School is a small, surrogate family home for boys 15 to 18 years old that have repeatedly been unable to succeed in community settings and conventional treatment programs. Boys also generally come from broken homes. Average length of stay is 9-10 months, although the program does operate year-round.

The school has no household electricity and minimal indoor plumbing. Its buildings are heated with firewood the students chop themselves, and kerosene lanterns provide light at night. In keeping with the school's rustic atmosphere, Penikese students do not watch television, nor are they allowed personal radios, Walkmans or other electronic games or gadgets.

Students attend school six days a week in a one-room schoolhouse. Certified teachers guide students through a curriculum that emphasizes math, reading and writing. Students earn academic credit just as

they would in any school. With a two-to-one student-to-teacher ratio, the amount of individual attention given each student is substantial.

Penikese also provides clinical services including individual and group counseling. A method called "Communication without Violence" helps reduce the motivating factors behind acts of crime. Therapy also includes family support and intervention, substance abuse treatment, and if needed, psychiatric consultations.

Penikese uses a point system that targets behavioral abilities essential for growth and change. Students are rewarded with pay for each point earned. Acceptable behaviors and positive choices are reinforced with privileges including home passes.

The Penikese Island School was established in 1973, as a private, independent and Massachusetts-accredited Chapter 766 secondary school. It is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Toby Lineaweaver is Executive Director of the program, Linda Navarro is Aftercare Coordinator, Pamela Brighton is the Clinical Director and David Ellison is the Special Education Coordinator.

[The information in this New Perspectives came from the Penikese website.]

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