

NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE

Programming and Student Benefits

Environmental Education

Nature's Classroom Institute is the "Nation's Premier Environmental Education Program". We offer a fully customized, highly engaging 3 or 5 day experience that has direct positive impacts on classroom community and academic performance.

Our multi-disciplined, degreed educators integrate lessons with the curriculum of visiting schools in order to reinforce what is being taught in the classroom. With hundreds of classes and activities to choose from, we create unique and individualized experiences for each and every student and teacher.

It's More Than Just Science

Educators at Nature's Classroom Institute incorporate the whole environment; teaching through the elements of the world around us, so that students can experience and truly understand not just science but all subjects, including mathematics, social studies, history, and language arts.

A Student's Choice

We involve students in the learning process and allow them to choose which classes they take. By encouraging students to follow their interests we instill confidence, motivate them to seek out knowledge, and empower them to develop new areas of interest.



Student Benefits

NCI is a place where students begin to value their education. We broaden their perspectives to see that learning is not just textbooks and desks, but where they obtain the necessary skills for exciting opportunities.

More...

- An improved self-concept.
- A motivation to learn.
- An understanding of what education can offer.
- An ability to work with others for the positive benefit of all community members.
- Awareness of the environment and their role within it.
- An enhancement of the life skills to help them succeed, grow, and become the next generation's leaders.

Our Standards

A tried and true environmental education residential program with over 25 years experience.

A Students Choice

We involve students in the learning process and allow them to choose which classes to participate in. By encouraging students to follow their interests we instill confidence, motivate them to seek out knowledge, and empower them to develop new areas of interest.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Students choose what they will eat and what size portions they will take. Waste is measured and composted after each meal.



A typical day at Nature's Classroom Institute is... not so typical. We take ordinary moments and transform them into highly engaging, highly educational, highly reflective experiences. We build a framework that leads to specific goals and objectives and then, guiding along the way, allow each student the freedom to choose their own path, based upon their natural motivations, curiosities, and learning styles.

Every day is unique and individual to each student and their perspective.

take a glimpse...

7:45 Waitrons



Breakfast isn't just breakfast. Students take turns with dining room **leadership** - table setup, food serving, and room control.

11:45 Waitrons



12:00 Lunch



Students choose what they will eat and what size portions they will take. Waste is measured and composted after each meal.

5:15 Waitrons



5:30 Dinner



6:30 Journal Time



Students reflect on their day. What motivated them? What was interesting? Teachers can use this for creative writing back in the classroom.

8:00 Breakfast



Learning is exciting! Teachers "sell" their classes and **students choose** their first class of the day.

1:00 Transition

1:30 Class



Chosen by each student, this class is relevant, interesting, and meaningful.

7:00 Simulation



History and Social Studies come alive. **Students take on roles** as we reenact experiences, understand why history happened, and how it affects us today.

9:00 Cleanup

9:30 Expedition



Always **working as a team**, we **explore** the environment, **compare** ecosystems, and dive into the details of everything we experience.

11:30 Transition

3:00 Transition

3:30 Class



Another class **chosen by students** based upon their natural curiosity to learn.

5:00 Break

8:30 Snack & Unwind



A quiet time before bed, students listen to a story and watch a slide-show of interesting places around the world.

What are students learning?



LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

GROWING THROUGH EXPRESSION

Every moment is a learning moment at Nature's Classroom Institute. We motivate students in ways they don't even realize they are learning. Instead of looking out the window at nature ~we teach there!

Our goal is to incorporate the whole environment, teaching through the elements of the world around us.

Our classes are engaging through every step of the program and include your classroom curriculum to keep it relevant to your class goals.



Palm Harbor

NCI's Marine site is on the Gulf of Mexico in Palm Harbor, Florida, perfectly located less than an hour from Tampa. Nestled in its own pocket of serene wildlife, the facility offers a true Marine environment waiting to be explored. Wilderness trails, salt-water beaches and Mangroves provide a comprehensive learning experience for all.



NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE in Palm Harbor, Florida



**Palm Harbor, 500 Wai Lani Rd
Palm Harbor, FL 34683**

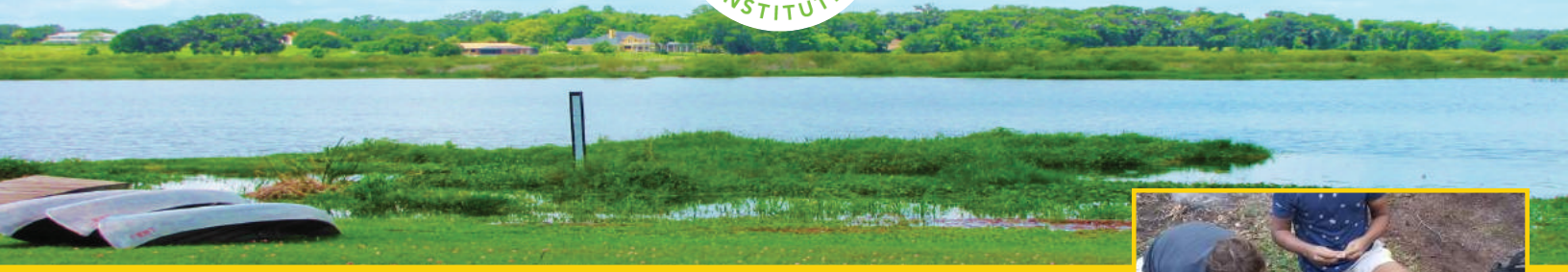
Why Palm Harbor?

- Clean modern cabins, a spacious dining room and curriculum space. The facility offers students and staff comfortable quality sleeping accommodation.
- Offers hiking trails, salt water access with an abundance of sea life, a marine and rehabilitation lab, canoeing and an engrossing environmental for all to enjoy.
- A marine ecosystem with a huge variety of shore birds, fish and terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. The water can be fully explored providing an insight into the life of sea creatures.
- Huge open areas perfect for large group activities and educational opportunities, with a private mangrove island to explore.
- A hidden gem of preserved wilderness, easy to access from the highway yet quietly hidden away from the rest of the world.

**LEARNING THROUGH
EXPERIENCE**



**GROWING THROUGH
EXPRESSION**



Teachers can discover new ways to reach their students and elevate their social relationships. NCI enhances the classroom community, enthusiasm, and excitement for learning new and exciting things. Our veteran staff present and customize curriculum for each school giving you a tailor made trip. Thanks to pre-program guidance and planning students enjoy a unique educational experience that fits their needs and can be designed around the lead teachers chosen learning concepts. Students gain new independence and confidence to help them succeed, grow and become leaders. NCI can also offer limited funding options and guidance to help make sure the program is accessible to the whole classroom.



**Brooksville,
Florida**



NCI's Wetland site is in an area of lakes, creeks and marshland just 15 minutes from the I-75 in Brooksville, Florida. Just an hour north of Tampa and less than 2 hours from Orlando, our Brooksville facility is easily accessible. With its beautiful creeks and a huge picturesque lake, expansive trails and open areas this site offers a perfect Florida Wetland experience.



NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE in Brooksville, Florida



Why Brooksville?

- Ample rustic cabins, beautiful dining room and massive outdoor space. The facility offers students and staff comfortable, quality sleeping accommodation. Offers hiking trails, a lake with an abundance of life, fields for play and curriculum, a farm for animal husbandry, canoeing, a tree canopy, low-ropes course, an engrossing environment for all to enjoy.
- A wetlands ecosystem with a huge variety of shore birds, insects and terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, with hiking trails that wind through the trees into vast wooded areas.
- The farm is open for all to enjoy and experience with horses, goats and donkeys.
- The perfect place to explore the wild wetlands with so much to see and learn.

NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE
25458 Dan Brown Hill Rd, Brooksville, FL 34602



With STEM-focused curriculum and activities, we create unique and individualized experiences for each and every student and teacher.

Alternative Energy: Photovoltaic and fuel cell technology, exploring alternative energy sources: solar, wind, hydro.

Anatomy: Animal dissections, human respiration, muscles, joints, digestive system and the skeletal system, energy production.

Archeology and Paleontology: Archeological dig, geologic time, study, creation, and collection of fossils.

Art: Earth sculptures, photography, art in nature, art history, study of movement and music, creative writing, acting skills and techniques, improvisation.

Astronomy: Lunar environment, telescopes, solar system, study of the sun, constellations, stars and galaxies.

Botanical Identification & Studies: Trees, plants and fungi, collecting specimens, understanding weeds, understanding the structure of plants, seeds and seed dispersal methods, create medicine, beauty products and art from native plants.

Business and Economics: Cost effectiveness, research, market, and advertising, project management.

Character Education and Cultural Studies: Cultural differences and cultural biases, challenging biases and preconceptions, world geography and cultures from around the globe, understanding disabilities.

Chemistry: Acids & bases, chemical testing of water sources, reagents and cations.

Conservation and Stewardship: Composting and recycling, invasive plant species eradication, landfills and local waste management, ecological footprints.

Cooperation, and Problem-solving: Communication skills, cooperative competition, teambuilding, the importance of expression.

Energy and Motion: Conductors; convection, absorption, and radiation, electromagnets and electric currents, convection and current, kinetic and potential energy, momentum, acceleration, velocity and vectors.

Engineering: Construction and stress tests, pulleys and mechanical advantage.

Environmental Studies: Food chains and biomagnification, watersheds and water conservation, deforestation.

Genetics and Health: Nutrition, human genetics and immune system, sensory information.

Geology: Soil layers and composition, tectonic plate movements, formation of islands; sweepstake dispersal, seismographs and epicenters, weather.



History: American Civil War and Revolutionary War, pioneers and westward expansion, medieval hierarchy.

Law and Government: How to pass a bill, government branches, judicial system.

Mapping and Orienteering: How to use a compass and geometric shapes, shelter and fire building, backpacking, outdoor survival skills.

Mathematics: Nature and symmetry, measurement from algebra equations.

Zoology: Animal identification, behavior and adaptations, nocturnal animals, predation, overpopulation.



NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE

Pricing and Registration



How to Prepare For Your Trip

Nature's Classroom Institute offers each school a detailed presentation to make the preparation process for visiting teachers simple and organized.

During this presentation the Education Director, Britta Wood, will explain our program in full, what to expect on a day-to-day basis, the role of a visiting teacher, our registration process and answer any questions the school may have.

Nature's Classroom Institute is happy to arrange a separate presentation for parents and guardians displaying an overview of our program, this gives an understanding of what their child will be part of during their trip.

Student Online Registration

Nature's Classroom Institute is paperless! Detailed instructions are provided to parents and guardians to easily and efficiently register their participating child on our safe and secure online portal.

The portal is where Nature's Classroom Institute staff are alerted of any medication requirements, dietary restrictions and potential allergies.

Teachers can login to ensure their students are registered and access their students medical and dietary requirements.



Availability and Booking

Availability is managed on a first come first served basis. Please check with the Outreach Director, Austin Wood, on current available dates.

Nature's Classroom Institute is glad to liaise with each individual school to ensure all booking needs are met. This could include a modification in departure or arrival time or accommodation for special needs. Each school and its students are unique and your trip will reflect that. Availability is managed on a first come, first served basis and available dates can be discussed with Outreach Director, Austin Wood.

Once your school finalizes a suitable, available date, a contract confirming all program logistics will be sent from our Executive Director, Geoffrey Bishop.

Prices and Deposits

Wetlands Site - Brooksville

3 Day Program

\$285 Per Student

5 Day Program

\$460 Per Student

Marine Site - Palm Harbor

3 Day Program

\$330 Per Student

Off-site activities may add additional fees.

5 Day Program

\$515 Per Student

30% Deposit required to confirm date

Prices may increase no more than 4% each year