



Dear Nature's Classroom Institute (NCI) Parents/Guardians,

Your child will soon have an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor school program. Environmental Education uses the natural world to give students a learning experience that cannot take place in a classroom. The NCI program will help students understand the natural environment; participate in ecosystem discovery; and study and work together with their peers and teachers as a community. The program includes activities such as confidence-building group challenges, historical simulations, scientific exploration, and many more hands-on academic lessons. To learn more about Nature's Classroom Institute visit our website at www.discovernci.org

Supervision and Staff:

Students are supervised 24 hours a day. Classroom teachers from your child's school accompany each visiting group. In addition, NCI has permanent staff consisting of the Education Director and our environmental educators (1 for every 12 students). Each staff member is background checked, certified in First-Aid/CPR and is trained on emergency situations.

Health and Safety:

Please note any special concerns on the medical forms you will fill out while registering your student, so that the NCI staff will be aware and prepared. Please note that if your child is taking any medicine, it must be noted on the registration forms. Medication must be turned into the school teachers before arrival at NCI. They must be in original prescription medicine containers and must be labeled with your child's first and last name. Unidentified medicine cannot be administered. All forms must be signed as a requirement of participation in the NCI program.

Food and Lodging:

Meals are prepared by our in-house cooking staff. Any allergies or special dietary needs should be noted on the medical forms during registration 2 weeks prior to your students visit so we can prepare the menu accordingly. We can accommodate vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free diets, along with accommodating most food allergies. Students, visiting teachers, and chaperones are lodged in climate-controlled dormitories. For security reasons, no unscheduled visitors are allowed on campus. Please see our website for other site information.

Telephone and Mail:

If you need to contact your child, please reach out to your schools' lead teacher for the trip. Letters are greatly appreciated by the students, please turn any mail into your schools' lead teacher.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE. GROWING THROUGH EXPRESSION.



Nature's Classroom Institute Packing & Equipment List- Florida

Please do not buy new clothes for your child to wear at Nature's Classroom Institute. Send old clothes (i.e. "play clothes") that you don't mind your child getting dirty during outdoor activities. Clothes should be chosen for comfort and durability rather than style. Particular care should be taken in supplying ample footwear and pants, as students frequently participate in activities that involve plants, mud and water. Feel free to make sure that personal items are clearly labeled with your child's last name.

The following is a guide for a 3-day program, please adjust accordingly for a longer stay:

- Freshly Laundered Sheets, Pillow Case, Pillow and Blanket.
- 2 Pair of lightweight long pants (Your child will be required to wear full length long pants for some outdoor activities)
- 2 Pair of shorts (Only permitted during free-time and water exploration activities)
- 3 Shirts
- 1 Waterproof outfit
- 1 Sweater, Sweatshirt or Jacket (depending on season)
- 1 Pair Pajamas
- 3 Changes of Underwear
- 4 Pairs of Socks
- 1 Pair of Sneakers
- 1 Pair Water Shoes (May be old sneakers, water shoes or sandals that are form fitting)
- 1 Raincoat or Poncho
- 1 Reusable Water Bottle (Labeled students name)
- 1 Toiletry Kit: Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb/hairbrush, etc.
- Towel and Washcloth
- Hat
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen

Optional Items:

- Shower shoes
- Laundry Bag
- Chapstick

Please do not send:

- Knives (i.e. pocketknives),
- Flashlights
- Fishing & sports gear
- Electronic Items or any device with internet capability (cell phones, tablets, etc.)
- Candy
- Money