



Nature's Classroom Institute Packing List

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. Students are mostly outside from 9:30am until 8pm in all weather conditions besides thunderstorms. This includes very cold temperatures in moderation. Particular care should be taken in supplying ample footwear and pants, as students frequently participate in activities that involve plants, mud and water. Please check weather reports for your NCI location the day before your trip to pack appropriate gear.

Please make sure that personal items are clearly labeled with your child's last name (especially cameras and water bottles). Any lost items can be identified to NCI staff during the week as there are many lost and found bins located on site. If an item is not noticed as missing until after the return home, please let your child's classroom teacher know so they can reach out to a staff member. **NCI is not responsible for any lost or damaged possessions.**

Students will be required to carry/roll their own luggage to and from their dorm with possible slight inclines and possibly up or down stairs. Try not to over pack, as it will be difficult for them to maneuver heavy bulky items. We suggest a suitcase that is easy to roll, a backpack and/or a bag to carry their bedding. Garbage bags are okay for bringing bedding, but easily rip in transport. If this is your only option, please send an extra one for the trip home.

We highly encourage you practice packing with your child as they will be required to repack their suitcases at the end of the week. It would also be helpful to go over life skills such as how to adjust water temperatures in a shower as well as making a bed if this is something they are not used to already.

****This packing list is for a five day 9 to 12 year old trip. Please adjust according to age, length of trip and individual need****

Check boxes are located to the left of each item for your convenience.

Required Packing List for lodging in all seasons:

- 1 freshly laundered twin fitted sheet and/or top sheet
- 1 freshly laundered blanket(s) (adjust for thickness of blanket in terms of weather)
- 1 pillow and freshly laundered pillowcase
- 1 pair of indoor shoes
- 1 toiletry kit with soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, and hair comb/brush/general toiletries
- 1 towel and wash cloth
- 1 bandana



Required Packing for 60 degrees and above (typically August/September and April/May trips)

Clothing Requirements: Students are required at minimum to wear full length, durable pants, a shirt with sleeves (short or long) and closed toed shoes for ALL activities, no matter the temperature outside.

- 3 pairs of jeans or other durable long pants (Thin, cotton leggings are not considered durable pants. Students will explore off trail eco-systems and are exposed to thorns, burrs, sharp sticks, poison ivy and ticks. Please make sure your child is prepared for these experiences)
- 1 pair of shorts (for transitions and dorm time only)
- 5 T-Shirts and/or Long Sleeve Shirts (Tank tops are only permitted as pajamas)
- 1 or 2 sweatshirts or equivalent
- 1 Raincoat or Poncho
- 1 pair of pajamas
- 5 pairs of underwear
- 8 Pairs of Crew or Knee Length Socks (wool are the best!)
- 1 pair of water resistant shoes/boots for forest exploration that can be muddy/wet
- 1 pair of comfortable shoes/boots for walking on our paved campus (please no light up shoes!)
- 1 bandana

Highly Encouraged Items:

- Insect repellent
- Non-scented sunscreen
- Hat with brim
- Sunglasses

Required Packing for 60 degrees and below (typically October to March trips)

Clothing Requirements:

- 3 pairs of jeans or other thick, long pants (Thin, cotton leggings are not considered appropriate pants. These are good to wear under jeans or as pajamas but would not be sufficient to keep them warm in the dead of winter.)
- Snow Pants (required only if there is snow on the ground)



- 5 T-Shirts and/or Long Sleeve Shirts (Tank tops are only permitted as pajamas)
- 1 heavy winter jacket that can fit multiple layers underneath
- 2 or 3 sweatshirts or equivalent
- 1 pair of warm pajamas
- 5 pairs of underwear
- 10 Pairs of Crew or Knee Length Socks (wool are the best!)
- 1 pair of waterproof snow boots with good traction (Ugg style boots and rain boots are not good options as they provide little support while walking on slippery conditions and have little to no insulation)
- 1 pair of warm, comfortable shoes/boots for walking on our main paved campus
- 2 winter hats to alternate in precipitation
- 2 or more waterproof gloves
- 1 bandana

Optional items:

- Hand warmers
- 1 or 2 scarves

Please keep in mind layers for temperatures below 40 degrees:

| Top | Bottom: |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Undershirt | 1. Long underwear |
| 2. Normal shirt | 2. Thick pants |
| 3. Sweatshirt | 3. Snow pants |
| 4. Thick coat | |

Optional Items for all field trips:

- 1 water bottle labeled with the students name
- 1 disposable camera (digital cameras are highly discouraged)
- Watch
- Small backpack/fanny pack to carry a water bottle, rescue medication, poncho, etc.
- Shower shoes
- Dirty laundry bag
- Chapstick

Prohibited items are shown on the following page



Prohibited items:

- ⊗ Sleeping bags (Sleeping bags are dangerous because of their slippery nature and difficulty getting out of in case of an emergency.)
- ⊗ Knives/weapons of any kind
- ⊗ Radios
- ⊗ Flashlights
- ⊗ Electronic items such as cell phones, hand held gaming devices, etc.
- ⊗ Fishing & Sports Gear
- ⊗ Candy, Gum and food
- ⊗ NO SPRAY PERFUMES OR COLOGNES (etc. Axe Body Spray)
- ⊗ Money or credit/debit cards
- ⊗ Any medications packed in suitcases – Medications must be given to the teachers prior to departure from school