

NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE

Programming and Student Benefits

Who We Are

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

Our Washington DC trip focuses on US history including the revolution, the civil war, civil rights movements and our countries impact on the world as a whole. While maintaining a focus on history and politics the NCI values and philosophies shine through, giving the students opportunities to take responsibility, work as a team, make choices of their own and connect to the world around them in a very hands on way.

More Than Just Museum Tours

Educators at Nature's Classroom Institute put the students in the shoes of others to help gain perspective, asking thought provoking questions to encourage not just learning, but understanding. We do not just lead a group from exhibit to exhibit but connect the students to their history.



A Student's Choice

We involve students in the learning process and allow them to choose which areas in DC to explore, within the boundaries of your tailor made itinerary. 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.

Small Groups

We navigate different areas of DC in small groups, locations and topics slightly altering based on the students interests and choice. Our NCI group leader will be there to help the group connect to whatever they are looking at and encourage the students to take the lead, stepping in only to maintain focus and to ask those all important questions. The students will feel in control of their day.

Our Main Goal

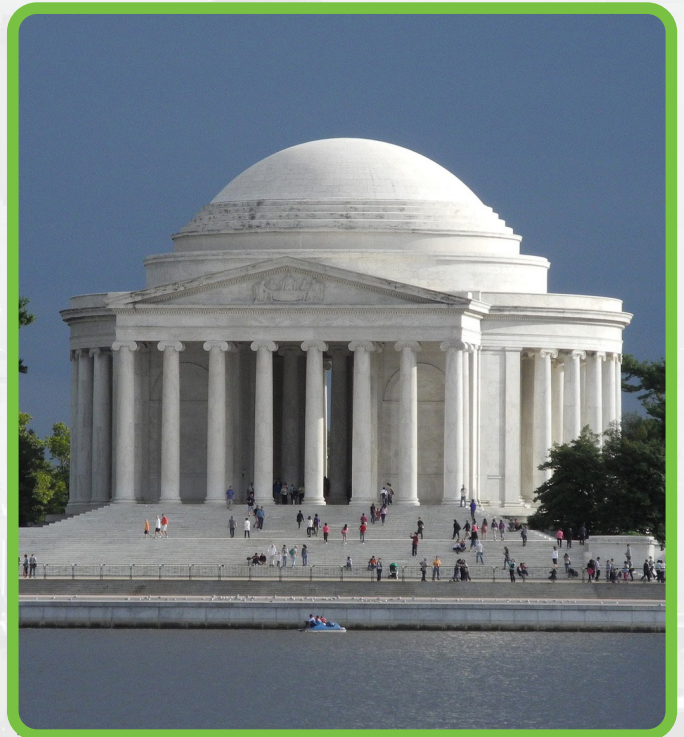
Each day there will be a special focus, it could be the civil war, civil rights movements or the history of government. Here at NCI we strive to bring these topics alive through group learning and discussion.



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 just looking at monuments or exhibits our NCI connect the dots and bring these areas alive! Our mission is to incorporate the surrounding, teaching and guiding using the world around us. Our activities are engaging through every step of the program and include the areas you would like the students to focus on.

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 stimulating 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.



Accommodations

At Nature's Classroom Institute we stay just outside of DC in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Just a 45 minutes drive away but distance enough to disconnect and unwind. The shared cabin environment promotes community and allows the students new opportunities for discussion and reflection. These beautiful settings provide an appealing break from the city and a home base for the students to rest, regroup and settle.



What Our Accommodations Include:

- Visiting schools will sleep in shared weatherized cabins that have AC and heating.
- All cabins include restroom and shower facilities.
- Meals are provided either on site or in the form of sack lunches.
- Nature trails and outdoor space is available for all to enjoy.

We Are Not Your Average DC Trip

Every evening after dinner the students will participate in historical simulations a Putting themselves in the shoes of others, they could be taking on the role of a towns person in Concord, forced to choose between loyalty to the King of England or help the local Minutemen. They could be a Native American walking the Trail of Tears or an Immigrant having just arrived on a boat from Europe.

You may also choose to spend more time onsite offering a break from the city. Choosing instead for the NCI staff to teach classes to further support learning, development and understanding.



Meals

When eating onsite, usually breakfast and dinner, the students will be offered even more choice. At NCI food is important and allowing the students to choose what they eat within the meal, portion sizes and quantities adds another layer of responsibility. We dine with the community in mind, eating together, discussing the day and playing games after the meal.



Nature's Classroom Institute DC Trip Example Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am	Arrival/Pickup	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00am		<i>Tavel</i>	<i>Tavel</i>	<i>Tavel</i>	<i>Tavel</i>
10:00am		Choice of Smithsonian Museums	Capitol Building and The Supreme Court	Explore Gettysburg Visitor Center	Explore and pay tribute to a selection of War Memorials
12:00pm	Lunch	Sack Lunch	Sack Lunch	Sack Lunch	Pizza Lunch
1:00pm	White House, Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial	Choice of Smithsonian Museums	Martin Luther King Memorial	Guided Tour of Entire Battle Field	Departure
3:00pm	Break	Break	Break	Break	
3:30pm	Explore the Natioanl Archives	Choice of Smithsonian Museums	Explore Museum of the American Indian or Museum African America History and Culture	Explore the Civil War Museum	
5:00pm	Travel	Travel	Travel	Travel	
6:00pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:00pm	Concord	To Pass a Bills	Underground Railroad	Rebs and Yanks	
8:30pm	Story and Dismissal	Story and Dismissal	Story and Dismissal	Story and Dismissal	

IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER



All trips are tailor made and specific to the needs of our visiting schools. Below is a selection of some stops and attractions that can be included into your schedule

Alexandria: Walk the beautiful streets and follow in the footsteps of many of our Founding Fathers.

Arlington National Cemetery: Pay your respects to the vast amount of brave people who sacrificed their lives.

Capitol Hill: Walk the underground tunnels where lawmakers meet, explore the Visitor Center (by appointment), take in the miles of books at the Library of Congress, and sit on the steps of the highest court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court.

Embassy Row: Ride through this impressive street that is lined with more than 100 foreign embassies.

FDR Memorial: Learn how Franklin D. Roosevelt connected the American people during the Great Depression.

Ford's Theatre and Petersen House: Follow the mystery of Lincoln's assassination. (Additional Charge and by appointment only)

Holocaust Museum: Experience the Holocaust through "Daniel's Story" at this living memorial to the victims of Nazi Germany.

Iwo Jima Memorial: Explore this tribute to the U.S. Marines who died while serving our country.

Jefferson Memorial: Read some of Jefferson's famous writings.

Korean War Veterans Memorial: Walk among 19 statues, each depicting a soldier in realistic garb, as they marched through Korea.

Lincoln Memorial: Stand where Martin Luther King, Jr., stood when he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial: Experience the newest memorial dedicated to the famous civil rights activist.

Mount Vernon: Explore George Washington's estate. (Additional Charge and by appointment only)

National Archives: See the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence.

Pentagon Memorial: Visit the memorial honoring the 184 victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks at the Pentagon.

Smithsonian Institution: Take your pick from several world class museums for your students to explore.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial: 58,000 names inscribed on the Wall, representing the many who were killed or missing in action.

Washington Monument: (picture stop) Snap some photos in front of the world's tallest stone monument.

White House: Take a picture standing in front of the most recognizable symbol of the presidency.

World War II Memorial: Deepen your appreciation for the 16 million who served and 400,000 who lost their lives in battle while fighting to protect our rights and freedoms.



Additional Options:

- Include time at various battle fields including Gettysburg, Balls Bluff, Third Winchester and many more.
- Add some time in Philadelphia or other surrounding cities.
- We include several night time simulations to help the students put themselves in the shoes of others in our past. We have a wide selection that you can choose from.



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, 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.

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

Prices

Your total trip cost is inclusive of overnight accommodation, meals and travel in and around the greater D.C area. Below is the base price, your local travel costs will be added to create a total cost. Each trip cost differs slightly based on travel costs. The price does not include travel to the D.C area from your campus/location.

5 days 4 night trip
\$650 per student

Chartered travel costs extra and not included in the initial price. Once student numbers and the schedule are confirmed we will provide a "Total Price" per student

*Additional charges may be added based on the choice of attractions and exhibits.