

# 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 Field Group



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?



Math



Awareness



Compassion



Science



Curriculum



Agriculture



Excitement



Student Choice



Simulation



History



Community



Art

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE. GROWING THROUGH EXPRESSION



# 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.

New Ulm,  
Texas



Nestled in South Central Texas among the wooded rolling countryside, sits our site in New Ulm, TX. From the new dorm rooms, to the lake and large outdoor activity spaces, your students will experience the ideal combination of beauty and charm, while being able to explore the idyllic creek. Situated on over 200 acres, students will experience how nature, people and the environment are in tune with one another.



## NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE in New Ulm, Texas



1912 Zimmerscheidt Rd.  
New Ulm, TX 78950

### Why New Ulm?

- New Ulm is located central to most major cities in central and southern Texas, on 200 acres of natural terrain.
- The property is completely fenced in, with five different species of deer and other terrestrial wildlife.
- The site boasts an amazing array of wetlands with a diverse population of water fowl and fish.
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- The site has first class accommodations with pillow top mattresses and a full set of linens and towels provided.
- Expanded dining hall availability to serve a larger variety of allergy and dietary restrictions.





# LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE



# GROWING THROUGH EXPRESSION



## Why NCI?

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.

Located in Central Texas, NCI Bruceville is close to most major Texas cities including Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and Houston. It's natural setting provides participants the ideal combination of beauty and charm. Here on our 300 acres, nature, people and environment, are in tune with one another. Memorable moments, our modern facility, and a multitude of activities make NCI in Bruceville far more than the usual field trip experience.



## NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE in Bruceville, Texas



## Why Bruceville?

- Bruceville is located in the heart of Texas. Conveniently located 2 hours or less from Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and Houston.
- New EcoVillage with monolithic domes, that can house up to 72 students, kitchen and dining room powered by solar cells. The power of choice with immediate results is a powerful learning tool that educates and empowers students.
- Wide range of indoor and outdoor activities and gathering locations.
- On our 300 acres of live oaks, wetlands, valleys and open savanna, your child will discover nature personally.

**NATURE'S CLASSROOM INSTITUTE**  
1912 Zimmerscheidt Rd, New Ulm, TX 78950





**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 Austin Wood, our Director of National Business Development 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

#### New Ulm

3 Day Program

\$325 Per Student

5 Day Program

\$425 Per Student

#### Bruceville

3 Day Program

\$325 Per Student

5 Day Program

\$425 Per Student

**30% Deposit required to confirm date**

Prices may increase no more than 4% each year