



Dear Parent,

Your child will soon have an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor school program. Outdoor environmental education uses the natural world to give students a learning experience that cannot take place in a classroom. The Nature's Classroom Institute 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, Nature's Classroom Institute has permanent staff residing on-site consisting of the Education Director and our environmental education staff (1 for every 12 students). Each staff member is 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 Nature's Classroom Institute. 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 and are served family style. 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, dairy-free and gluten-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 maps and other site information.

Telephone and Mail:

If you need to contact your student, please reach out to your schools' lead teacher for the trip. Mail is greatly appreciated by the students, but please allow at least one week for delivery. We will gladly hold any mail that arrives prior to the school's arrival. Please include the name of both the student and school to assist delivery:

'Student Name. Nature's Classroom Institute c/o School Name.
1912 Zimmerscheidt Rd. New Ulm, Texas, 78950'



Nature's Classroom Institute Packing & Equipment List- Texas

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. Bedding and pillow are provided. Feel free to make sure that personal items are clearly labeled with your child's last name.

The following is a guide for a 5-day program, adjust accordingly for a 3-day or 4-day program.

- 3 Pairs of lightweight long pants (Your student will be required to wear full length long pants for all outdoor activities)
- 2 Pairs of shorts (Only permitted during free-time and breaks)
- 5 Shirts
- 1 Sweater, sweatshirt or lightweight jacket
- 1 Pair Pajamas or Robe
- 5 Changes of Underwear
- 8 Pairs of Socks
- 2 Pairs of Sneakers (1 old sneakers or water shoes for Water Exploration)
- 1 Raincoat or Poncho
- 1 Reusable Water Bottle (Labeled with students' name)
- 1 Toiletry Kit: Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb/hairbrush, etc.
- 1 Towel and Washcloth
- 1 Pencil or Pen
- 1 Pre-addressed envelope with stamp (to write home)

Optional Items to consider:

- Shower shoes
- Insect Repellent—Non-Scented Sprays
- Sunscreen
- Laundry Bag
- Disposable Camera Labeled with Student's Name
- Chapstick
- Hat

Please do not send:

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