



Dear Parent(s),

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 exploration; 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 <http://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 Directors and our environmental education instructors (1 for every 12 students). Emergency medical care is available less than 10 minutes away from the site.

#### **Health and Safety:**

There is no requirement that students undergo a medical examination before attending Nature's Classroom Institute. The program is physically intensive, however, and you may wish to consult your physician if there are any health concerns that should be brought to the attention of the NCI staff. Note any special concerns on the online medical form (access will be provided by your child's school). Please note that signatures are required on our Medical Permission & Administration Form, whether or not your child is taking any medicine. 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. The Emergency Medical Authorization must also 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. Special dietary needs should be noted on the medical forms. Vegetarian and other dietary options are always available. Students, visiting teachers, and chaperones are lodged in climate-controlled dormitories. Most rooms have private bathrooms. Parents are welcome to visit the site before or after the school visit, preferably mid-week. You must call ahead to set up an appointment or email our [Environmental Education Director](#). For security reasons, no unscheduled visitors are allowed on campus. All visitors must check in at the office to receive their visitor badge and begin their tour.



### Telephone and Mail:

The telephone is not available for the students' use. Parents are asked not to call students except in case of emergency. The office hours are 7:00am—3:30pm and telephone number to Nature's Classroom Institute & Montessori School is 800-574-7881. 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. As an option, you may send mail along with your child's teachers to be distributed throughout the students' trip or via USPS.

**Nature's Classroom Institute  
c/o Lake Geneva Youth Camp  
Student's Name  
W2655 South St  
Lake Geneva WI 53147**

**\*\*Request a 24 hour Emergency Contact name and mobile telephone number from your child's teacher.**



## Nature's Classroom Institute Packing & Equipment 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. Particular care should be taken in supplying ample footwear and pants, as students frequently participate in activities that involve plants, mud and water and should always be prepared to be outdoors, even in rain.

**Please make sure that personal items are clearly labeled with your child's last name** (especially cameras). Depending on a 3 or 5 day stay, adjust amounts with appropriate discretion. Please check weather reports for your NCI location the day before your trip to pack appropriate gear. Any LOST ITEMS should be reported immediately.

○ Freshly Laundered twin sized fitted sheet and/or top sheet	<b>If it is 60 degrees or lower in temperature:</b>
○ Freshly Laundered Blanket (or 2, depending on thickness)	○ <i>Waterproof</i> Gloves/Mittens (2 pairs or more, they tend to get wet!)
○ Freshly Laundered Pillow and Pillowcase	○ 2 Winter Hats to Alternate in precipitation
○ 3 Pair of Jeans or Durable Pants (Leggings acceptable layers, but should <i>not</i> be the primary pants)	○ Durable, water-proof snow boots ( <i>Ugg Boots are not recommended</i> )
○ 5 T-Shirts (Normal Weight to Heavy in Winter, <i>no Tank Tops</i> )	○ Long Underwear or leggings for layering
○ 1 or 2 Long sleeved t-shirt (Normal Weight to Heavy in winter)	○ Extra Socks for Double Layers or Heavy, Woolen Socks
○ 1 Raincoat or Poncho	○ Snow Pants (November through March)
○ 1 Sweater or Sweatshirt (More between late October through April)	<b>If it is 60 degrees or greater in temperature:</b> (We still require long pants, shirts with some sort of sleeve and long socks when it is over 60 degrees for your child's protection.)
○ 1 Pair Pajamas and/or Robe	○ Insect Repellent
○ 1 light-weight waterproof Jacket (Heavy in winter)	○ Non-Scented Sprays Sunscreen
○ 8 Pairs of Crew or Knee Length Socks	○ Hat with Brim
○ 1 Pair Old Sneakers	○ Sunglasses
○ 1 Pair of Waterproof Boots (as needed seasonally)	<b>** DO NOT SEND **</b>
○ Small backpack/fanny pack to carry water bottle, emergency medication, etc. (optional)	☒ <i>Sleeping Bags</i>
○ 1 Toiletry Kit with Soap, Soap Dish, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Comb/Hairbrush & Plastic Cup	☒ <i>Knives (i.e. pocketknives)</i>
○ 1 Water Bottle Labeled with Student's Name	☒ <i>Radios</i>



Acceptable/Encouraged Items	<b>** DO NOT SEND **</b>
○ Towel and Washcloth	✗ <i>Flashlights</i>
○ Pre-Addressed, Stamped Envelopes and Paper or Postcards	✗ <i>Electronic Items or Any Mobile Device with Internet Capability (i.e. cell phones, game boys, etc.)</i>
○ Pencil or Pen	✗ <i>Fishing &amp; Sports Gear</i>
○ <i>Disposable</i> Camera Labeled with Student's Name - No digital cameras! (optional)	✗ <i>Candy, Gum or Food (this is for the safety of students with severe allergies!)</i>
○ Watch without internet capabilities (optional)	✗ <i>Money or credit/debit cards</i>
<b>Note: sleeping bags are not permitted</b>	