

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Trip Proposal / Request Form

Travel / Study Approval for Out of State and or Overnight Trips

School: Irving School Principal: Jen Olson
Date(s) of Trip: 5/16 - 5/18/2018 Trip Organizer(s): Jen Olson
Destination of Trip: Nature's Classroom - Lakeside CT
Grade level of student participants: 5 No. of Students: 40

Educational Objectives including related classroom activities prior to / following the trip: _____
Students will learn about various science related
Themes while participating in team-building
activities w/ students from both elementary schools.
Funding Source(s): Student-funded, fundraising, Alliance

Complete if students are paying for all or part of the trip.

Total fees required from each student: Transportation Cost: — Event Fee: \$166 Meals: —
Lodging: —

Source(s) of funds for students who qualify for fee waiver: PTO / Student Activity

Cost of Nurse (if applicable): — Funding source: — No students are identified with health concerns

Name of travel agent (if applicable): Included by program NIA

Name of transportation service vendor: All Star Transportation

No. of buses required: 1 Cost per bus: \$420

Date / Time of trip: Departing Derby: 5/16 10am Returning to Derby: 5/18 - 1:30 pm

Number of chaperones on trip: (see attached)

Completed forms should be submitted to the principal who, if the trip is approved, will forward this to the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education for final approval.

Include the information below when submitting this approval form. (Place a check mark by each item indicating its inclusion in the approval packet.)

- Information outlining parental financial responsibility should there be an emergency cancellation
- Parent / Guardian letter explaining the trip and travel itinerary
- Parent / Guardian Permission and Acknowledgment of Risk for Student Travel Form
- Emergency Plan (Includes arrangements for medical needs, parent / guardian contact information, access to communication devices, and procedures for general potential emergency situations)
- List of Chaperone Names and Phone Numbers with MPS employees noted
- Telephone Tree in the event of an emergency

Be sure the school administrator has a list of those students participating in the activity and a copy of the emergency contact numbers.

I / We certify that this trip proposal is in accordance with Derby Public Schools policies and corresponding regulations:

[Signature]
Signature, Trip Organizer(s)

Trip approved [Signature] 4/11/18
Signature, Principal / Assistant Principal Date

Signature, Superintendent or Designee Date

Trip Denied
Reason: _____

Signature, Superintendent or Designee Date

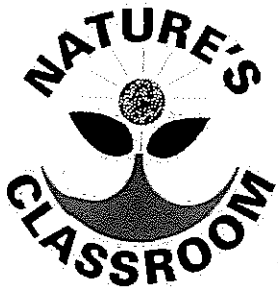
Out-of State / Overnight Trips Checklist

- Obtained approval at least three (3) weeks prior to the trip.
- Submitted list of participating students submitted to Principal and Health Office at least two (2) weeks prior to the trip.
- Submitted an updated list of participating students to Principal and Health Office on day of trip (No students should be added to the original list on the day of the trip.)
- Arranged substitute teacher with the Principal / designee if needed
- Arranged instructional and supervisory assignments for students not participating
- Arranged appropriate number of chaperones and provided orientation
- Clearly explained expectations of students
- Received parent permission forms and emergency medical forms
- No students are identified with health concerns

Teacher Directions: After your *School Trip Proposal / Request Form* has been approved, you are required to complete this form, and send it home to parents. Only those students whose parents have signed and returned the form to you will be permitted to go on the school trip. You should follow these directions: 1) Use one form per trip; 2) complete the school portion (top half) of form; 3) duplicate one form per student; and 4) send a copy home for parent and student signatures.

First Name	Last Name	Contact 1	Contact 2
Kayla	Adams	203-734-2900	203-305-4052
Faith	Anderson	317-807-2852	917-721-6389
Stacey	Andramunio	203-278-2051	203-737-0664
Chelsea	Ayala	475-439-5567	203-343-5313
Jayzair	Barbera	203-513-0885	
Samantha	Barillas	203-751-6694	
Kharanya	Black	203-516-5158	
Ethan	Bond	860-975-7018	
Marcos	Bond	860-975-7018	
Nazier	Boyd	203-522-3237	
Melanie	Caicedo	203-751-2338	475-228-2045
Dontae	Carter	203-516-1920	203-892-1238
Alexis	Cavallaro	475-243-9923	203-922-2040
Ruben	Coleman	929-444-0180	631-703-4992
Giana	DaSilva	203-570-1957	
Cailyn	Edwards	203-735-5902	203-231-2999
Faith	Gallishaw	203-736-9295	203-892-8303
Isalah	Goodrich	203-615-4945	
Raelynn	Harris	203-954-6070	203-512-8238
Shallyah	Howell	203-751-9232	203-751-4673
Joseph	Izquierdo	203-326-0511	203-554-0568
Mason	Izquierdo	203-326-0511	203-554-0568
Tyler	Izquierdo	203-326-0511	203-554-0568
Jennay	Jlmenez	203-545-5845	203-449-5120
Preston	Layfolde	203-954-7396	203-906-6384
Tina	Lin	646-409-5008	917-971-5384
Sofia	Maldonado	203-928-8474	
Nikko	Marinelli	203-734-2124	203-954-8454
Aiden	Martinez	203-954-8123	
Rashiya	McNeil	203-444-3033	
Nathan	Melin	203-751-9633	203-231-7188
Allyah	Morales	203-997-4949	203-997-4947
A'nyrah	Penn	203-360-4814	203-929-7831
Jacob	Prutting	203-308-7390	475-777-8449
Briana	Qulles	203-507-7724	203-507-9578
Quintin	Simjouw	203-892-8877	203-927-0891
Shamir	Smith	203-687-3129	330-942-4498
Danica	Strickland	203-571-4337	203-333-1115
Asion	West	413-517-4357	203-317-3673
Savana	Wint	203-751-9305	347-583-3184

Chaperone Name	Contact #
Jacqueline Nathman	203-823-0223
Jori Pirritino	203-954-7191
Stacey Waslnak	203214-0366
Nicholas Bartoli	576-704-6892
Jennifer Olson	203-558-7010
Elise Chambers	203-906-6731



Nature's Classroom Final Cost

Dear _____,

We are so excited you have decided to join our Nature's Classroom field trip! Get ready for three days of unforgettable fun and learning. **The final cost for the trip is due by Thursday, May 10th.** Your cost for the trip is listed below. Some important information to remember:

- Buses will depart from Irving School on Wednesday, May 16th promptly at 10 a.m. It is imperative that students arrive to school on time that day to make sure we can pack the bus and review medications with our school nurse.
- We will arrive back at Irving School on Friday, May 18th at 1:30 p.m. Parents will be able to pick their child up from school at that time.
- **There are no electronics allowed on the trip.** This includes, phones, tablets or game consoles. If we find any electronics then they will be confiscated and returned to you when we arrive back at school. ~~All teachers will have a phone~~ and we will provide you with our number, if you would like to reach us. We will also post pictures on Class Dojo during the trip.
- Do not bring any snacks or food with you. There will be plenty of food available for all dietary needs. If there is something specific you cannot have, please let us know!
- Make sure to pack plenty of long pants. There is a no shorts allowed rule to prevent the students from getting ticks or poison ivy while outside. Shorts are only allowed inside the cabins.
- Have fun!!! This is an amazing trip that many passed students say is their favorite part of fifth grade.

Your total cost for the Nature's Classroom trip is _____

This is due on Thursday, May 10th. All checks should be made to Irving School PTO.

If you have any questions please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you,

The Fifth Grade Team

DEAR PARENTS,

Your child will soon have an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor school program. This letter attempts to answer some of the questions parents usually ask. Please feel free to ask us about any other concerns you may have about the program. Outdoor environmental education uses the out-of-doors for learning experiences that cannot easily take place in the classroom. Students and teachers learning outdoor awareness in this extended classroom can use the experience to help in their understanding of the natural environment, their school subjects, and the way people live. The program includes activities such as examining life in lakes and swamps, investigating weather, Colonial and Native American skills, and confidence building group challenges. A variety of field walks, classes in all subjects, and evening activities insure an exciting, stimulating experience.

SUPERVISION AND STAFF: Students are supervised 24 hours a day. In addition to the classroom teachers and chaperones accompanying each visiting group, Nature's Classroom has a permanent staff residing on site consisting of a director, environmental teachers on 1:12 ratio, and a nurse, EMT or health staff person on call at all times.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: There is no requirement that students undergo a medical examination before attending Nature's Classroom. The program is physically intensive, however, and you may wish to consult your physician if there are any concerns that should be brought to the attention of the staff. Such guidance will assist them in planning the program of activities with the students. Please note any special health concerns on the Nature's Classroom medical forms. The forms must be completed before a student can attend. Health and safety are our most important objectives! A fully staffed and equipped hospital is less than 30 minutes away from all of our facilities. Every student is covered by insurance while attending the program.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: A clothing and equipment checklist is furnished. Particular care should be taken in supplying ample footwear and pants, as students frequently participate in activities in wet areas. Clothes should be chosen for comfort and durability, rather than style. Please add or delete items appropriate for the season (gloves, hats, parkas, etc.)

FOOD AND LODGING: Meals are prepared by a permanent cooking staff and are served family style. Special dietary needs should be noted on the medical forms. Students, visiting teachers, and chaperones are lodged in winterized dormitories and cabins. Parents are welcome to visit any of our Environmental Education Centers and to view the facilities; such visits, however, should be made before or after your child's experience, preferably midweek. The physical facilities are always open, so a weekend visit might be possible. You must call the site and make an appointment with the Program Coordinator before coming.

TELEPHONE: The telephone is not available for the students' use, and parents are asked not to call students except in case of an emergency. The Nature's Classroom telephone number is 860-567-8403.

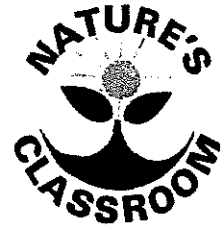
MAIL: Mail is most appreciated by students, but to be safe, allow 4 days for delivery. Mail posted midweek may not reach Nature's Classroom until Friday after the group has left (please make sure there is a return address in case we need to send it back). Please include the name of both the student and the school to assist delivery. Mail should be sent to Nature's Classroom, 190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT 06758.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT LIST FOR NATURE'S CLASSROOM

This list is for a three day program and dependent upon *seasonal weather*. Plan for everything!

- Water Bottle** *** Super important!
- 1 Sleeping bag or bedroll (sheets and blanket)
- 1 Pillow and pillowcase
- 2 Pairs of jeans/pants
- Multiple shirts (short and long sleeve)
- 1 Sweatshirt/hoodie or sweater
- Pajamas
- 1 Pair of slippers/flip-flops for cabin
- Shorts for cabin use only
- Many changes of underwear (for 3 days at least 4)
- Multiple pairs of socks (at least 2 per day)
- 1 Warm jacket/coat
- Hat(s): warm hat and/or ball cap
- Gloves, scarf
- Shoes (2-3 Pairs): old sneakers, rain boots, well-broken-in hiking boots, etc.
- 1 Raincoat or poncho
- Toiletries: soap (and container), shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, towels, washcloths
- Laundry bag or extra pillow case
- Pre-addressed stamped envelopes or postcards, paper and pens, etc. for writing home

- Notebook(s) and writing utensils
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent (no aerosols please)
- "Day pack" or backpack
- Camera: preferably disposable
- Flashlight (optional)
- Book for reading at night
- Deck of playing cards (optional)



DO NOT SEND:

- Electronics: cell phones, I-pods, MP3 players, portable gaming systems, kindles, nooks, tablets, etc.
- Pocket knife, candy/gum/food

***Please do NOT buy new clothes or shoes for your child to wear at Nature's Classroom. Send old clothes that you do not mind your child getting dirty during outdoor activities.

***Please make sure that every personal item (shoes, camera, socks, etc.) are clearly labeled with your child's name. Sharpie everything!

***If your child loses any items at Nature's Classroom, contact the Program Coordinator immediately. NATURE'S CLASSROOM TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST ITEMS.

NATURE'S CLASSROOM STUDENT REGISTRATION

Please print all information and please fill in all the blanks

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
(Last) (First)

Age _____ Sex _____ Weight _____ Height _____

Address _____
(No. and Street) (Town) (State) (Zip)

Parent's Name(s) _____

Email Address _____

Home Telephone (____) _____ Alternate Telephone (____) _____

Family Physician _____ Telephone (____) _____

I give permission for (Name) _____ to attend Nature's Classroom

for the period of _____ as part of the outdoor education program

of (School Name) _____. I understand that the director of Nature's Classroom may, if necessary, for my child's health, have him/her hospitalized or use outside medical, surgical, or dental care. I also understand that the director and/or school leaders may dismiss my child from Nature's Classroom if, in their opinions, his/her conduct or influence is not in the best interest of the entire group. No refund is given if such action is taken for discipline reasons. Nature's Classroom has my permission to use my child's image, voice and/or likeness for promotional purposes.

Date _____ Signature _____ Relationship _____

MEDICAL PERMISSION SLIP

Should your child become ill, get a headache, catch a cold or have other minor medical or dental problems, do you give permission for the administration of basic first aid at the discretions of the Nature's Classroom staff?

Yes _____ No _____

Date _____ Signature _____ Relationship _____

If Ibuprofen or Tylenol needs to be administered, do you prefer:

IBUPROFEN _____ TYLENOL _____ OTHER (Specify) _____

Nature's Classroom

HOME AND HEALTH INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Child's Name: _____ Date of Session: _____

The questions below are provided to give you a framework within which to provide that needed information to us. Please feel free to add whatever information you think will be helpful – attach additional sheets if necessary. We will share this information with your child's classroom teachers prior to his/her arrival at camp. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Is this your child's first prolonged stay away from home? _____
2. Is this your child's first sleep away experience? _____
3. Has your child ever had a problem with homesickness? If yes, please explain briefly. _____

4. Does your child have a bed wetting problem? _____
5. Date of last tetanus booster shot (not a tetanus shot given after an injury). _____
6. Are there any restrictions on your child's activities? Please include any special health concerns, e.g., special diet, recent hospitalizations, fractured bones, etc.

7. List any allergies, e.g., food, environmental, medication, and explain degrees of severity and current treatment.

8. Does your child have any sensory, physical or cognitive disabilities? Yes No If yes, explain.

9. Has anything happened recently in your child's life that may affect him/her emotionally or physically while at camp? If yes, please explain.

10. Additional information:

Nature's Classroom

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORM

All medications (including prescription, non-prescription and vitamins) must come in original containers.

Please complete *all parts* of the following chart for all medications being sent or the medication cannot be administered. If more than four medications are needed, please copy this page.

CHILD'S NAME: _____

I hereby give permission for the staff of Nature's Classroom to administer to my child the following medication(s):

Medication	Dose (mg, tsp)	Time Medication Taken				
		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bed	Other

Comments (reason for taking medications, special considerations): _____

Your child will not be allowed to keep any medication in his/her cabin. Prescribed medications must be in original container with pharmacy label containing Rx number, the name of the medication, the dosage, directions for administration, and the child's name. Whenever possible, a copy of the doctor's prescription or letter may be sent to clarify any discrepancies. All non-prescription medication must be in their original containers, clearly labeled with the child's name, name of the medication and direction for use.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Relationship: _____



Itinerary for Grade 5 Nature's Classroom Field Trip

Wednesday 5/16/18:

- We are leaving Bradley School between 9:45 and 10:00 am.
- Students should leave their luggage/bags in the front hallway outside of the foyer.
- Parents/guardians have the option of sending students to school their normal way but depending on how many bags they have that may be challenging.
- We recommend dropping students off to school with their bags.
- If you decide to have your student stay with you in the morning they must be at Bradley no later than 9:30 am to allow for time to help load the bus.

- We should arrive at Lakeside around 11:00 am.
- We will unload the bags from the bus and follow the directions of the camp staff.
- Lunch will be served at noon.
- Dinner will be served at 5 pm.
- Lights out by 10 pm (subject to discretion of adult supervising cabin).

Thursday 5/17/18:

- Breakfast at 8 am
- Lunch at 12 pm
- Dinner at 5 pm

Friday 5/18/18:

- Breakfast at 8 am
- Lunch at 11:30 am
- Depart for Bradley School by 12:30 pm
- Arrive at Bradley School by 1:30 pm - students to go home with parent pick-ups

If you have any questions please feel free to call the main office or email Mr. Ciccarini at mciccarini@derbyps.org

OVERVIEW OF NATURE'S CLASSROOM

Nature's Classroom offers a unique educational experience to students and their teachers. The goal of Nature's Classroom is to create a living-learning community that integrates the social development of that community with academic experiences. Common goals that are woven throughout the experience are for the student to improve his/her self-concept; to work together with others for the positive benefit of all members of the community; to recognize that the community is comprised of individuals with their own individual needs; to appreciate the individuality and uniqueness of each other; and to gain an understanding of what education can offer him/her. The process begins when teachers volunteer to bring their students to Nature's Classroom. Each Nature's Classroom program is developed in consultation with the classroom teachers in order to create an experience that is connected to the school's curriculum and goals.

The typical **daily schedule** at Nature's Classroom consists of a morning Field Group experience, two afternoon Special Interest class periods, and an evening activity. Meals and an evening snack are provided, and to close each day a Quiet Sing is presented.

The goal of the **field group** is for the student to understand and recognize the concept of dynamic equilibrium – constant upsetting influences being re-adjusted to maintain balance – in the natural world, in social interactions, and within him/herself. Each child is assigned by the classroom teacher to a field group and each group is assigned a single Nature's Classroom teacher. They focus on concepts and themes and their connection to the total life support system as they explore the natural environment. For example, the field group might examine producer, consumer, and decomposer concepts, predator-prey relationships or life cycles. The theme of "changes through time" may be an approach taken by a field group.

During the afternoon **Special Interest classes**, Nature's Classroom's academic environment, the emphasis is on learning motivation. The goals of the afternoon classes are for the student to choose the classes in which he/she is interested; to actively learn by doing; to understand and recognize the relationships between the major subject areas; to understand the importance of goal setting and work toward an attainable goal; and to gain an understanding of the personal value he/she can gain from education. The classroom teachers may request particular classes be offered from our two volume set of lesson plans and/or allow our teachers to teach classes of special interest to them.

Evening activities may be done by the full community together or by the smaller field group. The activity's emphasis may be academic or social. Large group academic activities may include an Environmental Hearing, Alpha Beta, a Science Exposition, or Back to Basics. The Environmental Hearing, set in a town meeting format, gives students a chance to role-play in a simulated hearing over land usage. Groups are assigned roles

as representatives of corporations, public interest groups, local citizens, and conservationists. Each group expresses their opinions and viewpoints as they negotiate and seek support for their positions. The Science Expo provides students a chance to experience a variety of chemical and physical science demonstrations. Stopping at multiple stations staffed by Nature's Classroom teachers, students observe and assist in experiments and discuss the principles involved. Back to Basic teaches students about Colonial and Native American crafts. A Folk Dance, a Mingle, or a Campfire are examples of social experiences. A Night Hike, with a focus on astronomy and vision, may be taken by the field group. Not all of these activities are done consistently at every site. Working with the Nature's Classroom Program Coordinator, classroom teachers can select those activities which best suit the goals they have for their students.

What the students learn in relation to community awareness and group cohesiveness in field groups and classes is applied in other activities. Mealtimes provide a chance to interact and to share experiences with others. The diversity within field groups, classes and other activities facilitates conversation among the students and adults allowing them to share their excitement. To be of service to the community, students take on the responsibility of helping as waiters.

The Nature's Classroom teaching staff is composed of individuals with a minimum of a bachelor's degree. We maintain a teacher to student ratio of one to twelve or less. There is a nurse, EMT, or medical person on site or on call at all times. The children are provided with 24-hour adult supervision. The responsibilities for supervision are shared by the classroom teachers and the Nature's Classroom staff.

Having spent a week at Nature's Classroom, living and learning together, students develop a sense of community, a confidence in themselves, and an appreciation for others that carries over to the schoolcommunity. They see their classroom teacher as a person and friend in the learning process. The strengthened peer cooperation and expanded student-teacher relationships have an influence on the cognitive growth of the students throughout the school year. Together, they return to the classroom united through this shared experience to achieve the common goal of the pursuit of knowledge.

Nature's Classroom

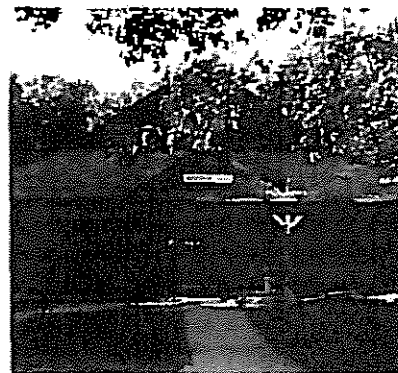
at Lakeside, CT



DIRECTIONS

From I-84 in Waterbury, CT: Take exit 20 (Route 8) north towards Torrington. Take exit 38 (Route 6, Route 109). Bear left at the end of the ramp and go under the overpass. Turn left at the first light and follow signs for Route 6 and Route 109. In about 0.5 miles, at the stop sign, continue diagonally across the intersection onto Route 109. Black Rock School will be on your left. **Continue on Route 109 through East Morris stop sign to the stop sign in Morris (intersection of Route 61).** Continue straight on Route 109 for 3 more miles. Pass a cemetery, lake, and go up a hill. At the top of the hill, turn left onto Kenyon Road (this is a tricky turn, look for the Episcopal Camp sign). Camp entrance is about 0.5 miles on the left.

From southbound Route 8: Take exit 38 (Route 6, Route 109). Continue straight through the light onto Route 6 and Route 109. In about 0.5 miles veer right onto Route 109. Black Rock School will be on your left. Follow directions in bold above.



FEATURES

This property features eight recently renovated cabins sleeping 14 to 16 students each. Each cabin has a private adult room and an attached bathroom.

The property also contains about 400 acres of woodlands, a historic family cemetery, and rock walls dating back to the 1600s.

Clockwise from top left:

- Each cabin sleeps 14 to 16 students. Adults sleep in a private room in the cabin. Each cabin has its own bathroom with several sinks, toilet stalls and shower stalls.

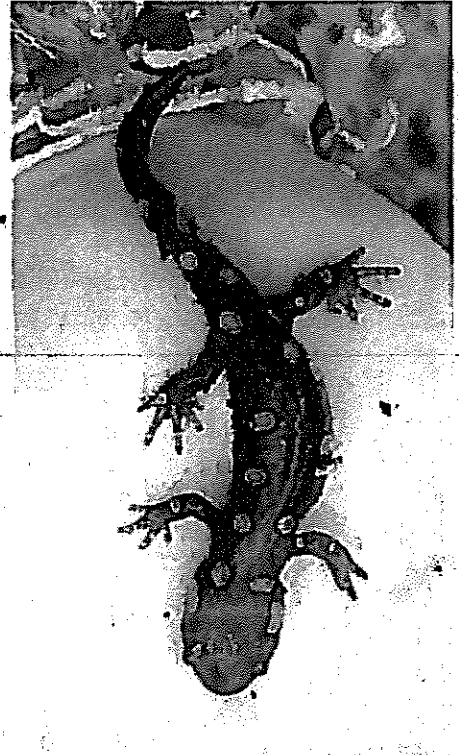
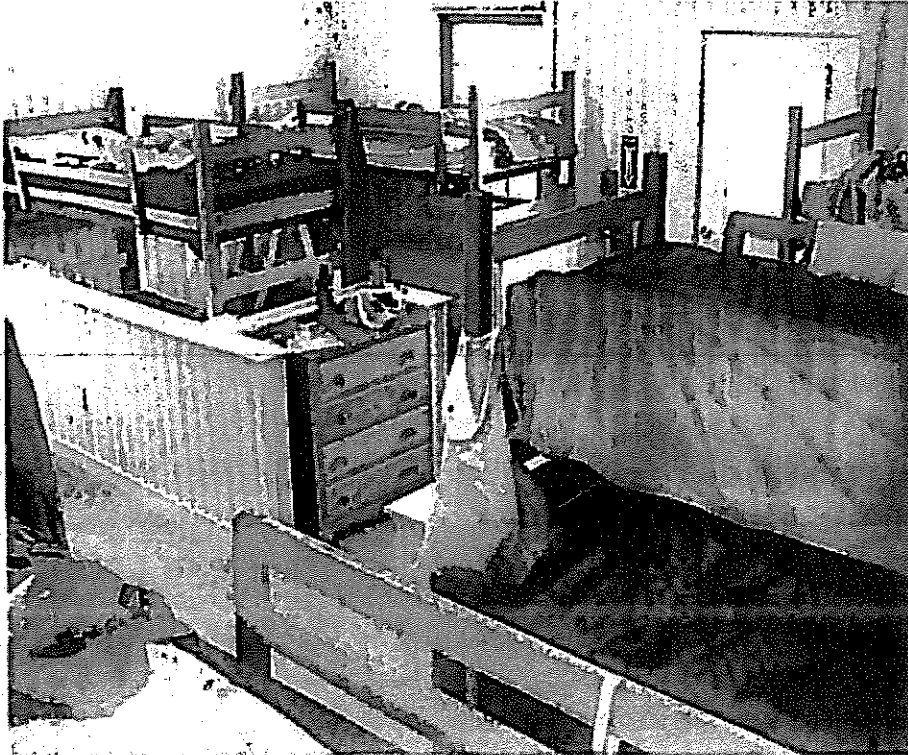
- Students find a wide variety of creatures from yellow-spotted salamanders to crayfish. With such a densely rich property, there is a wealth of wildlife to find.

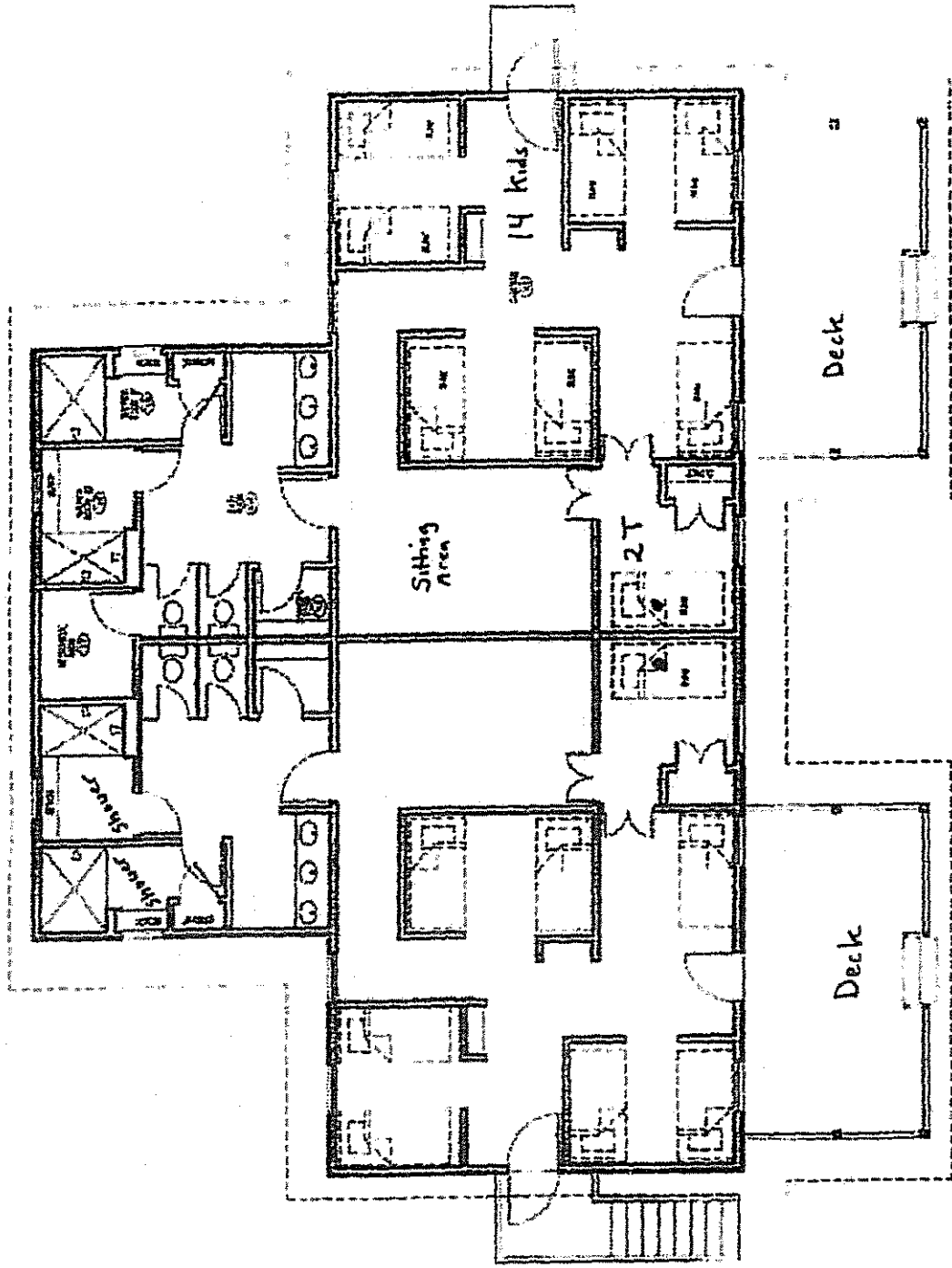
- Lucky students may have the chance to

- find several species of reptile, including this ring-necked snake. They may also run across turtles, garter snakes, and deer tracks.

- Eight cabins ring the large field in front of the dining hall.

Lakeside, CT





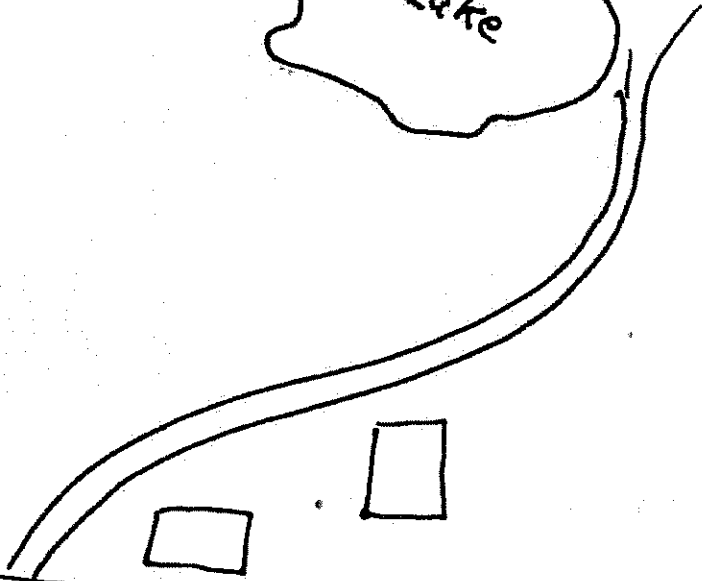
CABIN FLOOR PLAN

CABIN
 CAMP WASHINGTON
 MORRIS, CONNECTICUT

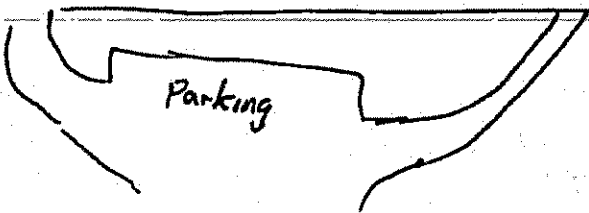
Fields
&
Forests



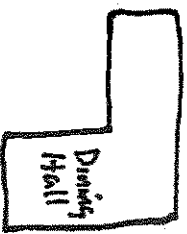
Lake



Parking



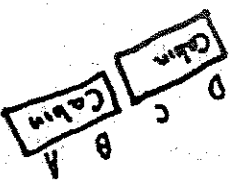
NC STAFF



Dining Hall

Sport
Fields

Nature's Classroom
Lakeside, CT



Kenyon
Hall

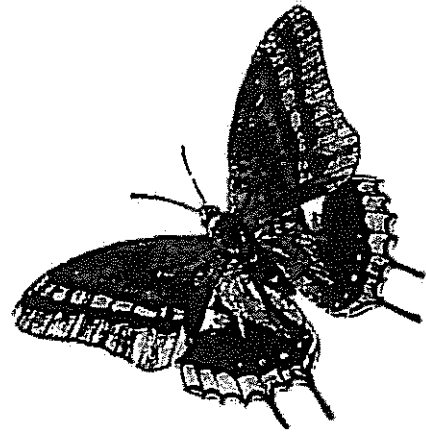
All
Purpose

Basketball
+
Volleyball
area

Sample Basic Schedule

First Day

11:00 Arrival & Settling In
12:00 Lunch
Orientation
Field Experience
4:00 Special Interests
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Quest
Sing Down
9:00 Snacks
9:15 Quiet Sing



Second Day

7:15 Rise and Shine!
8:00 Breakfast & Clean Up
9:30 Field Experience
12:00 Lunch
Free Time
New Games
2:00 Special Interests
4:00 Special Interests
6:00 Dinner and Free Time
7:30 Night Walk
9:00 Snacks
9:15 Quiet Sing



Third Day

7:15 Up and At 'Em
8:00 Breakfast
Final Clean Up
Scavenger Hunt/
Field Experience
Evaluation
12:00 Lunch
Departure

Sample of Special Interest Programming

The two volume curriculum text for **Nature's Classroom**, *AND THIS OUR LIFE*, and its unpublished appendices contain over 500 hands-on science, math, humanities, and social studies lesson plans with follow-up activities for use in the schoolroom as well as references for further investigation.

FIRST CLASS

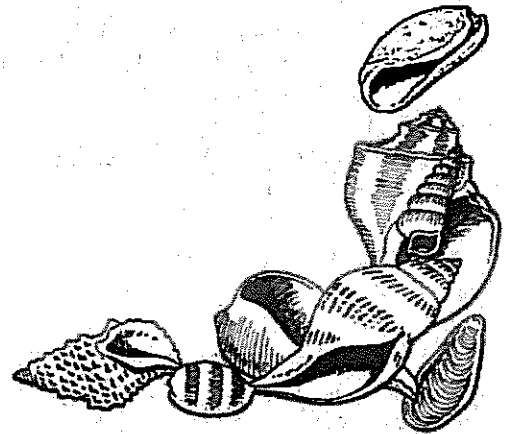
- SC Double Bubble (Chemistry of Soap)
Just Plane Fun (Flight and Aerodynamics)
Jelly-Belliology (Taxonomy)
Incredible Edibles (Edible Plants)
- MA Geodome (Geodesic Dome Construction)
Get Lost (Map and Compass, Orienting)
- HM Feed Your Face (Natural Cosmetics)
- SS The Oil Game (Sharing a Limited Resource)
Revolution (Historical Simulation)

SECOND CLASS

- SC Go with the Flow (Heart and Blood)
Terrarium Construction (Cycles)
Egg Drop (Package Design)
Go Fly a Kite (Wind, Atmosphere)
- MA Countryside Measuring (Geometry)
Up and Away (Hot Air Balloons)
- HM On the Air (Radio Broadcast Writing)
- SS Native American Games
It's the Law (Criminal Justice)

THIRD CLASS

- SC Crystals (Chemistry)
Hot Air Balloons (Air)
Pollution Solution
Oh Rats! (Dissection)
- MA Polling (Graphs)
Speed Boats (Stream Power)
- HM Woods Words (Poetry)
- SS Egg Babies (Responsibility)
Dyeing Naturally (Dyes)



The preceding is a **SAMPLE** outline of courses for a group size requiring nine of our instructors. The specific courses offered vary with the time of year, location, current **Nature's Classroom** instructors, and goals the visiting school wishes to achieve.

SC: Science

MA: Math

HM: Humanities

SS: Social Studies

DEAR PARENTS,

Your child will soon have an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor school program. This letter attempts to answer some of the questions parents usually ask. Please feel free to ask us about any other concerns you may have about the program. Outdoor environmental education uses the out-of-doors for learning experiences that cannot easily take place in the classroom. Students and teachers learning outdoor awareness in this extended classroom can use the experience to help in their understanding of the natural environment, their school subjects, and the way people live. The program includes activities such as examining life in lakes and swamps, investigating weather, Colonial and Native American skills, and confidence building group challenges. A variety of field walks, classes in all subjects, and evening activities insure an exciting, stimulating experience.

SUPERVISION AND STAFF: Students are supervised 24 hours a day. In addition to the classroom teachers and chaperones accompanying each visiting group, Nature's Classroom has a permanent staff residing on site consisting of a director, environmental teachers on 1:12 ratio, and a nurse, EMT or health staff person on call at all times.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: There is no requirement that students undergo a medical examination before attending Nature's Classroom. The program is physically intensive, however, and you may wish to consult your physician if there are any concerns that should be brought to the attention of the staff. Such guidance will assist them in planning the program of activities with the students. Please note any special health concerns on the Nature's Classroom medical forms. The forms **must** be completed before a student can attend. Health and safety are our most important objectives! A fully staffed and equipped hospital is less than 30 minutes away from all of our facilities. Every student is covered by insurance while attending the program.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: A clothing and equipment checklist is furnished. Particular care should be taken in supplying ample footwear and pants, as students frequently participate in activities in wet areas. Clothes should be chosen for comfort and durability, rather than style. Please add or delete items appropriate for the season (gloves, hats, parkas, etc.)

FOOD AND LODGING: Meals are prepared by a permanent cooking staff and are served family style. Special dietary needs should be noted on the medical forms. Students, visiting teachers, and chaperones are lodged in winterized dormitories and cabins. Parents are welcome to visit any of our Environmental Education Centers and to view the facilities; such visits, however, should be made before or after your child's experience, preferably midweek. The physical facilities are always open, so a weekend visit might be possible. You must call the site and make an appointment with the Program Coordinator before coming.

TELEPHONE: The telephone is not available for the students' use, and parents are asked not to call students except in case of an emergency. The Nature's Classroom telephone number is 860-567-8403.

MAIL: Mail is most appreciated by students, but to be safe, allow 4 days for delivery. Mail posted midweek may not reach Nature's Classroom until Friday after the group has left (please make sure there is a return address in case we need to send it back). Please include the name of both the student and the school to assist delivery. Mail should be sent to **Nature's Classroom, 190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT 06758.**

NATURE'S CLASSROOM STUDENT REGISTRATION

Please print all information and please fill in all the blanks

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
(Last) (First)

Age _____ Sex _____ Weight _____ Height _____

Address _____
(No. and Street) (Town) (State) (Zip)

Parent's Name(s) _____

Email Address _____

Home Telephone (____) _____ Alternate Telephone (____) _____

Family Physician _____ Telephone (____) _____

I give permission for (Name) _____ to attend Nature's Classroom

for the period of _____ as part of the outdoor education program

of (School Name) _____. I understand that the director of Nature's Classroom may, if necessary, for my child's health, have him/her hospitalized or use outside medical, surgical, or dental care. I also understand that the director and/or school leaders may dismiss my child from Nature's Classroom if, in their opinions, his/her conduct or influence is not in the best interest of the entire group. No refund is given if such action is taken for discipline reasons. Nature's Classroom has my permission to use my child's image, voice and/or likeness for promotional purposes.

Date _____ Signature _____ Relationship _____

MEDICAL PERMISSION SLIP

Should your child become ill, get a headache, catch a cold or have other minor medical or dental problems, do you give permission for the administration of basic first aid at the discretions of the Nature's Classroom staff?

Yes _____ No _____

Date _____ Signature _____ Relationship _____

If Ibuprofen or Tylenol needs to be administered, do you prefer:

IBUPROFEN _____ TYLENOL _____ OTHER (Specify) _____

Nature's Classroom

HOME AND HEALTH INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Child's Name: _____ Date of Session: _____

The questions below are provided to give you a framework within which to provide that needed information to us. Please feel free to add whatever information you think will be helpful - attach additional sheets if necessary. We will share this information with your child's classroom teachers prior to his/her arrival at camp. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Is this your child's first prolonged stay away from home? _____

2. Is this your child's first sleep away experience? _____

3. Has your child ever had a problem with homesickness? If yes, please explain briefly. _____

4. Does your child have a bed wetting problem? _____

5. Date of last tetanus booster shot (not a tetanus shot given after an injury). _____

6. Are there any restrictions on your child's activities? Please include any special health concerns, e.g., special diet, recent hospitalizations, fractured bones, etc.

7. List any allergies, e.g., food, environmental, medication, and explain degrees of severity and current treatment.

8. Does your child have any sensory, physical or cognitive disabilities? Yes No If yes, explain.

9. Has anything happened recently in your child's life that may affect him/her emotionally or physically while at camp? If yes, please explain.

10. Additional information:

Nature's Classroom

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORM

All medications (including prescription, non-prescription and vitamins) must come in original containers.

Please complete all parts of the following chart for all medications being sent or the medication cannot be administered. If more than four medications are needed, please copy this page.

CHILD'S NAME: _____

I hereby give permission for the staff of Nature's Classroom to administer to my child the following medication(s):

Medication	Dose (mg, tsp)	Time Medication Taken				
		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bed	Other

Comments (reason for taking medications, special considerations): _____

Your child will not be allowed to keep any medication in his/her cabin. Prescribed medications must be in original container with pharmacy label containing Rx number, the name of the medication, the dosage, directions for administration, and the child's name. Whenever possible, a copy of the doctor's prescription or letter may be sent to clarify any discrepancies. All non-prescription medication must be in their original containers, clearly labeled with the child's name, name of the medication and direction for use.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Relationship: _____

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT LIST FOR NATURE'S CLASSROOM

This list is for a three day program and dependent upon *seasonal weather*. Plan for everything!

---Water Bottle *** Super important!

---1 Sleeping bag or bedroll (sheets and blanket)

---1 Pillow and pillowcase

---2 Pairs of jeans/pants

---Multiple shirts (short and long sleeve)

---1 Sweatshirt/hoodie or sweater

---Pajamas

---1 Pair of slippers/flip-flops for cabin

---Shorts for cabin use only

---Many changes of underwear (for 3 days at least 4)

---Multiple pairs of socks (at least 2 per day)

---1 Warm jacket/coat

---Hat(s): warm hat and/or ball cap

---Gloves, scarf

---Shoes (2-3 Pairs): old sneakers, rain boots, well-broken-in hiking boots, etc.

---1 Raincoat or poncho

---Toiletries: soap (and container), shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, towels, washcloths

---Laundry bag or extra pillow case

---Pre-addressed stamped envelopes or postcards, paper and pens, etc. for writing home

---Notebook(s) and writing utensils

---Sunscreen

---Insect repellent (no aerosols please)

---"Day pack" or backpack

---Camera: preferably disposable

---Flashlight (optional)

---Book for reading at night

---Deck of playing cards (optional)



DO NOT SEND:

- Electronics: cell phones, I-pods, MP3 players, portable gaming systems, kindles, nooks, tablets, etc.
- Pocket knife, candy/gum/food

***Please do NOT buy new clothes or shoes for your child to wear at Nature's Classroom. Send old clothes that you do not mind your child getting dirty during outdoor activities.

***Please make sure that every personal item (shoes, camera, socks, etc.) are clearly labeled with your child's name. Sharpie everything!

***If your child loses any items at Nature's Classroom, contact the Program Coordinator immediately. **NATURE'S CLASSROOM TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST ITEMS.**