

Your Role At Nature's Classroom Institute

Your upcoming visit will be a unique experience. We ask you now to consider your role at NCI. Our staff is very willing to alter, adjust, and rearrange, but not disregard, the goals of Nature's Classroom. They will be happy to accommodate your interests and allow you to participate at the level that you would prefer.

Your responsibilities for the week are as stated below:

- dormitory coverage between evening dismissal and breakfast;
- coverage during ½ hour “transition time” periods during after-breakfast clean-up, between daytime activities, and during after-dinner journal-writing;
- coverage during 1 hour “break” period before dinner;
- assisting NCI instructors with student coverage at meals;
- involve yourself with your students.

If you wish to go above and beyond these responsibilities, we welcome your involvement. If you are willing, able, and anxious to “get into the swing of things,” we invite you to join the students and staff during all activities but the first and last Field Group periods (when you will meet with the Director).

Do you want to teach any classes? Simply let the Director know so that a time period can be opened for you. Do you have a particular academic area that you would like to see covered? Do you have any specific classes, themes, or activities that should be presented during your visit? Please simply let us know.

If you wish to participate in classes taught by NCI instructors, you are more than welcome. Our teachers are in charge of their field groups and classes, but please feel free to “put your two cents in.” This may be an excellent opportunity to introduce your students to classroom material or reinforce previous learning.

We recognize the importance of allowing individual groups to emphasize particular areas of concentration or themes. You may discuss what you would like to see with the Director and together choose activities which will relate to your academic goals. Please refrain from making one or more class or field activity required for everyone, because we often need or wish to revise certain activities depending on the weather, group size, or other factors. We ask that you be flexible and accepting of changes when you arrive. We are constantly trying out new activities, often in regard to an NCI instructor's new interest or sudden bout of creativity.

We also understand that you may have your own projects to work on during the week. Joining the students during classes, field groups, or large group activities is in no way required. A lounge area is available in each dormitory and you are welcome to use the Shakespeare lounge as well. We ask only that you make yourself available to the students during the coverage periods explained above.