

# Spring Break 2008 -Marine Ecology – Virgin Islands

This Worthington Field Studies Program will offer a unique opportunity to students. Students who are accepted to participate in the course will travel to the US Virgin Islands for seven days. The program will begin with departure from Port Columbus on **March 21<sup>st</sup>** and it will conclude on **March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Upon successful completion of the course, each student can earn one half credit in science.

In addition to learning marine biology, geology, biology and studying many of the environmental issues of the areas being visited, participants will be afforded the opportunity to test themselves both physically and mentally. Students may, take part in a number of SCUBA dives as well as snorkeling opportunities on the coral reef that surrounds the island. Among other activities, participants will be able to view the beauty of clean, clear, and isolated Virgin Island beaches in addition to learning more about the culture of the area. Participants will spend time investigating tidal pools, diving, exploring coastal environments, hiking and sampling native cuisine. Participants can be assured that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

**PARTICULARS:** Students will be accepted into the program only after a screening process that includes a student application, recommendations by teachers, and input from parents. The participant will be expected to have a physical examination by the time the trip begins. *Parents and students should be aware that the course will be strenuous.* The temperature may range from 60° at night to 80° in the shade during the day. Sleeping accommodations will be in tents near the beach, electricity won't be available for such conveniences as hair dryers, electric razors or curling irons. Students should expect a rugged weeklong experience.

There will be a wide variety of learning activities for the student. Since this program is not in a normal classroom setting the student is responsible for budgeting his/her own time for normal study periods which will be needed to successfully complete all course requirements. The individual will be evaluated through a variety of activities including journal entries, notebook assignments, and participation. *Applicants are reminded that this is not a vacation. There is a lot of hard work involved including a variety of academic and camp duties.*

Due to space limitations, students will be allowed to take only a minimum of gear. A list of suggested gear will be provided at a later date.

While participating in the course, students are expected to follow school rules, including special rules adopted for this trip. *If a participant is found in violation of these rules and if the instructors feel that the participant is detrimental to the program, that participant will be sent home at the parents' expense while at the same time forfeiting the tuition for the program.* It must also be stressed that if a student is accepted into the program and pays his/her tuition and then for some reason must drop out of the program, that individual will lose a portion of their money unless a suitable replacement is found.



A maximum of **twenty** students will be accepted into the program. The selection process will be completed in late **November** and the students will be notified of their acceptance by **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. After notification, a **\$600.00** non-refundable deposit is due at the parents meeting on **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. Failure to pay the initial deposit will automatically remove the student from the program. The first meeting for the participants and their parents will be held **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:00pm**. More specifics about the program will be discussed at that time.

While participating in the course, the student will be expected to willingly and actively cooperate and participate on a work crew, which will be responsible for camp maintenance, erecting tents, cooking and kitchen clean-up duties.

**Approximate Cost** per student will be **\$1,600.00**. Additional costs for SCUBA and snorkeling will be handled through the Dive Shop in Westerville (818-9920). This price will cover the cost of transportation, insurance, food, and lodging. The remainder of payments for the tuition will occur in two installments. The first payment of **\$500.00** will be due **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. The second payment of **\$500.00** is due **February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. Students are expected to bring spending money, which will, in part, cover the cost of souvenirs and snacks as well as other personal expenses. Limited scholarship money is available through an application process.

The deadline for applications is **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. Four teacher recommendations are also required. For more information, contact Mr Geniusz at Thomas Worthington H.S via email: [bgeniusz@worthington.k12.oh.us](mailto:bgeniusz@worthington.k12.oh.us)

Without a doubt, the Worthington Field Studies Program provides an incomparable opportunity for any student. If you are interested, please return the Preliminary Permission Form and Application Form as soon as possible to your science teacher. See the attached forms. Any questions may be directed Brian Geniusz at Thomas Worthington High School (883-2250).

Visit our website at [www.wfsinc.org](http://www.wfsinc.org).

**WORTHINGTON FIELD STUDIES PROGRAM**  
**Preliminary Permission Form**  
*(This form due as soon as possible)*

I am interested in being considered for the Worthington Field Studies Program. I have read the introductory letter and am aware of the particulars mentioned therein.

Student's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware that my daughter/son is interested in the Worthington Field Studies Program. Likewise, I am aware of the cost of the program, with the first payment due the night of the first meeting. I am aware that once the first payment is made, that if for some reason my son/daughter is unable to take part in the Worthington Field Studies Program, all monies which have been paid up to that point in time are forfeited, unless a suitable replacement is found for my son/daughter. I am also aware of the possibility that if my child breaks a serious school rule, he/she will be sent home at my expense. In such case, I am aware that all fees will be forfeited.

My daughter/son has no medical conditions that would enter into the selection process for this strenuous outdoor program. (If you have some question regarding your child's physical capability in regards to participation in this course, please include some explanation on the back of this paper.)

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(This form due as soon as possible)*

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

List the applicant's schedule below, include teacher's name and room number. (Please include classes that change at the semester)

	CLASS	TEACHER	ROOM #
1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____

**The full application will be due:**  
**November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

## *Worthington Field Studies Teacher Recommendation Form*

**To The Applicant:**

1. Select four of your teachers for this year and ask them to fill out a recommendation.
2. Print your teacher's name on this form where indicated.
3. I waive the right to review this form after it has been given to the teacher.

Applicant's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE TEACHER:**

The applicant above is applying to participate in the Worthington Field Studies Program. The program is designed to take a group of students on a one-week Field Ecology educational experience to the Virgin Islands. I would appreciate your cooperation in the completion of this form. Please be as complete as possible and accurate when filling out the form. It will significantly help in determining the eligibility of the applicant. The student evaluation is on the back of this paper. One represents the lowest evaluation and five represents the highest. When returning this application, fold it in half so there will be some privacy to your responses. Please return this form to Brian Geniusz at Thomas Worthington, or Mark Maley at Linworth by **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. Thank you for your cooperation.

..... FOLD .....

**RETURN TO**

**Brian Geniusz at TWHS**

**Or your science teacher can send it to Brian Geniusz through the district mail service**

**BY: November 30th, 2007**

FOLD THIS SIDE OUT AND STAPLE CLOSED

## Worthington Field Studies Teacher Recommendation Form

<-----LOW-----EVALUATION-----HIGH----->

<b>ACADEMICALLY INQUISITIVE</b>	little interest 1	aims to get by motivation 2	occasionally motivated 3	above average motivation 4	eager to obtain education 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>INDUSTRY</b>	lazy 1	needs prodding 2	occasionally prepares work 3	completes assigned work 4	seeks additional help 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>RESPONSE TO AUTHORITY</b>	defies 1	argumentative 2	average 3	accepts without question 4	may question but accepts positively 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>INITIATIVE</b>	needs constant supervision 1	succeeds if told what to do 2	average 3	self-reliant 4	actively creative 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	unreliable 1	somewhat reliable 2	usually dependable 3	conscientious 4	readily assumes responsibilities 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>EMOTIONAL STABILITY</b>	nervous, poor self-control 1	poor control of feelings 2	usually well-balanced 3	good self-control 4	excellent self-control 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	poor 1	below average 2	average 3	above average 4	outstanding 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>GROUP COOPERATION</b>	loner 1	hardly ever 2	occasionally 3	usually 4	always 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	follower 1	below average 2	helpful 3	excellent 4	shows initiative 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>COMMUNICATION SKILLS</b>	poor 1	below average 2	average 3	good 4	excellent 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	poor 1	below average 2	average 3	good 4	excellent 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any comments which you may have about this student that might help in making a more accurate evaluation.

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Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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TEACHER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any comments which you may have about this student that might help in making a more accurate evaluation.

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TEACHER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any comments which you may have about this student that might help in making a more accurate evaluation.

# Worthington Field Studies Spring Break Island Trip Student Application

Marine Biology I Spring Break **2008**  
Approximate Cost \$1450 (based upon 28 students)

Application and the preliminary permission form are to be returned to any science teacher or to Brian Geniusz at Thomas Worthington High School (883-2250) by **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (adult)    **S**    **M**    **L**    **XL**    email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of either of your parents if different from yours.

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever applied for this trip before?    YES    NO

List the high school science courses you have taken or are now taking.

Name of course	Final or Semester Grade	Teacher Name
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List any science courses that you plan to sign up for next year.

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to pursue a college education?    YES    NO

What is your career goal? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel you are physically able to SNORKEL or SCUBA?    YES    NO

Do you want to: Snorkel only    or    SCUBA and Snorkel (circle one)

Do you have a fear of heights?    YES    NO                    If yes, explain how severe. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fear of water?    YES    NO                    If yes, explain how severe. \_\_\_\_\_

Can you swim?                                    YES    NO

Do you sleepwalk or have any other unusual sleeping habits?                                    YES    NO    If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Are you allergic to any foods?    YES    NO    If yes, explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain in some detail why you wish to participate in this program. Your answer should include why you believe you will benefit from the program.

What contributions do you believe you can make to this field study? (In answering, keep in mind that you will be acting as one member of a closely knit, efficient, social and educational group that will be camping and studying together. If you have had any camping experiences, group leadership responsibilities, first aid training, auto-mechanic experiences, life saving training, swimming abilities, special educational interests, or background, be sure to mention any of them.)

**TO THE PARENTS.** *Please check this application for accuracy.*

Within seven school days of notification of acceptance into the program a **\$600.00** non-refundable deposit must be made. Failure to pay this deposit will indicate that the applicant does not wish to participate. The remainder of the tuition will be made in at a later date. If for any reason this participant must drop out, a refund of any moneys will not be made unless a suitable replacement can be found.

I am aware that my son/daughter is applying for the Field Studies Program. I am also aware of the tuition obligations for the trip. I hereby give my consent for this application to be submitted.

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Forms to:** Brian Geniusz at TWHS **OR** your science teacher can send it to Brian Geniusz through the district mail service