

Spring Break 2009 -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 **April 3rd** and it will conclude on **April 10th**. 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 **sixteen** 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 **December 5th, 2008**. After notification, a **\$600.00** non-refundable deposit is due at the parents meeting on **December 16th, 2008**. 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 16th, 2008 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 **\$1,700.00**. 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 **\$550.00** will be due **January 27th, 2009**. The second payment of **\$550.00** is due **February 25th, 2009**. 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 **December 1st, 2008**. Four teacher recommendations are also required. For more information, contact Mr. Geniusz via email: 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 (883-3025).

Visit our website at 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:
December 1st, 2008

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 Cynthia Hummel at Thomas Worthington, or Mark Maley at Linworth by **December 1st, 2008**. 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: December 1st, 2008

FOLD THIS SIDE OUT AND STAPLE CLOSED

Worthington Field Studies Teacher Recommendation Form

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

ACADEMICALLY INQUISITIVE	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
INDUSTRY	lazy 1	needs prodding 2	occasionally prepares work 3	completes assigned work 4	seeks additional help 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
RESPONSE TO AUTHORITY	defies 1	argumentative 2	average 3	accepts without question 4	may question but accepts positively 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
INITIATIVE	needs constant supervision 1	succeeds if told what to do 2	average 3	self-reliant 4	actively creative 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
RESPONSIBILITY	unreliable 1	somewhat reliable 2	usually dependable 3	conscientious 4	readily assumes responsibilities 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
EMOTIONAL STABILITY	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
INTEGRITY	poor 1	below average 2	average 3	above average 4	outstanding 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
GROUP COOPERATION	loner 1	hardly ever 2	occasionally 3	usually 4	always 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
LEADERSHIP	follower 1	below average 2	helpful 3	excellent 4	shows initiative 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	poor 1	below average 2	average 3	good 4	excellent 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0
ATTENDANCE	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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Worthington Field Studies Spring Break Island Trip Student Application

Marine Biology I Spring Break **2009**
Approximate Cost \$1450 (based upon 28 students)

Application and the preliminary permission form are to be returned to any science teacher or to Cynthia Hummel at Thomas Worthington High School (883-2250) by **December 1st, 2008**

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)

