

# WORTHINGTON FIELD STUDIES

## SUMMER 2007 Southwest

### FIELD ECOLOGY I

#### ***INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS***

**INTRODUCTION:** This summer, the Worthington Field Studies Program will offer a unique opportunity to students. Students who are accepted to participate in the course will travel for about thirty days in the WFSI bus to many state and national parks in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. The program will begin with departure from Thomas Worthington High School in mid-June and return in mid-July 2006. The last day will consist of the final cleanup of equipment. Upon successful completion of the course, each student can earn one full ELECTIVE credit in science. This credit cannot replace a credit in any other science course.

In addition to learning about the geology, biology, ecology, American and Native American history, and environmental problems of the areas being visited, participants will be afforded the opportunity to test themselves both physically and mentally. Participants will hike, backpack (3 days, 2 nights), whitewater raft, horseback ride, and witness nature first-hand. Participants can be assured that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**PARTICULARS:** Students will be accepted into the program only after a rigorous screening process which includes the completion of a student application, four teacher recommendations, and parental input. The student 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 25°F at night to 115°F during the day. Furthermore, students should know that sleeping accommodations will be either in tents or under the stars. Because we will be almost exclusively camping in national parks, electricity won't be available for such conveniences as hair dryers or curling irons. Students should expect a rugged four-week experience.

There will be a wide variety of learning experiences for the students. Since this program is not conducted 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, presentations, notebook assignments, and daily participation. ***APPLICANTS ARE REMINDED THAT THIS IS NOT A VACATION; THERE IS A LOT OF HARD WORK.*** While participating in the course, the student will be expected to willingly and actively participate on work crews which will be responsible for camp maintenance, erecting tents, cooking, and kitchen clean-up duties.

Due to space limitations, students will be allowed to take only a minimum of gear. A list of suggested gear will be discussed at a later date with those students accepted for the program. The students will be expected to bring a camera along for taking photographs which will go into their journal and notebook. Electronics such as walkmans, CD players, iPods, curling irons, hair dryers, laptops and cell phones are prohibited.



While participating in the course, students are expected to follow school rules, including special rules adopted for this trip. ***IF A STUDENT IS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THESE RULES AND IF THE INSTRUCTORS FEEL THAT THE STUDENT'S ACTIONS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PROGRAM, THAT STUDENT WILL BE SENT HOME AT THEIR PARENTS' EXPENSE, FORFEITING THE TUITION PAID 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 student will lose all monies.

A maximum of thirty-six students will be accepted into the program. The selection process will be completed in mid-January 2007 and the students will be notified soon thereafter if they are accepted into the program. After notification of acceptance into the program, a \$300.00 non-refundable deposit is due in late-January 2007. Failure to pay this initial deposit of the tuition within the allotted period of time indicates a willingness of the individual not to participate. The first meeting for the students and their parents will be held in late-January 2007. More specifics about the program will be discussed at that time.

The total cost of the trip is about \$1600. This will cover the cost of transportation, equipment, insurance, food, lodging and backpacking, and a water trip on the Pacific Ocean. The remainder of payments for the tuition will be paid in three installments. The first installment of \$500 is due during March 2007, the second installment of \$500 is due in April 2007, and the third payment of \$300 is due in May 2007 to WFSI. Students are expected to bring their own spending money, which will, in part, cover the cost of showers (showers are not available at all campgrounds) and laundry as well as other personal expenses (such as souvenirs).

Without a doubt, the Worthington Field Studies Program provides an incomparable opportunity for any student. If you are interested, please complete and return the Application Form as soon as possible to your science teacher. The deadline for applications is January 5, 2007. Four teacher recommendations are also required. See the attached forms. Visit our website at [www.wfsinc.org](http://www.wfsinc.org). Any questions may be directed to Sara White at Thomas Worthington High School (883-2500 ext. 1434), or via email at [SWhite@worthington.k12.oh.us](mailto:SWhite@worthington.k12.oh.us)

**APPLICATIONS AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DUE  
TO SARA WHITE at TWHS or DAVE WEANER at WNHS BY January 5, 2007.**

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***STUDENT APPLICATION***

**THE APPLICATION AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORMS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO SARA WHITE at TWHS or DAVE WEANER at WNHS BY January 5, 2007. DIRECT QUESTIONS TO SARA WHITE AT TWHS AT 883-2250 EXT. 1434, OR EMAIL SWhite@worthington.k12.oh.us**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Course Name	Semester Grade(s)	Teacher

List any science courses that you plan to sign up for next year: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to pursue a college education?            YES            NO

What are your career goals? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel you are physically able to hike up steep slopes? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fear of heights? If yes, explain how severe. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fear of water? If yes, explain how severe. \_\_\_\_\_

Can you swim?            YES            NO

Do you have any known allergies to medications? If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you allergic to any foods? If yes, explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you sleepwalk or have any other unusual sleeping habits? \_\_\_\_\_

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

What contributions do you believe you can make to the field study program this summer? (In answering, keep in mind that you will be acting as a 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 describe any and all of them.)

***TO THE PARENTS***

Please check this application for accuracy. Notification of acceptance into this program will occur in mid-January 2007. A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit must be made in mid-January 2007. Failure to pay this deposit will indicate that the applicant does not wish to participate. The remainder of the \$1300 tuition will be made in three installments at a later date. If for any reason this participant must drop out, a refund of any monies will not be made unless a suitable replacement can be found.

I am aware that my son/daughter is applying for the Worthington Field Studies Program. I am also aware of the tuition obligations for the trip. I am aware that my student will need a current passport to participate on this trip. I hereby give my consent for this application to be submitted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

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***PRELIMINARY PERMISSION FORM***

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

Student's *signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$300.00 non-refundable deposit due the night of the first meeting. I am aware that once this deposit is made, 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. 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. I am aware that if my son/daughter is chosen for the trip and decides to return home during the trip, the return home of the student and an adult chaperone will be at the cost of the student and no monies will be reimbursed.

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 side of this paper.)

I am also aware that my student will need a current passport to participate on this trip.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

**RETURN THIS FORM TO SARA WHITE at TWHS or DAVE WEANER at WNHS  
BY January 5, 2007**

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***TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM***

**\*If you are a WFSI alumni, you do not need teacher recommendations.**

**TO THE APPLICANT:**

1. Ask four of your present teachers, from whom you receive a grade, to fill out a recommendation.
2. Print the 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 Name (please print neatly) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name (please print neatly) \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE TEACHER:**

The above applicant is applying to participate in the Worthington Field Studies Program. The program is designed to take a group of students on a four-week Field Ecology educational experience to the Pacific Northwest. I would appreciate your cooperation in the completion of this form. Please be as complete as possible and accurate when filling out the form. Your input will significantly help in determining the eligibility of the applicant. The student evaluation is on the back side of this paper. A one (1) represents the lowest score and a five (5) 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 Courtney Irwin at Worthington Kilbourne, Sara White at Thomas Worthington, Mark Maley at Linworth, or Dave Weaner at Westerville North (Westerville Schools) by January , 2007. Thank you for your assistance.

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**RETURN TO  
COURTNEY IRWIN AT W.K.H.S.  
SARA WHITE AT T.W.H.S.,  
MARK MALEY AT LINWORTH,  
OR DAVE WEANER AT WESTERVILLE NORTH  
BY January 5, 2007**

FOLD THIS SIDE OUT AND STAPLE CLOSED

	LOW	----- EVALUATION -----				HIGH	
<b>ACADEMICALLY INQUISITIVE</b>	little interest 1	aims to get by 2	occasionally motivated 3	above average motivation 4	eager to obtain education 5	UNABLE TO JUDGE 0	
<b>RESPONSE TO AUTHORITY</b>	defiant 1	argumentative 2	average 3	may question but accepts positively 4	accepts without question 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 COOPERATIVENESS</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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please include comments that help in making a more accurate evaluation of this student.

Knowing what you know about this trip, how would this student get along with this you and other students for 32 continuous days and nights of riding in a bus and camping?