



Field Groups

Students spend approximately an hour in the afternoon on arrival day and two hours each morning with their field groups. These groups explore the natural world; engage in hands-on discovery and work together to complete teambuilding challenges.

The main goals of field groups are for students to:

- Understand and recognize dynamic equilibrium in the natural world, in social interactions and within him/herself;
- Improve his/her concept of self-including image, esteem and confidence;
- Learn the skills that will allow him/her to work with others to achieve common goals;
- Gain an understanding of the personal value he/she can gain from education.

The first of these goals, understanding and recognizing dynamic equilibrium, can be achieved through an examination of scientific concepts. Dynamic equilibrium, simply defined, is the way things are moving, flowing, working and yet still striking a balance. To have a student observe and understand energy in balance in the natural world is to offer that child a way to understand the world and his/her role in it and affect upon it.

Field group involves exploring, explaining and discovering. By using hands-on activities, concepts are demonstrated and illustrated. In this way, students are learning experientially rather than memorizing. This is applicable not only to the natural science arena, but also to the social world. Both exist alongside each other. They are not isolated entities. For this reason, teambuilding is taught in tandem with science concepts during field group.

Field Group Assignment Form

Field groups work together throughout the week. In addition to the two hour morning sessions, some evening programs also involve the field groups. For this reason, it is important to carefully consider student personalities when arranging your field groups.

The number of field groups is dependent upon the total number of students attending. Please discuss field group numbers with the NCI Director before completing your assignment form. Field groups can have a maximum number of 12 students. A Nature's Classroom Institute Instructor will be assigned to each group by the Director.

