Nature's Classroom Field Trip

Welcome back to school! We have an educational field trip scheduled for the first month of school! Wow! Nature’s Classroom is a mandatory field trip scheduled by the county for every sixth grade student in Hillsborough County.

Our school has been assigned the following dates: August 23, 26, and 27! We completely understand that this is VERY soon, however, we are scheduled, and the trip is under way. We leave for Nature’s Classroom after homeroom attendance, and return back to school about an hour before the dismissal bell. If it rains, we come back to school earlier, if needed.

Nature’s Classroom is a three-day field trip that is a day trip only. The entire field trip is outdoors, and weather and heat will be a factor at this time of the year. The students participate in two activities each day, while dress code is still enforced, it is requested that your child dress appropriately for the August heat. If your child has water shoes, we recommend bringing them to the field trip. There are water shoes available at Nature’s Classroom if your child does not have his/her own pair.

The activities that your child will participate in include, but not limited to:

**water sampling**: students are taught what types of marine life live in the waters of the Hillsborough River. They are able to wade in the waters to ankle depth and look for signs of a healthy ecosystem.

**nature walk**: students hike through the open fields and learn about water tables, controlled burns, and the natural habitat of Florida’s wildlife, etc.

**boating**: the students are taken out onto the Hillsborough River via a pontoon style boat and observe the natural surroundings of the river.

**animal compound**: students observe Florida native animals in their protected habitat and learn about how the animals live/survive/interact.

**animal interaction**: students learn the scientific structure of Florida animals and are able to interact with a few that are rescued and housed on site.

**compass scavenger hunt**: students are taught how to read and use a compass along with given a fun scavenger hunt to demonstrate their understanding of how the compass works.
Each group will participate in one of the assigned activities in the morning, and one after lunch. There are six different activities in all.

Lunch is NOT provided by Nature’s Classroom. Your child is encouraged to bring a lunch, or he/she can buy one from the school cafeteria to take on the field trip.

The cost of the field trip is **$15.00**. This is a fee for the bus. Nature’s Classroom is free of charge. The bus fee is charged for transportation to and from the site. No checks are accepted. It must be cash and exact change only.

We hope your child is looking forward to this trip. It is one that students truly enjoy and talk about for many years to come. Please fill out the attached field trip form and return back to your child’s homeroom teacher as soon as possible. We are not permitted to take any child that does not provide written proof that they are allowed to attend. Due to the limited amount of time provided for this field trip, we are asking that the form and money be turned in before Friday, August 16th.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding with the limited turn-around time for this trip.

Your Sixth Grade Team!