



- Application for Discovery Program -

**Background:** Founded in 1985, The Children's Nature Institute (CNI) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit agency that has provided environmental education programs to more than a quarter million young children, parents and teachers in the greater L.A. area. CNI specializes in serving students within developmental ages 0-8 offering unique, hands on science and nature experiences. CNI believes that hands-on activities and unstructured time for responding, recording, and playing are essential for successful educational experiences.

CNI's Discovery Program has three main components which can function as independent pieces, or work in concert. These include a Wonder Mobile traveling classroom, a guided field trip and a school site nature hunt:

**Wonder Mobile:** The CNI traveling classroom is the student's introduction to our nature and science programming. We help children identify themselves as part of the natural world and to connect them with the other living elements of their environment. The CNI Educator brings an exciting array of live animals in mobile habitats including frogs, reptiles and invertebrates to the school. The CNI Educator also comes equipped with bones, nests, feathers and pelts to help illustrate their amazing adaptations. Adventurous children and their parents are encouraged to explore the animals and artifacts through touch and close observation. Each class is from 30 - 50 min, capacity 3-4 sessions of 25 students each

**Field Trip:** The diverse habitats found in Los Angeles Parks offer wonderful opportunities to study. Programs can be tailored to meet your grade level standards and link back to classroom themes. As students hike on trails and examine their discoveries they employ all learning modalities and motor skills. Walk time 2 hours, groups may elect to remain independently in the park for lunch.

**Nature Hunt:** CNI's Educator returns to the school site to help children and parents "hunt" for the wildlife right on their own campus and urban landscape. The Educator reinforces earlier lessons while practicing early language, math and science skills. Each class is from 30 - 50 min, capacity 3-4 sessions of 25 students each

**Criteria:** We specialize in serving children up to and including 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Any school may apply to participate in the program. All participating teachers must complete the application and survey.



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**Program Grants:** We are proud to sponsor a limited number of schools and non-profit organizations when 70% or more of the participants are eligible for the STAR Meal Program. Please note: All qualifying Discovery Program participants must enroll in the Wonder Mobile Visit in order to qualify for additional programs.

**All programs are subject to CNI availability and booked at our discretion.**

### Basic Information

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinating Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Track \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Administrator  
Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Classes requesting participation: (At least 3 req'd for qualified sponsored programs)

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Track \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Program Selection:**

Which of CNI's programs are you interested in participating in? (Note: All field trip participants applying for sponsorship must pick at least one additional program to receive the trip)

- Field Trip
- Wonder Mobile
- Nature Hunt

**Requested Month(s):**

(please check [www.cni-kids.org/schoolweek](http://www.cni-kids.org/schoolweek) for availability)

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested Day:**

What days of the week generally work best for you to participate in programs? (check at least two)

- Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday  Sunday

**Payment:**

- Check Here if you are applying for Program Sponsorship
  - Partial: Educators Only (No transportation provided)
  - Full: Field Trip Bus Included. Please note: The field trip serves no more than 70 and no less than 45 students per trip.

Or Enclose a check for the following:

- \$1500 Discovery Program (Includes all three program components)
- \$500 Field Trip (including bus) Only
- \$550 Wonder Mobile Only
- \$550 Nature Hunt



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### **Educational Goals**

Why is it important for your group to participate in CNI's programs?

What do you expect to get out of this experience as an educator?

What are your educational goals for your students?

How will you integrate the CNI program into your classroom curriculum?

How will you and your students document this experience? (Writing, journals, poems, photos, drawings etc.)

How will you share this documentation with CNI?

What other field trips will the students participate in this school year?

We also require the following from cooperating schools (*please initial*):

- School Administrator approval and contact information
- Timely Response to all CNI correspondence
- Completion of the teacher and student survey portion of this application
- CNI confirmation policy and liability releases (provided after acceptance)
- At least 45 children to participate in programs (sponsored only)
- Completion of Pre and Post Evaluations and Follow up (Every teacher must complete evaluations and post programs surveys in order for the school to be eligible to receive the sponsored program in subsequent years)



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### **Teacher and Student Survey**

In order for this application to be considered complete, each teacher participating in the program is required to submit the following ORAL PRE-survey to their students and tallies must be submitted along with this application. Filling out these surveys helps us to evaluate our effectiveness. For tracking purposes, these questions will also be administered as a POST-survey by CNI staff.

**Survey is cumulative, please administer all questions up to your grade level.**

*What percentage of your students accurately answered the following questions:*

1. Have you ever been on a nature hike? \_\_\_%
2. Are people animals? \_\_\_%

*Please share examples of answers to the following questions:*

3. What is the difference between something natural and something man made? **Pre-K stop here**
4. What do people need from nature? **Kindergarten stop here**
5. What do all living things need? **First Grade stop here**
6. Where does our drinking water come from? **Second Grade stop here**
7. Where do you think you can find nature in the city?



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### Evaluating the Program

Each participating teacher must choose a method that they will document and share follow-up evaluation results with CNI:  
(select 2)

Submit at least 3 journal entries that you feel demonstrate student comprehension, a unique experience or perspective.

Submit at least 3 "Thank you" letters

Photographs

Student - drawn pictures

Class creates a collage

### Please Initial

I have read and agree to the CNI Terms and Conditions

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications may be submitted by mail:

Discovery Program  
The Children's Nature Institute  
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

By Email:

[info@cni-kids.org](mailto:info@cni-kids.org)

By Fax:

310-860-9019

**Please allow 14 days to receive notification on application.  
Due to overwhelming demand, we are not able to accommodate every request.**