



The Children's Nature Institute®

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 serves 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 Nature Discovery Program has three main components: the Wonder Mobile traveling classroom, a guided Nature Walk Field Trip, and a schoolyard Nature Hunt.

Wonder Mobile: CNI's experiential traveling classroom allows students to discover and connect to the natural world. CNI's Environmental Educators bring nature into the classroom, teaching students CA state science standards-based lessons via our live animal and natural artifact collection. Through touch, guided conversation, and close observation, classroom learning comes alive. Three 45 - 50 min sessions, with up to 25 students each.

Nature Walk: The diverse habitats found in Los Angeles Parks (such as the Santa Monica Mountains and Griffith) offer wonderful opportunities to investigate and explore. 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 where students become experts in finding wildlife right on their own school campus. The Nature Hunt provides a direct connection to the two previous program components and integrates nature with the urban landscape. Earlier lessons are reinforced and language, math and science skills are utilized. Three 45- 50 min sessions, with up to 25 students each

Criteria: We specialize in serving pre-K to 3rd grade children. Any qualifying school may apply to participate in the program. All participating teachers must complete the application and survey.

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

Program Grants: We are proud to sponsor a limited number of schools and non-profit organizations with 70% or more of the student body on free or reduced-price lunch program.

Go to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/> to qualify your school:

- Click API Reports
- Click 2011 School Reports
- Enter the Name of your School and select the correct listing
- Click on the School Demographic Characteristics

★ **The Participants in Free or Reduced-Price Lunch** number should be between 70 and 100 % to qualify.

Enter your school's number here: _____

PLEASE NOTE: CNI will administer the Nature Discovery Program to a minimum of 3 classes, which MUST participate in all 3 workshops in the program. A maximum of 3 classes can be seated on the provided bus. CNI will serve up to but no more than 4 classes during school visits. IF schools are able to sponsor a second bus, CNI will provide an additional complete program for an additional 3 classes. Exception will only be made for Pre-K programs unauthorized to leave school premises.

Basic Information

School Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____
District: _____ Track _____

Coordinating Teacher Name: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Email _____
Grade Level: _____

Authorizing Administrator
Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Classes requesting participation:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 3-Part | 1. Teacher Name _____ Cell Phone Number _____
Grade _____ Classroom Number _____ |
| | 2. Teacher Name _____ Cell Phone Number _____
Grade _____ Classroom Number _____ |
| | 3. Teacher Name _____ Cell Phone Number _____
Grade _____ Classroom Number _____ |
| 2-Part | 4. Teacher Name _____ Cell Phone Number _____
Grade _____ Classroom Number _____ |

Requested Dates:

*Please allow 1-2 weeks between visits

1st Choice:

Wondermobile: _____
 Field Trip: _____
 Nature Hunt: _____

2nd Choice:

Wondermobile: _____
 Field Trip: _____
 Nature Hunt: _____

3rd Choice:

Wondermobile: _____
 Field Trip: _____
 Nature Hunt: _____

Proposed Schedule for Wondermobile and Nature Hunt:

Sessions run **45 min** for Pre-K – 1st Grade
 Sessions run **45-50 min** for 2nd – 3rd Grade
 Educators require a **10 min** break between sessions.

	Participating Teacher	Start Time	End Time
Class 1			
Class 2			
Class 3			
(Class 4)			

Educational Goals

What do you hope to learn from this experience as an educator?

What are your educational goals for your students?

List any other field trips and auxiliary educational programs students will participate in this school year.



Evaluating the Program

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

(select 2)

Journal entries that you feel demonstrate student comprehension, a unique experience or perspective.

Submit at least 3 "Thank you" letters. (Please note, we prefer individualized letters)

Student - drawn pictures



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Please Initial

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 portion of this application
- ___ CNI confirmation policy and liability releases (provided after acceptance)
- ___ At least 60 children to participate in programs
- ___ Completion of Pre and Post Evaluations and Follow up (Every teacher must complete evaluations in order for the school to be eligible to receive the sponsored program in subsequent years)

___ I have read and agree to the CNI Terms and Conditions

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Coordinating Teacher Signature: _____
Date: _____

Authorizing Administrator Signature: _____
Date: _____ Title: _____

Applications may be submitted by mail:

Nature Discovery Program
The Children's Nature Institute
1910 Magnolia Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Phone: (213) 746-2966

By Email: info@cni-kids.org
By Fax: (213) 607-1360

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

Thank You for Your Application

*Si quiere su confirmación e información general en español, por favor marque la caja.