

NORTH BRANCH NATURE CENTER  
PRESENTS

Educating Children Outdoors



# ECO INSTITUTE

Standards Based Nature Immersion  
Graduate Courses for Educators

The **ECO Institute for Teachers** is a five-day nature immersion course for elementary teachers, assistants, aides and administrators. During the week, a leadership team of professional nature immersion specialists guides teachers in direct application of outdoor classroom routines as well as ways to incorporate NGSS and Common Core into those routines. All courses are held in an outdoor setting so come prepared to spend the entire day outside. The North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier, VT hosts our group on 28 acres of diverse and abundant land.

### ECO Institute Level 1- June 27-July 1, 2016

This week-long course will introduce teachers to core routines which create the structure for an outdoor classroom experience to succeed. Through the practice of storytelling, playing, building, creating and reflecting, you will become a student of the day-long outdoor experience. As a group, we will participate in standards-based lessons embedded within the day long outdoor experience. This learning mirrors the experience of students during a typical day of ECO. Our day includes discussion, philosophy and planning with school teams with the oversight of an experienced instructor. We invite you to leave all technology at home. We will provide you with electronic documents at each day's end.

### ECO Institute Level 2 – July 25-29, 2016

This course continues to practice and build off of the groundwork of the core routines established in Level I, as well as dive deeper into the technical field skills and pedagogy that serve as tools to enhance the outdoor learning experience. During the course we immerse ourselves into inquiry-based learning through intensive experiential lessons, activities, and discussions, examine how storytelling can be used as a way to teach and prompt lessons, and develop science based journaling techniques and routines to introduce to students as an indoor reflection to their outdoor classroom. Participants will also be provided with sample lessons to use in their own classroom which align with Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core. Again, we invite you to leave all technology at home. We will provide you with electronic documents at each day's end.



## Registration Details

ECO Level 1 : June 27-July 1, 2016

Level 2 : July 25-29, 2016

At North Branch Nature Center,  
Montpelier, VT

Cost: \$1,510 -3 graduate credits

Course Registration opens Feb 15, 2016  
through Castleton University

Please contact [Bethany.sprague@castleton.edu](mailto:Bethany.sprague@castleton.edu)

or find complete registration information at:

[http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/eco\\_training.html](http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/eco_training.html)



Lessons and approaches to these concepts will be practiced while you are immersed in nature:

- NGSS Standards
- Common Core Literacy
- Common Core Math
- Mindfulness Based Transitions
- Instructive Storytelling



North Branch Nature Center

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