



Nature Explore Classroom Recertification Application for _____ (YEAR)

A Collaborative Project of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

Complete this form and send with visual and written documentation either via mail or e-mail.
MAIL: Nature Explore Outreach Coordinator, 2700 Sylvan Road, P.O. Box 817, Nebraska City, NE 68410.
EMAIL: lanag@natureexplore.org

What is the name of your school or organization?	
Who is the contact person at your organization's Nature Explore Classroom?	
Title or position:	
E-mail address:	
What is the address of the site of your Nature Explore Classroom?	
Telephone number:	

Standard 1: Well-designed outdoor space

Below are the Ten Guiding Principles from the *Learning With Nature Idea Book*. In the space provided on the next page, please tell us how you **continue** to use these principles in your Certified Nature Explore Classroom.

- Principle 1:** Divide the space into clearly delineated areas for different kinds of activities.
- Principle 2:** Include a complete mix of activity areas.
- Principle 3:** Give areas simple names.
- Principle 4:** Identify each area with a sign or other visual clues.
- Principle 5:** Be sure every area is visible at all times.
- Principle 6:** Use a variety of natural materials, including trees and other live plants.
- Principle 7:** Choose elements for durability and low maintenance.
- Principle 8:** Maximize beauty and visual clarity in the over-all design.
- Principle 9:** Personalize the design with regional materials, and ideas from children and staff.
- Principle 10:** Be sure the space continues to meet all regulatory standards for your region.

For example: Have you added any areas, done additional plantings, or found new ways to use your space to engage children in nature? Please also provide evidence of annual maintenance done to sustain the quality of your outdoor classroom.

Standard 1: Well-designed outdoor space

(see explanation previous page)

Standard 2: Staff Professional Development

For recertification, a Certified Nature Explore Classroom needs to provide annual, professional staff development relating to nature education. Please provide a description of the training, date, location, and name and position of each staff member.

Name and position of Staff Member	Date and location of Nature Education

Standard 3: Family Involvement

Please provide a brief description of activities you have conducted to increase family awareness and ongoing involvement in the Nature Explore Classroom and nature education for young children. Examples could include holding an open house, sending flyers home, providing Nature Explore Families' Club memberships, or recruiting parent volunteers. Provide the number of families reached, if possible.

Also, please share any great ideas or successful examples of things you have done that can serve as models for other schools or organizations that we can highlight on your certified Nature Explore Classroom webpage.

You may also include photos and/or examples of print materials. **(NOTE: Photos will be used in Arbor Day Foundation or Nature Explore public media. Credit will read: "Used by permission. ©Nature Explore." It is the responsibility of your site to acquire and hold photo release forms for individuals included in the photos.)**

Please enter your name and date below to show that you have read and agree with the following:

I am submitting this application on behalf of the school or organization listed above for recertification as a Nature Explore Classroom, having achieved the required standards for the certification program.

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	
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