

## Field Science Career Experience



*Sponsored by Earth's Classroom*

### Description:

*Earth's Classroom (EC) is happy to announce the 18th year of an experiential, 90-hour, field-science, FREE, certification program for high school students! This program has been funded by multiple grants and local sponsors.*

The purpose is to provide a program exclusively for high school juniors and seniors who are interested in any science related field that deals with biology, chemistry, or physics. In this certification program EC instructors use natural resources to show biology, chemistry, and physics in action in real-time. It is designed to not only intrigue but to increase your observation skills in science!

This program is called the Field Science Career Experience (FSCE). EC will be providing three to six-hour, after school, experiential courses, once a month for the 2025-2026 school year (September 2025—April 2026). The core instructors will be from EC, but the FSCE students will also gain knowledge from professionals such as those working for the Missouri Department of Conservation and Department of Natural Resources. Each monthly, experiential course will be a different subject related to the field, so that students may see the diversity within the field and understand their personal passion.

By the end of the school year the FSCE participants will be instructed and guided to do an hour solo presentation to an elementary class (April or May 2026) on a subject they felt most passionate about. Thus, not only will this project affect high school students, but *hundreds of elementary students* will be able to share the experience through the eyes and storytelling of the high school students. FSCE's capstone is a 3-day, 2-night Ecology Canoe/Camping Trip on Missouri's most bio-diverse river. (June 2026)

### Objectives:

- To inspire young adults to pursue a career field in biology, chemistry, or physics.
- To assist young adults to have a better understanding and appreciation of our local natural resources.
- To provide an experiential educational opportunity not available in the formal school setting.
- To provide a 90- hour, field-science, certificate of achievement to all students who participate...a certificate very worthy on a resume or scholarship application!

## The Field Science Career Experience Program:

- **High School juniors and seniors of the 2025-2026 school year must have applications turned in by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, 2025!!**
- EC board members will choose the top students from the essay applicants and applicants will be notified by **phone or e-mail** of acceptance between **September 21st or 22nd, 2025.**
- Starting on **Sunday, September 28th, 2025**, the following experiential courses will be available to the chosen applicants:

**September**—GEOLOGY: Welcome to the program and spend 5 hours wild caving in a geologic hidden gem, learning about the interrelationship between the chemistry and biology of this geologic ecosystem.

**October**---LIMNOLOGY: Learn unique natural history and identification skills related to the life of freshwater ecosystems, and how this life is affected by our local chemistry.

**November**—MAMMALOLOGY: Test observation skills through studying wild MO mammal skulls, tooth formulas, bones, and furs.

**December** —NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT/FIRE ECOLOGY: Visit a native prairie habitat and forest that are managed with control burns to understand the biodiversity they provide and participate in an ecological controlled burn.

**January**— CULTURAL PRE-HISTORY: Spend time discussing over artifacts and known information about the Native Americans of our area and their interrelationship to the resources, including the differences between anthropology, paleontology and archaeology.

**February**—SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY: Visit a home that is architecturally designed with passive and active solar and built in a self-sustainable way.

**March**— ORNITHOLOGY: Learn unique natural history and identification skills (sight and sound) of our native birds with binoculars and spotting scopes. Test your observation skills.

**April**--- HERPETOLOGY: Learn the unique natural history of our native reptiles and amphibians and their relationships with the environment around them.

**Late April and/or May**---ELEMENTARY PRESENTATION: Present to an elementary classroom and interpret a subject you have the most interest in.

**June**---3-DAY, 2-NIGHT ECOLOGY CANOE TRIP: Discover how studies of all life are put together in a tight interrelationship as we travel and collect samples down the upper Meramec River (most biologically diverse river in Missouri).

Once all 31 hours of course work, 55 hours of ecological learning/canoe trip, and hour presentation are completed (4 hours total), a 90-hour Certificate of Achievement will be awarded. This certificate will carry the EC logo and sponsors' logos and is HIGHLY USED on scholarships and resumes!

***NOTE***-- *A detailed, dated semester schedule will be provided and discussed at the first course on Sunday, September 28th. Again, all applicants will be notified on September 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> if they qualify to participate for FREE. The first course (Geology) will start, tentatively, on Sunday, September 28th, 2025! Tentatively, 4 of the courses will be set for weekday evenings, and 4 courses will be set for weekends (we work with the students for the best possible dates.) The Ecology Canoe Trip will be set for either the first or second week of June, 2026; Monday-Wednesday.*

Field Science Career Experience  
Application

*For Junior and Senior High School Students during the 2025-2026 school year.*

Please print in blue or black ink or type.

*Please fill out all the information with the space that is allowed on these 2 pages.*

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- What grade are you in for the 2025-2026 school year? 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_ or 12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_
- Have you been accepted into the FSCE program before? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- What high school classes have you taken that are related to the Field Science Career Experience?  
Examples: Biology, Ecology, Chemistry, Statistics, etc.
  
- What clubs do you participate in?
  
- What are your hobbies?
  
- Would you be able to commit to all 8 monthly courses, the 3-day, 2-night Ecology Canoe Trip, AND the April/May presentation? If not, explain.
  
- Would you be able to provide your own transportation to all the courses/events, even if you to travel nearly 1-1/2 -2 hours? If not, explain.

- What is your comfort level with speaking in public? Give examples of how you have presented to an audience.
- What future career would you like to pursue and why?
- In your own words, in the space given, describe why Earth's Classroom's Board of Directors and Executive Directors should pick you for this exciting career experience.

REFERENCES: to be filled out by adult REFERENCES (non-relation)

As a reference you support this student in their efforts to be in FSCE and feel they would be an asset.

#1 Print name \_\_\_\_\_ contact info. E-mail or # \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Print name \_\_\_\_\_ contact info. E-mail or # \_\_\_\_\_

DUE Friday, SEPTEMBER 5th, 2025, by 6pm to EC's office! Scan to [earthclassroom@gmail.com](mailto:earthclassroom@gmail.com) or mail to: Earth's Classroom, 3649 Pumpstation Rd. Rosebud, MO 63091.

Questions: 573-437-7628 or [earthclassroom@gmail.com](mailto:earthclassroom@gmail.com). To learn more about EC visit <https://earthclassroom.org/>

Applicants will be notified Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> class starts Sept. 28th!!!!!!