Increasing students' understanding of the natural world and their relationship to it!

A Mountain Classroom
Pre-trip Planning Questionnaire

The information you provide here is extremely helpful in ensuring that you and your students have the best possible experience at A Mountain Classroom. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it to the coordinator organizing your program. We will contact you to confirm we have received it and discuss any questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Phone #:_____ ___ Fax #: _____

Name of teacher or administrator organizing trip to "A Mountain Classroom": _____

Position: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone number : _____ _____ Best time to call: _____

Billing contact person (if different from trip organizer): _____

Email: _____ Phone number: _____

How did you hear about A Mountain Classroom?

- School has been coming for ___ years
- Another school/teacher _____
- AMC publication or mailing
- Other _____

School demographics (check all that apply):

- Public School
- Private School
- Charter School
- Home School
- Outing Club or Scout Troop
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban

Student demographics:

- Caucasian _____ %
- African American_____%
- Asian American_____%
- Latino _____%
- Other _____%

Funding Sources for your A Mountain Classroom trip:

- Parents ____%
- PTA ____%
- School funds ____%
- Fundraising ____%
- Grants ____%
- Other (specify) _____ ____%

% of student body that qualifies for free or reduced lunch: _____

LOGISTICS:

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Departure Date: _____ Departure Time: _____

If your group will be traveling from a roadside facility to a trailhead for a hut, will you have transportation for the group? **YES / NO**

# of students expected to attend trip: _____ Males: _____ Females: _____

Grade(s) of students attending trip: _____

Approximate % of students who have attended A Mountain Classroom in a previous year: _____

# of chaperones expected to attend (1 chaperone attends free for every 10 students): _____

Please list the names of all adults who will attend the program and indicate whether they are teachers, parents, or chaperones, and if they have been to A Mountain Classroom before. ***NOTE: While it is ultimately up to the school, we recommend that parent chaperones not be assigned to their own child's field group. This allows the student to have his/her own experience and permits the parent to focus on the safety and needs of the group as a whole.***

_____ **Teacher / Parent / Chaperone** Attended before? **YES / NO**

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STUDENT GROUPS

Please use the attached worksheet to divide students into field groups. As per AMC policy, we ask that field groups include no more than 12 students, and we do our best to keep group size to 8-10 students. We typically recommend dividing students into diverse groups with a range of physical and academic abilities, but depending on the goals of your program, you may choose to divide groups differently.

Which best describes how your field groups will be divided?

- Grade/age
- Energy level
- To increase best behavior
- Academic level
- Other _____

Please fax or email the student group list no later than one week prior to your program! Thanks!

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM FOCUS

Every "A Mountain Classroom" program gives students an opportunity to engage with the natural world, increase environmental literacy, build community, and have fun. Some schools choose "A Mountain Classroom" for our ability to offer hands-on ecology and earth science lessons, while other schools choose to focus primarily on outdoor education, community building, and leadership. Either way, the program coordinator will work with you to design the best possible experience for your students!

The **PRIMARY** focus for the trip is:

- Ecology and Earth Science
- Outdoor Education, Community Building, Leadership

Comments:

By nature and by design, the "A Mountain Classroom" curriculum is interdisciplinary. Each curriculum theme connects to the others, and elements from each theme are shared. Additionally, while our academic curriculum focuses on science, programs may also incorporate language and visual arts, history, social studies, music, and other subject areas.

Please select the curriculum theme(s) that you would most like us to focus on during your trip to A Mountain Classroom, and feel free to rank them in order of importance.

- Ecology (Winter ecology for winter programs)
- Forest & Wildlife Studies
- Watershed Studies
- Geology
- Orienteering
- Climate, meteorology, and climate change
- Teambuilding and leadership

Hiking is an integral part of all "A Mountain Classroom" programs; however, the length and difficulty of hikes can be tailored for your group. Longer and more challenging hikes provide natural opportunities for personal growth and community building as well as giving students access to beautiful and more remote areas. However, longer hikes do limit the amount of time that can be devoted to academic content. How important is it to you for your students to have the opportunity for a long, challenging hike?

If you have been to A Mountain Classroom before, are there hikes that worked well (or not so well) for your group?

CONNECTING YOUR EXPERIENCE TO THE CLASSROOM

How does your visit to A Mountain Classroom fit into your class curriculum and goals for the year?

How do you plan on applying the topics, subjects, and experiences covered on your trip to A Mountain Classroom back at school? What related topics will be covered the week before your trip? The week after?

How have you been/will you be preparing students for their trip to A Mountain Classroom?

Do you have any specific requests for evening programs during your trip to A Mountain Classroom?

Would you like students to use journals during their trip to A Mountain Classroom? If so, will you be providing journal prompts, or would you like for our instructors to do so? Will students bring journals, or would you like us to provide them?

Are there any environmental topics/issues students have studied at school that you would like us to discuss? Any environmental issues currently faced by the community that would tie into students' experience at A Mountain Classroom?

OTHER

Please list any physical or emotional limitations of students that we need to be aware of to best prepare instructors for the program. (This includes physical and learning disabilities, students who are studying English as a second language, etc.) In addition, please feel free to address anything else related to your students, school's teaching philosophy (Montessori, Waldorf, etc.), and any other information we may find helpful.

Please list any dietary restrictions of students attending the program, including vegetarians/vegans, gluten-free, allergies, etc. Do you need a NUT-FREE menu for the program? **YES / NO**