



Teacher Workshop: Field Studies at Forfar and Beyond

International Field Studies, Inc.

Forfar Field Station

About IFS: Most educators agree, immersion experiences are among the most lasting, meaningful types of education. Since our founding in 1970, we stand by our mission: International Field Studies is a non-profit organization providing environmental education, scientific research, and cultural awareness through experiential learning. IFS was established to promote and assist educators with field study programs.

Workshop Dates: July 13-18, 2024

Workshop Location: Forfar Field Station, Andros Island, The Bahamas

About the Workshop: This Marine and Island Ecology Field Study Teacher Training will provide teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to propose, promote, and incorporate their own field studies course with students. This training will include a total of **40 hours of instruction**, incorporating lectures, labs, field trips, and discussion. Teachers will stay at Forfar Field Station on Andros island for the duration of the week during the training, utilizing the Field Station classroom space and surrounding island area for the training.

Cost: FREE - IFS will provide the workshop and training, lodging, 3 meals/day, instructor and trip facilitators, training materials, guidebook, field trips and excursion.

**Teachers or school administrators are responsible for flights and ground transportation to and from the field station, insurance, individual snorkel gear, and incidentals.*

Instructor: Alison Laughbaum is a former High School science teacher and outdoor naturalist with over 20 years experience. She has planned and led over 10 field study trips within the US including Alaska and to international locations such as Belize and The Bahamas with her students.

Content:

- Coordinating logistics
- Managing group dynamics
- Using nature as a classroom
- Responding to emergencies
- Utilizing field logs/journals
- Incorporating cultural experiences
- Using field studies gear effectively
- Field studies lesson planning

New Generation Science Standards: This workshop will provide educators with skills to prepare and execute lessons incorporating the following NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas into field study experiences with students:

- Ecosystems: Internation, Energy, and Dynamics
- Earth and Human Activity
- Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
- Earth's Systems
- From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes



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Itinerary for July 13th-18th, 2024

Saturday, July 13: Arrive at Forfar. Introduction to the week: Field Studies as best practices for learning

Sunday, July 14: The day will focus on incorporating field logs and journal entries with student trips. Teachers will spend their day in the field, acting as students to record ideas, experiencing some of the snorkel and geological sites around Andros island, and reviewing field logs.

Monday, July 15: The day will focus on using nature as a classroom. Teachers will visit an inland Blue Hole on Andros island while developing skills for teaching in the field. Teachers will continue to explore the coral reef and island sites while snorkeling. Responding to emergencies in the field and learning how to keep students safe will also be covered.

Tuesday, July 16: The day will focus on creating lesson plans for your field experiences and incorporating Cultural experiences into field studies. Teachers will visit a local community on Andros while reflecting on the impact that travel has on students and their increasing tolerance and acceptance of differences. This day will also focus on how to manage group dynamics while traveling with students.

Wednesday, July 17: The day will focus on utilizing field gear. Teachers will practice photography in the field as well as practice using binoculars effectively. Trip planning logistics, including how to gain support from your district/administration, answering parent questions, and how to recruit students for your trip will also be covered.

Thursday, July 18: Return home.