

Thorncrag Field Trip Requirements.

Required Items while you are in the forest:

Remember to take photos (for evidence) while you work. With 3-4 students per group, you can split up the work between the members of your group.

1. Take a photo of the kiosk sign at Thorncrag and get some establishing photos to show an overview of Thorncrag.
2. Complete the field trip worksheets and make sure that you take photos for each section of the field trip assignment.
3. Talk about the photos you took and determine if you have enough photographic evidence to show the health of your forest plot.
4. Now, take some time to answer the following questions in your nature journal:
 - a. Title and Date your entry
 - b. What are the weather conditions? (Temp., wind, cloud cover, rain...)
 - c. Look at your forest plot and give a thorough, very detailed qualitative description of a special item in your forest plot (something you found very interesting.)
 - d. Close our eyes and stand quietly for a minute. Take some deep breaths. Concentrate on the scent of the forest. Now, journal how this scent is different from that of the air around where you live or at school. What is the quality of the scent of the forest?

Scavenger Hunt Items while in the forest:

- ___1. Photograph or draw your favorite forest item. Answer these questions in your nature journal: *a) What did you take a picture of? b) Why did you take the picture? c) What attracted you to this forest item? d) What is the importance of this item to the forest ecosystem?*
- ___2. Photograph or draw an interestingly shaped tree.
- ___3. Photograph a big boulder and describe it in your nature journal.
- ___4. Photograph a duck box and describe the box and the pond it is next to.
- ___5. Photograph acorns, pinecones, mushrooms, and seed pods. They are food for many animals in the forest.

Congratulations! You have completed your fieldwork portion of the trip.

Make your way to the Anthony Fireplace. A team photo will be taken there. Make sure you reach the fireplace by 11:45 am. Please be careful when walking around the fireplace. There may be broken glass in the area. Please do not push, shove, or roughhouse in any way in this area. We do not want anyone to get hurt.

Be back at the bus for roll call at 12:15 pm.

Back at school:

1. Do a tick check, change your clothes, and wash your hands before lunch.
2. Enjoy lunch in the Multipurpose Room (next to the cafeteria.)
3. Trip Debriefing: Be prepared to discuss your favorite moment of the trip.
4. Answer the following **Field Trip Survey Questions** in your nature journal:
 - a. What did you like most about the Thorncrag field trip?
 - b. What was your least favorite part of the trip?
 - c. Write down one thing that you learned from the trip.
 - d. What were your thoughts / impressions before the trip?
 - e. Did your thoughts / impressions change after the trip? Give a thorough and insightful reflection of your feelings about the trip to Thorncrag.
 - f. If you could change anything about how the trip was organized, what would it be? How can we improve the trip in future years?
5. Write a Haiku Poem about the trip in your nature journal.

What is Haiku?

Haiku is one of the most important forms of traditional Japanese poetry. Haiku is a 17-syllable verse form consisting of three metrical units of 5, 7, and 5 syllables OR 5, 6, and 6 syllables. It is a tiny poem filled with a love of nature. Cruelty, violence and sensationalism have no place in haiku poetry. A traditional haiku always had a season-word. The Haiku is in the present. Example Poem by the poet, Basho, the great Japanese poet who invented the haiku as we know it (born in 1644):

**Deep into autumn
and this caterpillar
still not a butterfly**

Example Poem by the American poet, Laurie Haines (born in 1956):

**Leaves fall one by one
brilliant autumn colors
swirling, dancing, floating**

NOTE: Your nature journal will count as a separate field trip project grade.