

SCHOOL PROGRAMS · SUMMER YOUTH ADVENTURES · GRADUATE STUDIES · SEMINARS and RETREATS · STEWARDSHIP



NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS IN THE FIELD

Connecting people, nature and community through education

Photo of Diablo Lake where Mountain School takes place. North Cascades Institute has a 26 year history of quality environmental education in the North Cascades.

CASCADES INSTITUTE



SCOTT BRENNAN

North Cascades Institute's mission is conservat

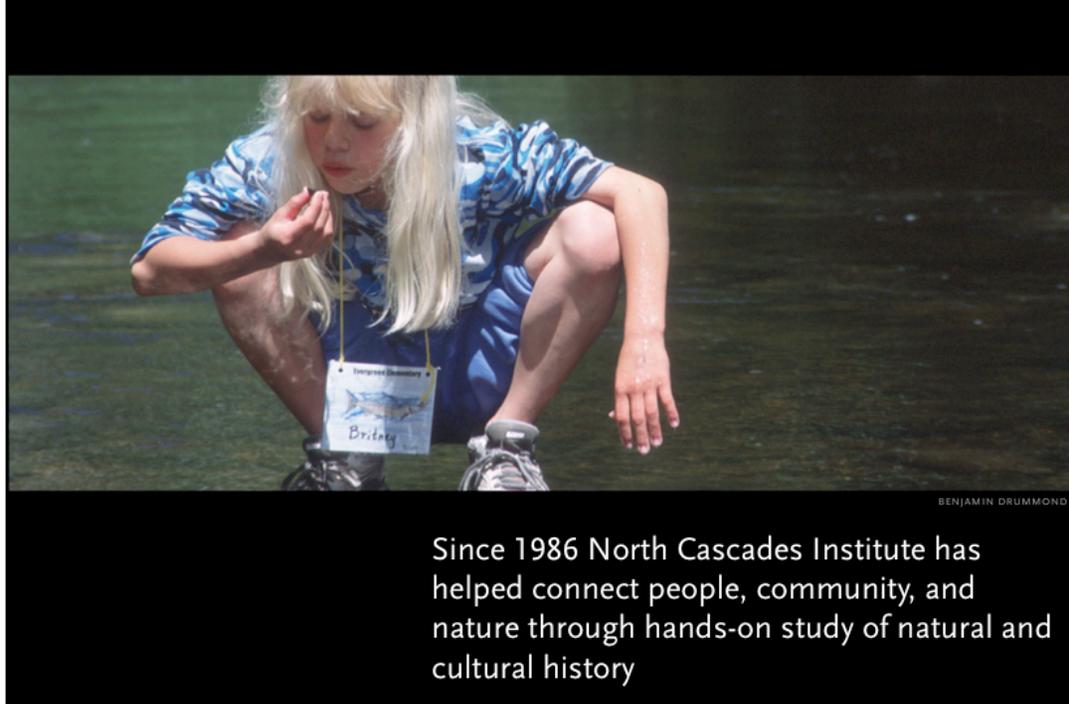
Read Slide as is



...and their tool is
education

BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

NCI is not an advocacy organization, funding is from government grants, family foundations and individual donations.



Since 1986 North Cascades Institute has helped connect people, community, and nature through hands-on study of natural and cultural history

Read slide, emphasize that Mountain School uses primarily hands-on student centered learning.

NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE OFFERS:



BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

Adult Seminars and Retreats

Read as is: Details can be found on our website www.ncascades.org

Seminars include Eagles and Salmon, Lichen, Mushrooms, Watercolors, Writing Retreats, Music Workshops and more.

NOTE: the next six slides explain what NCI offers outside of Mountain School.



Summer Youth Adventures

Read as is: Details can be found on our website www.ncascades.org

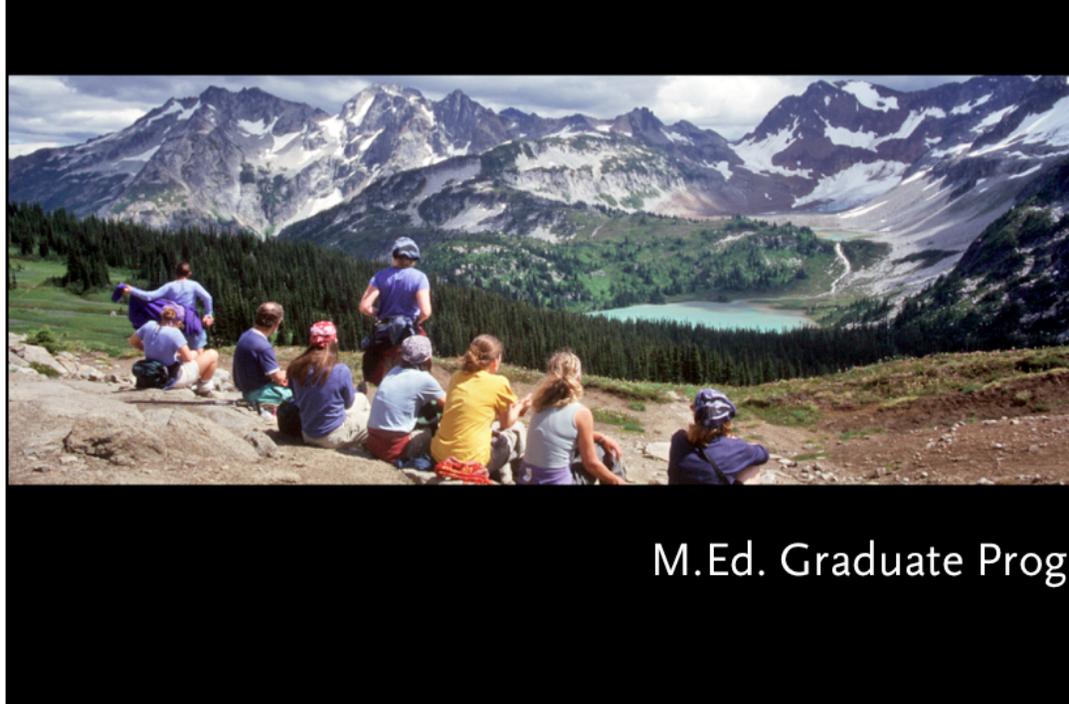
Tuition free summer programs in the North Cascades for high school students, focusing on stewardship, conservation and leadership.



Volunteer Stewardship Programs

Read as is: Details can be found on our website www.ncascades.org

A variety of volunteer activities including trail maintenance, re-vegetation and citizen science monitoring programs throughout the year.



M.Ed. Graduate Progr

Read as is: Details can be found on our website www.ncascades.org

In cooperation with Western Washington University, students earn an Masters of Environmental Education. Going on our 12th cohort of graduate students. Most Mountain School instructors are grad students.



Family
Programs

Read as is: Details can be found on our website www.ncascades.org

Mountain School for families, usually over long weekends in the summer.

OUR REGION



The Pacific Northwest

The following five slides set the stage for where the students are going for Mountain School.

Defined by deep snow in the mountains and heavy rainfall in the lowlands feeding huge rivers providing healthy cold water for salmon the the Pacific Northwest is a unique and dynamic ecosystem. Its boundaries are the Puget Sound to the West, Columbia river to the East, Snoqualimie pass to the south and the Frasier River to the North.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



North Cascades National Park

The North Cascades have the largest amount of glaciers in the United States outside of Alaska. North Cascades National Park host huge peaks and deep valleys consisting of 96% Wilderness. From Mountain School you could walk through Federally protected Wilderness all the way to Canada!

OUR BACKYARD



KEVIN LAFLEUR

Diablo Lake

This glacially fed lake forms the backdrop to your Mountain School Experience. One of three reservoirs on the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, providing 25% of Seattle's electricity. Note Diablo Dam at furthest waters edge and Environmental Learning Center is on right shore.

OUR SCHOOL



BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

Environmental Learning Center

Finished in 2005 the Environmental Learning Center is a Silver LEED certified establishment consisting of classrooms, dining hall, lodges, administration buildings and employee housing nestled on the banks of Diablo Lake.



CAROLYN WATERS

Your classroom is outside, rain, sleet or snow. You will have a chance to learn with your friends on the trails, in the forests, by the side of a stream and on the lake shore while at Mountain School. Unless there is real danger from wind or lightening we will keep students in the natural world as much as possible.

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL



BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

Mountain School began as
a camping-based program
in 1990

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL



BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

Today, over 2000 students, parents and teachers attend Mountain School at the Environmental Learning Center in the Spring and Fall

Read slide as is



BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

Students from 3rd -12th
grade come from public,
private, and homeschools

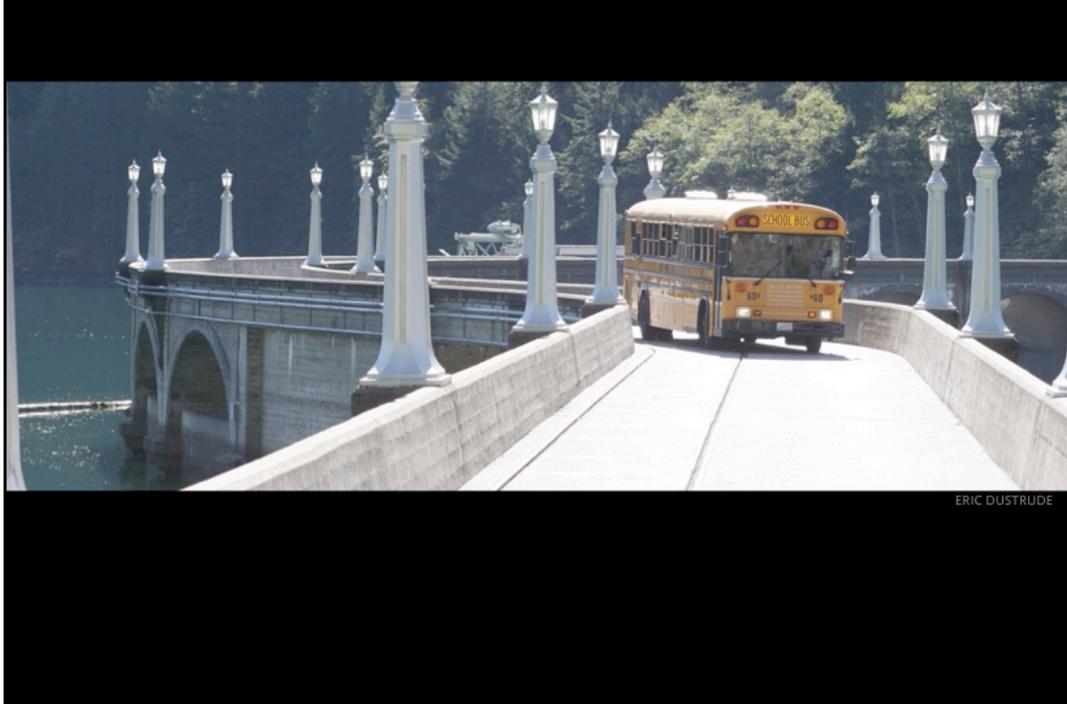
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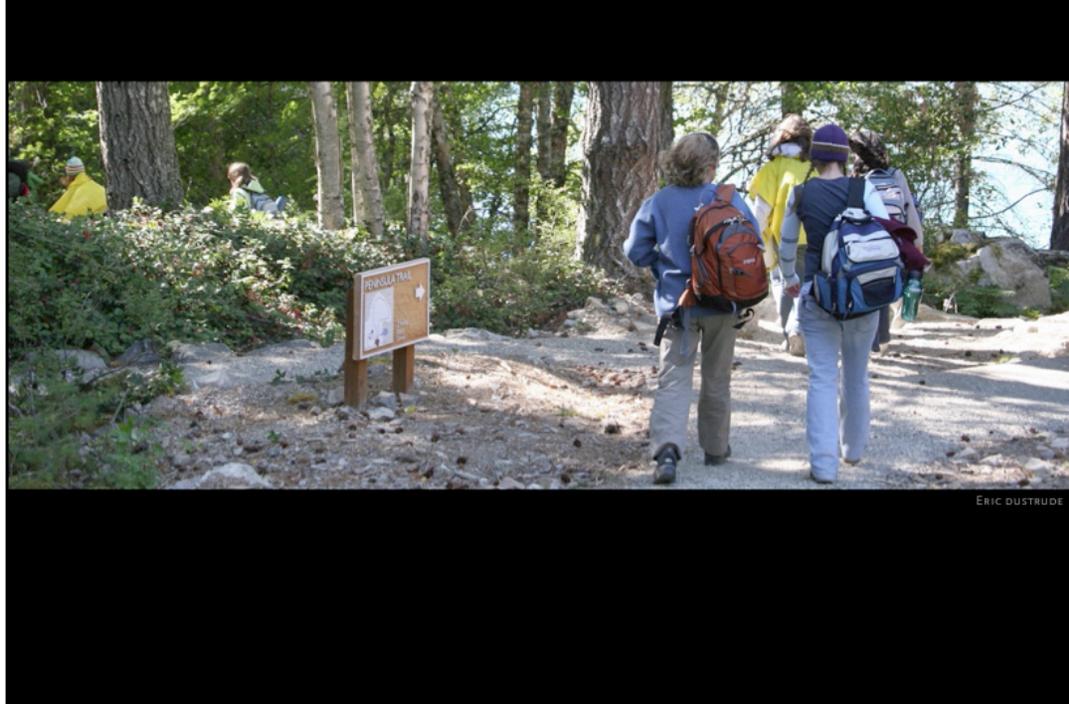
Stress positive and safe environment.

1. All instructors are Wilderness First Responders, an 80-hour medical training
2. Certified Emergency Medical Technician onsite
3. Yes, there are cougars and bears on site but students are trained immediately how to avoid and respond to these situations. They are always with at least two adults as well.



ERIC DUSTRUDE

Bus on the Dam....this is your entrance to Mountain School. If you want a good view sit on the left side of the bus, 389ft to the valley bottom, while the other side is a mere 20ft to the lake surface.



After moving gear off the bus there is a short walk (<1/4 mile) to the ELC for an orientation before hitting the trail.

This photo is a great example of what to bring. These backpacks are just fine for Mountain School. During the day students will need to bring warm clothes, rain gear, lunch, water and journal in their backpacks. The gear list should have already been given to students. We have supplies of most items so please don't buy anything, we are able to supply most students with what they need.



You never know what the weather is going to do in the North Cascades. It ranges from 60 degrees and sunny to 40 degrees and raining in just a few hours. Be prepared.

Note the good shoes, warm hats and rain gear. If you have these types of items bring them, again students will be outside even in the rain.



Upon arrival students will be given their own scientific journal to record their experience at Mountain School.



This is a typical learning group. There will be often 10 students with one instructor leading the way and 1 or 2 chaperones bringing up the end to ensure the safety of the group. This slide shows a sensory awareness activity on one of our many trails.



There is time for individual exploration. These students are using hand lenses to examine different plant parts.



There are three shelters built for Mountain School along the trails. So there is a chance to get out of the rain.



The learning center has 3 classrooms with microscopes to examine items in even more depth that you have collected from the trail. Often this is the only time inside during the day. Even lunch is spent outside.



BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

Evenings are magical at the Environmental Learning Center. All groups enjoy an interpretive program by a National Park Ranger and an enchanting time around the campfire, singing songs and sharing stories. Depending on the season, students are also led on exciting night hikes, perform skits around a campfire or take a stroll to Diablo Dam.

INSTRUCTORS



CAROLYN WATERS

North Cascades Institute Staff

The next three slides are about the different types of instructors all are versed in Natural and Cultural History, medically trained and background checked.

Some are paid staff.

INSTRUCTORS



Graduate Students
from Western
Washington University

Most are Graduate Students.

INSTRUCTORS



National Park Rangers

Some instructors are National Park Service Rangers. There is also a ranger program in the evening.

MEALS



The Learning Center offers appealing, healthy food choices and serves local, organic and sustainably produced food.

Buffet style Breakfast and Dinners in the Dining Hall with food choices accommodating for most types of food allergies. Lunches are packed during Breakfast for students to enjoy on the trail. Healthy, local, high energy meals and snacks are provided all day long.

ACCOMODATIONS



The Environmental Learning Center has 3 lodges, each lodge has 7 or 8 rooms with 4 beds each. There are gender specific bathrooms with two toilets and two showers each.



There are actually 2 bunk beds in each lodge room now. Teachers will place students in rooms. Note the books and art supplies on the desk, students should feel free to bring these type of items.



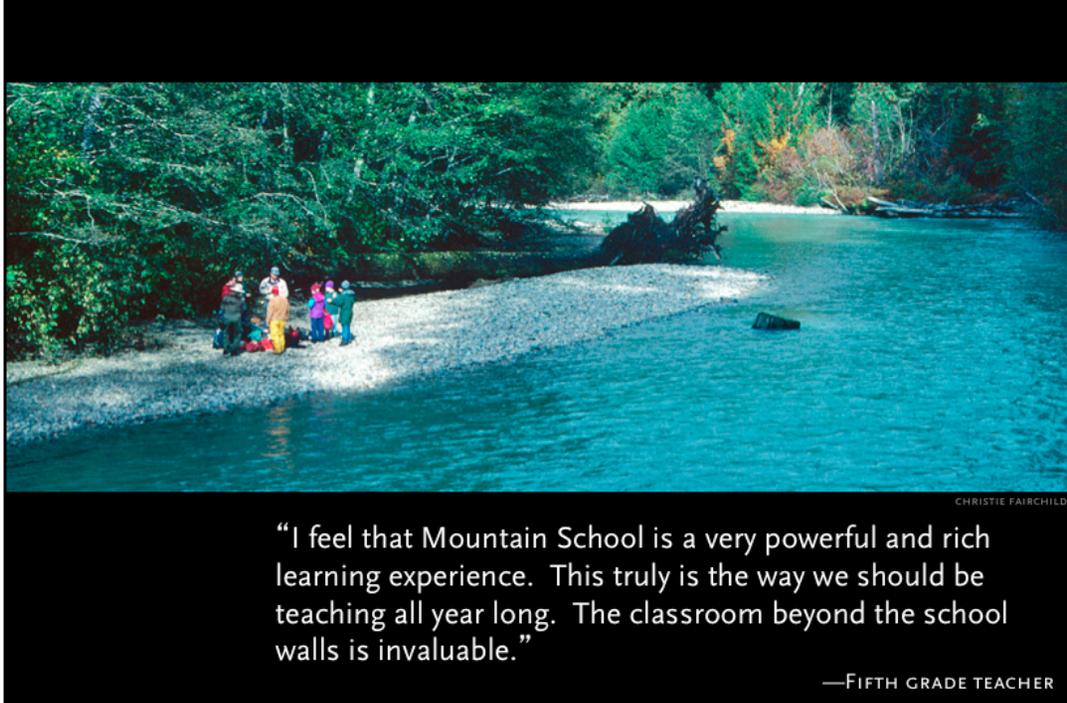
Two of the lodges have common rooms. These can be used during Free Time from 5-6 on Day 1 and Day 2 or in the evenings after evening programs ~830pm.



“I never knew I lived in such a cool place!”

—MOUNTAIN SCHOOL STUDENT

Mountain School is a great way for students to broaden their sense of home and instill admiration for the ecosystem they live in. All lessons are tied back to their home communities and post-trip visits by Mountain School instructors to the classroom reinforce this connection.



CHRISTIE FAIRCHILD

“I feel that Mountain School is a very powerful and rich learning experience. This truly is the way we should be teaching all year long. The classroom beyond the school walls is invaluable.”

—FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Read slide as is.



We encourage students to experience Mountain School with all of their senses - to leave distractions like iPods

Remind students that electronics can be distracting. Cameras are welcome and encouraged.



This video gives students and parents a better idea of what to expect at Mountain School.

Click the Text or Picture. Link will take you to the North Cascades Institute website, multimedia page with a promotional video on Mountain School.

Experience learning through field-based education



Ask for our current catalog or visit us online at
www.ncascades.org.

For more information check out the North Cascade Institute website.