

LAKE ECOLOGY FIELD PROGRAM

Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc.

Please read through the following information before applying to the Lake Ecology Field Program.

What is the Lake Ecology Field Program?

The Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc. offers a unique **Lake Ecology Field Program (LEFP)** to students between grades 8 and 12, as well as undergraduate university level, on board the research vessel M.V. *Namao*. The LEFP includes a pre-trip classroom (or on-line) presentation about Lake Winnipeg and its recent ecological changes. On board, the LEFP is filled with hands-on learning opportunities using a variety of sampling and analytical equipment, as well as microscopy and taxonomy.

Students set sail from Gimli, Manitoba on a half-day excursion in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg to sample and analyze various components of the lake ecosystem including water, phytoplankton, zooplankton and benthos. Recent additions to the program include the analyses of *E. coli* (bacterium), microcystin-LR (common algal toxin) and most recently micro-plastics. While on board, students are responsible for taking accurate field notes, including drawing specimens, and completing an on-board written assignment.

How long are the field excursions?

- Trips are a ½ day in duration, either morning or afternoon.

Where and when are the departures?

- All departures are from the ship at the end of the pier in Gimli.
- Morning departures are at 8:30 AM, returning to Gimli around noon.
- Afternoon departures are at 1 PM returning to Gimli by 4:30 PM.
- **Classes must arrive at the ship 20 minutes PRIOR to departure.**

How many students are allowed per trip?

- **The minimum number of students per class is 16; the maximum is 20.**
- A large group exceeding 30 students may be divided into two groups - morning and afternoon. However, your application must be very strong in order to be considered for this option, as it means that another school will not have the opportunity to participate in the Program.
- If there are fewer than 16 students in your class, we may be able to pair you up with another small class.

What is the cost to participate?

- There is no cost to participate in this program except for transport to Gimli,

which is the responsibility of the participating school.

- If you wish to make a donation to the Education Program, please do so - details are on the website.

What are the selection criteria?

- **Strong applications will clearly demonstrate how classes are engaged in a water-related activity that extends beyond the classroom and into the school or community (local to global).**
- This may include student presentations to other classes or community groups, a video production, art projects, water sampling in your local area...
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

What happens after I submit my application?

- Receipt of your application will be confirmed. If you do not receive confirmation within one day of submission, please follow up with an email.
- Successful schools will be notified and a date confirmed for the field trip.
- Additional information will be sent at this time, including the Statement of Risks and waiver, which must be signed by all persons intending to board the M.V. *Namao*, adults and students inclusive.

What if the weather is bad on the day we are scheduled to go out?

- Fieldwork generally does not stop if the weather turns bad. However, on a large body of water like Lake Winnipeg, high winds may result in a cancellation of the trip. This decision is made by the Captain of the ship.
- In the event of a cancellation due to high winds, every effort will be made to notify teachers by telephone before they leave for Gimli.
- **A cancelled trip cannot be re-scheduled.**

APPLICATION FORM Spring 2017

I have read the information above. _____ (check)

Teacher's Name:

School:

School address:

School phone:

Teacher's cell phone (to reach you on the day of the field trip if needed):

Course:

Grade:

Number of students (minimum 16):

Number of adults:

Please take time to answer the following questions in detail.

- 1) Please explain how you anticipate the Lake Ecology Field Program will contribute to your teaching outcomes?
- 2) Please explain how your students will be reaching or engaging others beyond the classroom and into the school or community (local community up to global community). Include expected or potential outcomes of this effort.
- 3) Other comments, especially if your situation is unique and the above questions do not apply.

The dates for the field excursion are May 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 29th. Please provide three preferred dates and indicate morning or afternoon.

1st choice (AM or PM) =

2nd choice (AM or PM) =

3rd choice (AM or PM) =

Please indicate three choices for a classroom presentation between May 8th and 19th.

1st choice (date and time slot) =

2nd choice (date and time slot) =

3rd choice (date and time slot) =