

# Nature Explore Classroom Recertification Application for \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

**Complete this form and mail it with visual and written documentation to: Nature Explore Outreach Coordinator, 2700 Sylvan Road, P.O. Box 817, Nebraska City, NE 68410.**

What is the name of your school or organization?	
Who is the contact person at your organization's Nature Explore Classroom?	
Title or position:	
E-mail address:	
What is the address of the site of your Nature Explore Classroom?	
Telephone number:	

Below are the Ten Guiding Principles from the *Learning With Nature Idea Book*. In the space provided, please tell us how you **continue** to use these principles in your Certified Nature Explore Classroom. For example: Have you added any areas, done additional plantings, or found new ways to use your space to engage children in nature? Please also provide evidence of annual maintenance done to sustain the quality of your outdoor classroom.

### Standard 1: Well-designed outdoor space

- Principle 1:** Divide the space into clearly delineated areas for different kinds of activities.
- Principle 2:** Include a complete mix of activity areas.
- Principle 3:** Give areas simple names.
- Principle 4:** Identify each area with a sign or other visual clues.
- Principle 5:** Be sure every area is visible at all times.
- Principle 6:** Use a variety of natural materials, including trees and other live plants.
- Principle 7:** Choose elements for durability and low maintenance.
- Principle 8:** Maximize beauty and visual clarity in the over-all design.
- Principle 9:** Personalize the design with regional materials, and ideas from children and staff.
- Principle 10:** Be sure the space continues to meet all regulatory standards for your region.

## Standard 2: Staff Professional Development

For recertification, a Certified Nature Explore Classroom needs to provide annual, professional staff development relating to nature education. Please provide a description of the training, date, location, and name and position of each staff member.

Name and position of Staff Member	Date and location of Nature Education

## Standard 3: Family Involvement

Please provide a brief description of activities you have conducted to increase family awareness and ongoing involvement in the Nature Explore Classroom and nature education for young children. Examples could include holding an open house, sending flyers home, providing Nature Explore Club home memberships, or recruiting parent volunteers. Provide the number of families reached, if possible. You may also include a CD of photos or examples of print materials. (Note: It is the responsibility of the site to acquire and hold photo release forms for individuals included in the photos.) Also, please share any great ideas or successful examples of things you have done that can serve as models for other schools or organizations that we can highlight on the Arbor Day Foundation Nature Explore Classroom Web site.

**Please enter your name and date below to show that you have read and agree with the following:**

I am submitting this application on behalf of the school or organization listed above for recertification as a Nature Explore Classroom, having achieved the required standards for the certification program.

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	
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