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, conservation stewardship, and cultural awareness through experiential learning.

Workshop Dates: June 26 - July 1, 2027

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.*

Instructors:

- **Alison Laughbaum** has been an outdoor naturalist and educator for over 30 years. She has an undergraduate degree in Biology and a Masters degree in Education from Ohio State University. From 1998 to 2026 she has led 14 field studies trips to locations such as The Bahamas, Belize, and Alaska. She loves seeing students get so invested in exploring the natural world that they learn and master complex understandings without even realizing it!.
- **Lindsey Christ** will co-lead the training and is the former Executive Director of International Field Studies and created the teacher training with Alison in 2022. Lindsey has been working in the field of Environmental Education and nonprofit management since 1997. She has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from UNC-Asheville and a Masters in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida.

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
- 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 June 26 - July 1, 2027

Saturday, June 26: Arrive at Forfar. Introduction to the week: Field Studies as best practices for learning

Sunday, June 27: 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, June 28: 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, June 29: 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, June 30: 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 1: Depart Forfar Field Station.