The ECO Institute for Teachers is a five-day nature immersion course for elementary teachers, assistants, aids and administrators. During the week, a leadership team of professional nature immersion specialists guides teachers in direct applications of outdoor classroom routines as well as ways to incorporate NGSS and Common Core into those routines. All courses are held in an outdoor setting so come prepared to spend the entire day outside. The North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier, VT hosts our group on 28 acres of diverse and abundant land.

**ECO Institute Level 1 - June 27-July 1, 2016**

This week-long course will introduce teachers to core routines which create the structure for an outdoor classroom experience to succeed. Through the practice of storytelling, playing, building, creating and reflecting, you will become a student of the day-long outdoor experience. As a group, we will participate in standards-based lessons embedded within the day-long outdoor experience. This learning mirrors the experience of students during a typical day of ECO. Our day includes discussion, philosophy and planning with school teams with the oversight of an experienced instructor. We invite you to leave all technology at home. We will provide you with electronic documents at each day's end.

**ECO Institute Level 2 – July 25-29, 2016**

This course continues to practice and build off of the groundwork of the core routines established in Level I, as well as dive deeper into the technical field skills and pedagogy that serve as tools to enhance the outdoor learning experience. During the course we immerse ourselves into inquiry-based learning through intensive experiential lessons, activities, and discussions, examine how storytelling can be used as a way to teach and prompt lessons, and develop science based journaling techniques and routines to introduce to students as an indoor reflection to their outdoor classroom. Participants will also be provided with sample lessons to use in their own classroom which align with Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core. Again, we invite you to leave all technology at home. We will provide you with electronic documents at each day's end.

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**Registration Details**

**ECO Level 1**: June 27-July 1, 2016  
**Level 2**: July 25-29, 2016  
At North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, VT

**Cost**: $1,510 -3 graduate credits

Course Registration opens Feb 15, 2016 through Castleton University  
Please contact Bethany.sprague@castleton.edu or find complete registration information at: [http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/eco_training.html](http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/eco_training.html)