Welcome to WATS 4000/6000  Natural Resource Field Days Teaching Experience

This course is designed to give you a basic understanding of environmental education, along with the experience of actually teaching in the field as part of the Quinney College of Natural Resources's Natural Resources Field Days (NR Field Days).

Instructor: Nancy Mesner; nancy.mesner@usu.edu; 435 797 7541 Office: NR 232

To get credit for the course, you must:

1. Attend one of the two NR Field Days Training Sessions. These are scheduled from 6:00 til ~ 7:30 in AGRS on either Thursday, Sept 6 OR Friday, Sept 7. We'll go over some fundamentals about environmental and experiential education, then provide training in the activities for the station or stations of your choice.

2. Read the following sections of Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators, published by NAAEE
   - Read pages 2-22 (the six major themes of Environmental Education) with a focus on pages 12 - 20 (Themes 3, 4 and 5).
   - The Appendix to this document is the Executive Summary of another NAAEE publication (Excellence in Environmental Education: - guidelines for Learning (K-12)). A review of these guidelines as they pertain to 4th graders will provide you with more context and understanding of expectations for students this age.

3. Read the 2018 NR Field Days Lesson Plans which describe the activities that the students will engage in during NR Field Days.

4. Complete 8 volunteer hours during NR Field Days, held this year from Sept 10 - 13 and Sept 17 - 19. See http://extension.usu.edu/waterquality/annual-
5. **Complete a Reflection Assignment:** Write a 1-2 page paper summarizing your experience. You should include what went well, what didn’t, what you would do differently next time, what further training you might need and any other thoughts about the experience.  [Click here for instructions.]

*The paper is due by October 29, 2018. Please save it as a Word file and send it as an attachment to nancy.mesner@usu.edu.*

6) **Attend a Discussion Group to share thoughts about your experience.** We will schedule this in October at a time that fits everyone’s schedule.

**More about Natural Resources Field Days**

For over 30 years, NR Field Days has introduced 4th grade students to simple natural resource and environmental concepts through hands-on activities. Students and their teachers rotate between 4 activity stations: plants, soils, wildlife, and water quality. The students are guided through activities that have been specifically developed and reviewed to assure that they are effective, fun for the students, and align with fourth grade educational goals and standards.

Each station has a leader who is experienced with the activities and will provide leadership and guidance to volunteers. With up to 250 students participating each day, NR Field Days relies heavily on student volunteers to help with the activities. Volunteers are trained to assist with at least one of the 4 activity stations.

This year NR Field Days takes place at Guinavah-Malibu Campground (Logan Canyon) from Sept 10 - 14 and Sept 20-23. See the [NR Field Days website](http://www.nrfieledays.org) for more information about the event, links to all the lesson plans, maps, and other information.