

Nature Autobiography

During our lives, our relationship with the natural world grows, shifts, and evolves. Whether you consider yourself a nature steward, nature observer, wilderness explorer, or environmentalist everyone's relationship with the natural world is highly personalized and meaningful to them for different reasons.

One way of increasing your awareness of how *you* relate to and understand the natural environment is to write an autobiography of your relationship with the earth. An **autobiography** is the story of one's life as told by you; however, a nature autobiography is much more focused and does not try to tell a whole life story. Telling the story of your own personal connection with nature will require taking time to remember, reflect on and interpret the meaningful nature experiences of your childhood.

WRITING:

Reflect on your relationship with nature up until now and think about how it shaped you as a person (e.g. your interests, personality, what you are comfortable with, ect.)

You do not need to write about every single special nature experience, but rather focus on the select experiences which represent meaningful changes in your thinking and explain why they are significant.

As a way of focusing your work we ask that you select experiences that address three of the four following themes:

- Special place
- Time with an important nature mentor
- Special family time in nature
- Favorite Pastime in nature

Please write in paragraph form and from the 1st person point of view

For each entry you must

- describe the setting and tell the story of the experience in descriptive sensory detail (two paragraphs)
- explain WHY this experience was meaningful to you. You will need to interpret how this experience has changed or shaped you as a person (one paragraph)

****You must include one artifact with each entry- this could be a printed picture, hand-drawn picture, a tangible item, a keepsake from your room ect.****