

**APPLICATION FOR TROPICAL RAINFOREST ECOLOGY**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER SCIENCE COURSE IN 2011**  
**(DUE FEBRUARY 12, 2010 TO MS. GOULD)**

There are no course prerequisites for this class. Tirimbina Nature Center, located in the Atlantic Lowlands of Costa Rica, on the Serapiqui River, has naturalists who speak fluent English. But be prepared to have fun with many students and adults who speak only Spanish- We have found that soccer is a great common language!

We are looking for a diverse group of students who are all prepared to work hard, contribute to the group, complain minimally, enjoy fieldwork both in Maine and in the rainforest, and have a terrific time experiencing a very different culture and ecosystems. This is a full credit science class.

**Your application should include the following:**

*Optional (highly recommended)* attendance with a parent or guardian at one of the information sessions, 2:30pm in Room 202, on Thursday, February 4 or Friday, February 5, 2010

**A written application due February 12, 2010, that includes the following information:**

1. Your name, your grade in 2010-2011, phone number, email if you check it, and address.  
We will reserve space in the class for 4 freshmen, 2 sophomores, 4 juniors, 4 seniors and 8 “at large” students. Any experience you have had with Spanish or with traveling. No prerequisites here but a mix would be nice!
2. Why are you interested in this course?
3. This course includes a 12-day trip to Costa Rica, which will cost \$2800. There will be group fundraising offered; if you participate, you will get your earned share of whatever is earned. However, you will need to work hard on your own as well, and be thrifty about saving your earnings. What experience do you have in working toward a really large long-term goal?
4. This course will require tolerance and flexibility in a group of mixed ages and interests. Give an example of a time you had difficulty with another person and how you solved it (or tried to).
5. Explain a time you were out of your “comfort zone”, how you coped with it and what you learned from it.
6. What would you add to this class? (Interests, skills, aspects of your personality - tell us why you are great!)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Interviews by a committee of staff and students will be scheduled for early March. You will get notice of your 10-minute interview time a week in advance. Please be responsible and prompt about this... You are selling us on how trustworthy and organized you are! All teachers will be notified of this interview schedule as well, of course.

If you know you are serious about wanting to do this, during course sign-up, include this class in your 2<sup>nd</sup> semester list of classes, with a backup in case you do not end up part of this. We will inform Guidance of the full list of accepted students.