



OUR MISSION

To guide the people of the Cumberland Valley region to become stewards of their natural and cultural worlds. The Institute exists to educate, inspire and unite people around shared interests.

THE CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone of our work is outdoor environmental education. Our school programs currently serve Pre-K–Grade 6 students. We’re on track to expand middle school offerings and envision further program growth for high school students.

LONGSTANDING PARTNERS

The Institute is a community leader. Educational partners and stakeholders throughout the region value our professional, high-caliber experiences. Waynesboro Area School District (WASD) has been a partner of The Institute for over 30 years.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- Curriculum-based program series for elementary and secondary students in environmental science and cultural history
- High school, university, and college internships in environmental science, history, and general non-profit operations
- Citizen science stream water monitoring activities, in partnership with Antietam Watershed Association
- New, year-round nature discovery, environmental science, and regional cultural history-based experiences
- Community festivals and celebrations featuring fun, learning, and art performances

400

Annual Members

8,000

Annual student visits

32

Years and counting

ENSURING THE FUTURE

With our 30-plus years of experience, a new, independent nature center and living classroom will allow The Institute to flourish into the next three decades and beyond. Having consistently expanded its programs and partnerships, The Institute is ready to grow and establish a permanent home base. A new center ensures continued service to our community. We hope you will help us realize our vision of a place where you can wander, wonder, discover, learn, and enjoy the arts.

INFORMATION ABOUT NAMING OPPORTUNITIES IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

“In a world in which technology seems to be taking a more significant part of a child’s life, the hands-on experiences in nature and the lifelong learning opportunities The Institute provides are why the Waynesboro Area School District is excited to continue our 30+ year partnership. The wonderful new future of The Institute presents an even brighter future—it is thrilling to know that our students will continue to experience many great learning opportunities.”

– Tod F. Kline, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

“The Institute is a regional resource. It shares the wonders of the world with visitors and residents, with programs that connect us to nature, help us to better understand ourselves and our customs, while building respect for all living things.”

**– Janet Pollard, Director
Franklin County Visitors Bureau**

“The Institute prepared me for a professional and personal life immersed in the outdoors through educational experiences. I feel lucky to have been a part of The Institute.”

– Katie McClellan, Riparian Specialist
Fairbanks, Alaska Soil/Water Conservation District and Former
Geo-environmental Institute Intern (Shippensburg Univ.)

“The Institute has provided valuable hands-on learning experiences to our students for many years. Their internships engage students in high-impact learning through watershed monitoring, water quality testing, data analysis, and geospatial interpretation. Institute student interns uniformly report fantastic experiences and mentoring. We are so thankful for these student experiences and look forward to growing with The Institute as they fulfill their vision for the next phase.”

**– Dr. Christopher Woltemade, Professor and Department Chair,
Geography & Earth Sciences, Shippensburg University**

“The students in the Waynesboro Area School District have enjoyed wonderful cultural and environmental learning experiences through The Institute for many years. It’s exciting to look forward to the always educational and fun programs to be held at their new facility in the future!”

– Karen Herald, Waynesboro Area School Board President