



## Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program Study Trip Expectations

### Program Description:

BEMP Study Trips are a core part of our environmental education program. When a group joins us for a Study Trip, they will be embarking on an exciting academic foray into the bosque, or riparian forest around the Rio Grande. It is BEMP's priority to provide high quality education and an opportunity to collect vital, usable scientific data. We partner with Nature's Notebook and the National Phenology Network to track cottonwood trees each season.



### How it works:

In the beginning of the school-year, each participating teacher will collaborate with BEMP's Education Coordinator to determine a date and time frame for their class's study trip. BEMP asks that all teachers who want to do a BEMP Study Trip, also sign up for at least ONE classroom visit from a BEMP educator to make the most of the field trip experience.

### What you can expect from us:

We aim to provide a fun and educational bosque experience for you and your students. Our BEMP staff members are both scientists *and* educators simultaneously! We will communicate with you ahead of time about logistics and busing needs. In the bosque, we will teach your students about the bosque ecosystem and how it relates to the bigger picture of global ecology. You can expect us to provide excellent training on BEMP & Nature's Notebook monitoring protocols. Each BEMP staff member has a Wilderness First Aid certification and is available to help with minor medical issues that might arise. You can expect us to make decisions regarding student safety while in the bosque. If inclement weather arises while you are in the field, your BEMP staffer will make the call to stay or to leave the field.



If anyone feels uncomfortable about any activities or strange people in the nearby area, we may re-route the Study Trip or return to Bosque School promptly.

### What we expect from you:

We ask that you and your chaperones support the learning objectives of the Study Trip. Teachers should try and bring at least one chaperone on Study Trips, such that there is an adult/student ratio of about 1:8-10. Adults need to ensure that students are acting appropriately, paying attention to lessons and protocols, and following instructions provided by BEMP staff. We see the Study Trip as an enriching educational opportunity, not a recess, and we hope you will help frame it as such for your students. You are there to keep students on task and focused throughout the duration of the Study Trip experience and can do this by asking good questions of the students, and by learning right alongside them. Should any behavior problems arise, we expect you and/or the chaperones to oversee student discipline and take whatever measures you feel necessary to resolve the situation. Our staff will continue to lead the rest of the students in whatever activities are taking place while you handle the situation, but we ask that you do not leave the BEMP staff alone with your students.

We also ask that you inform your chaperones of these expectations ahead of the Study Trip.