

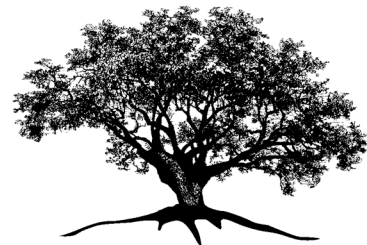
Field Research Experiences

SIFT
2012-2013

Shaw Institute for Field Training (SIFT) Program

Summer 2012 and Academic Year 2012-2013

For current high school sophomores/class of 2014



**SHAW
NATURE
RESERVE**

The SIFT program is a one-week summer field training experience at Shaw Nature Reserve combined with additional training and field work activities during the following school year.

During the summer, teens are introduced to a variety of Missouri ecosystems and gain skills necessary to conduct field research, including plant and animal identifications, biotic sampling and census techniques, testing of abiotic factors, and training in the use of GPS and GIS.

During the school year, teens are involved in important research and restoration activities including invasive species management, prairie reconstruction, plant and animal inventories, and prescribed burns.

Participation in the SIFT program entails ALL of the following activities:

1. Attendance at the SIFT orientation session (May 6, 2012),
2. Completion of a 1-week summer field training program including one overnight (either June 11-15 or June 18-22, 2012),
3. Attendance at a 3-hour GIS training session (August, 2012),
4. Attendance at two all-day Saturday sessions during the 2012-13 school year (September 29, 2012 and March 2, 2013),
5. Attendance at the SIFT Winter Weekend (January 26-27, 2013), and
6. Participation in field work opportunities during 2012-13, for which teens will be paid at the minimum wage per hour.

Please keep this information sheet for your records and do not include it in your application package!

The SIFT program is part of a science education partnership between Washington University in St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Teens who complete the SIFT program are eligible to apply to the Tyson Environmental Research Fellowships (TERF) program at Washington University's biological field station, the Tyson Research Center.

The SIFT and TERF programs are components of "Making Natural Connections: An Authentic Field Research Collaboration" (NSF 06-520 DRL-0739874), an informal science education research project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Please return the SIFT application form and 2 teacher recommendations to:

Shaw Nature Reserve – SIFT
P.O. Box 38
Gray Summit, MO 63039

Application Deadline: March 30, 2012

Selection Notification via e-mail: April 6, 2012
Mandatory Participant Orientation: May 6, 2012

Questions may be directed to Lydia Toth via e-mail at Lydia.Toth@mobot.org.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
BIOLOGY**

**Field Research
Experiences**

**SIFT
APPLICATION**

Shaw Institute for Field Training (SIFT) Program

Summer 2012 and Academic Year 2012-2013



Return this form and two recommendations to

Shaw Nature Reserve - SIFT
P.O. Box 38
Gray Summit, MO 63039

Application Deadline: March 30, 2012

Selection Notification: April 6, 2012
Participant Orientation: May 6, 2012

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Home address (street, city, zip): _____

Ethnicity: _____ Date of birth: _____ Gender (circle): F M

Current school and district: _____ Current grade level (circle): 9 10

School attending in 2012-13: _____ Grade level in 2012-13 (circle): 10 11

High school *math* courses completed by June 2012: _____

High school *science* courses completed by June 2012: _____

Preference for 1-week summer session (circle): Session 1: June 11-15 Session 2: June 18-22

How did you hear about the SIFT program? _____

Personal Commitment

I understand that participation in the SIFT program entails all of the following activities:

1. Attendance at the SIFT orientation session (May 6, 2012),
2. Completion of a 1-week summer field training program (June, 2012),
3. Attendance at a 3-hour GIS training session (August, 2012),
4. Attendance at two Saturday sessions during the 2012-13 school year (September 29, 2012 and March 2, 2013)
5. Attendance at the SIFT Winter Weekend (January 26-27, 2013), and
6. Participation in field work opportunities during 2012-13, for which I will be paid at the minimum wage per hour.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Commitment

I understand that _____ (applicant name) is applying for the SIFT program and I will support her/his participation if selected.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian e-mail: _____ Parent phone: _____

Field Research Experiences

SIFT APPLICATION

Please provide neatly handwritten answers or type the answers on a separate piece of paper.

Why do you want to participate in field research experiences?

How will participating in field research experiences benefit you? What will you do with the skills/information you gain?

In your opinion, what characteristics or qualities do you possess that will contribute to the success of group projects and interactions during field research experiences? Please list these characteristics and explain why they are important.

What are some of your educational and career interests?

Please list any volunteer activities, group programs, youth organizations, and/or environmental programs in which you have participated, and briefly describe your experience.

Please list any job experiences you have had (including babysitting, mowing lawns, etc.).

Please list any extra-curricular activities (sports, band, etc.) that may interfere with your participation in the SIFT program.

Field Research Experiences

SIFT RECOMMENDATION

The applicant indicated below is applying for the 2012-2013 Shaw Institute for Field Training (SIFT) program at Shaw Nature Reserve. The SIFT program is a one-week summer field training experience combined with additional training and field work activities during the following school year.

We would appreciate your honest opinion of this applicant based on your experience as her/his teacher. The more information you provide, the better we will be able to understand the applicant's personality and abilities. Please complete this form, seal it in an envelope, and return it to the applicant for inclusion in her/his application package.

The application deadline is March 30, 2012.

Applicant: _____

Recommending teacher: _____

Teacher e-mail: _____

Teacher school and district: _____

Courses the applicant is currently taking or has taken with this teacher:

	Very much	Often	Sometimes	Never
Student was eager to learn.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student cared about other in class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student volunteered help to others in class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student was late to class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student skipped class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student turned in homework and projects on time.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student participated in class and lab activities.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student participated in extra-curricular activities. (i.e. science fair, science club, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student was an asset to the class.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Would you like to teach this student in another class? (circle) Yes, definitely Maybe Definitely not

On the back of this form or a separate sheet, please write 3-4 sentences on why you think we should select this student for the SIFT program. The more information you provide, the better we will be able to understand the applicant's personality and abilities.

Field Research Experiences

SIFT RECOMMENDATION

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The application deadline is March 30, 2012.

Applicant: _____

Recommending teacher: _____

Teacher e-mail: _____

Teacher school and district: _____

Courses the applicant is currently taking or has taken with this teacher:

	Very much	Often	Sometimes	Never
Student was eager to learn.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student cared about other in class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student volunteered help to others in class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student was late to class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student skipped class.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student turned in homework and projects on time.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student participated in class and lab activities.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student participated in extra-curricular activities. (i.e. science fair, science club, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Student was an asset to the class.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Would you like to teach this student in another class? (circle) Yes, definitely Maybe Definitely not

On the back of this form or a separate sheet, please write 3-4 sentences on why you think we should select this student for the SIFT program. The more information you provide, the better we will be able to understand the applicant's personality and abilities.