Environmental Explorers School Parental Guide

Summer 2026

What is the Environmental Explorer School parental guide?

Environmental Explorers School(EES) is an online, self-paced program that introduces middle-school-aged children to environmental science, health topics, and pre-college terms. Students will choose their own lessons and complete the activities that go with them to earn their Brown University EES Certificate of Completion.

What is the Environmental Explorers School?

This free, self-paced, online summer course is designed to introduce environmental science, promote community engagement, and expand middle school students' learning experiences. This program was developed by The **Community Noise Lab** at the **Brown University School of Public Health.**

Why should my child enroll in the Environmental Explorers School?

The Environmental Explorers school facilitates career exploration, familiarizes explorers with pre-college terms, teaches creativity, encourages curiosity and self-learning, and prepares explorers to advocate for themselves.

When does the Environmental Explorers School start and end?

The Environmental Explorers School takes place over the summer break

Who runs the Environmental Explorers School?

The Community Noise Lab (CNL) runs the Environmental Explorers School. Right now, CNL is located at Brown University's School of Public Health. One of CNL's goals is to create accessible and useful research tools to foster a deeper understanding of environmental justice and health inequities. EES is our way of spreading awareness and consciousness about environmental health.

There are over 30 courses to choose from, how does my child decide what courses to take?

Explorers may refer to the Course Catalog and the Advising Sheet to help with their decision.

How many courses can my child take?

Each explorer is required to complete at least eight (8) courses.

If my child wants to take more courses, can they?

Yes, every explorer can take as many courses as they would like. There are over 30 courses to choose from. They must complete at least eight (8), but they are heavily encouraged to complete more.

Okay, I am interested in enrolling my child. How can they register?

There is a pre-registration link that can be found at [INSERT LINK]. Starting May 15, 2026, we will send you a registration key for you to register your explorer and select your courses. Your explorer can begin taking courses starting on [INSERT OPENING DATE].

What does a typical course entail?

Each course typically includes a short video and a lecture. Courses also include a community-facing exercise, which may involve traveling within your community, using the internet, or interacting with the materials in their activity kit. Each course generally takes around 30 minutes to one hour to complete.

What are the time requirements needed for my child to complete their syllabus?

Your student should spend at most 1 hour per module. To stay on track, your student should complete at least 2 modules every week. Students are encouraged to complete more than 8 modules.

What type of technology will my child need?

Explorers will need a museum near them, a library near them, a park near them, and an Outdoor Activity Prep List. This checklist includes comfortable shoes, water, a time estimate, and an activity sheet.

How much parental support is expected?

Explorers should be mostly capable of completing the courses on their own; however, they will need parental support to complete some of the activities. Some activities require trips to community spaces like libraries and parks. Parents should check in regularly with their explorer to make sure they do not need any additional support or help.

What is the Environmental Explorers School Activity Box?

Explorers will need a museum near them, a library near them, a park near them, and an Outdoor Activity Prep List. This checklist includes comfortable shoes, water, a time estimate, and an activity sheet.

What happens when my child completes a course?

When your explorer completes their syllabus, they will receive a certificate of completion and be invited to a virtual graduation event.

What happens when my child completes their syllabus?

When your explorer completes their syllabus, they will receive a badge. Your explorer needs eight badges to complete the program.

If we have questions, concerns, or feedback, who do we contact?

If you have any questions, you can reach Dr. Erica Walker, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health. Her email is: erica_walker@brown.edu. To learn more about Community Noise Lab, you can visit their website here.

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Closing Message to Parents

Thank you for your support in your Explorer's journey. We aspire for the Environmental Explorers School to help students feel confident, curious, and make learning fun while learning to understand the world around them.

Your support through encouragement and check-ins plays an important role in your Explorer's experience, and we look forward to seeing how they grow and explore within their communities.