

## Meeker International Ecology Program Constitution

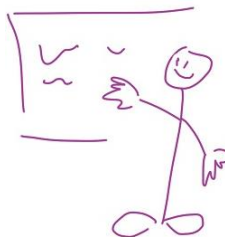


The Meeker International Ecology Program (MIEP) fosters scientific understanding, appreciation of the natural world, and cultural awareness by enabling student participation in hands-on research and conservation projects in locations outside the United States.

### I. Partners

- a. MIEP partners primarily with Ecology Project International (EPI), but opportunities for collaboration with other organizations may arise.
- b. The Meeker Regional Library District assists MIEP as a sponsor with 501c(3) status to assist in the distribution of funds, e.g. from Fairfield Trust.
- c. The Meeker School District does not sponsor MIEP. Requests for use of school facilities, e.g. for fundraising activities, must be submitted through the proper channels according to school policy.

### II. Organization



- a. An adult sponsor with credentials and background clearance required by EPI will lead the Program. Duties of the sponsor are to:
  - i. identify and recruit students to participate in the program
  - ii. reserve a project with EPI (or other organization) well in advance (usually at least a year)
  - iii. coordinate distribution of all necessary EPI forms and information
  - iv. act a liaison between students/parents and EPI
  - v. supervise fundraising activities
  - vi. maintain and publish group financial accounts

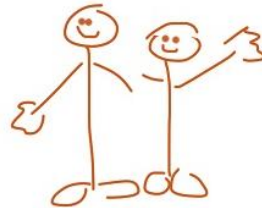
b. Eligibility

- i. Preference will be given to students of high-school age in Meeker, CO. It is recommended that students have taken an introductory class in Biology.
- ii. If space is available, and at the discretion of the sponsor, students living outside of Meeker may be invited to join the group, with the understanding that those students may not qualify for grant funds from local donors, e.g. the Fairfield Trust.



c. Preparation for the project is part of the learning process. Students are responsible for

- i. preparing thoroughly for the project based on guidelines provided by EPI
- ii. familiarizing themselves with the science, conservation practices, and culture they experience during the project
- iii. initiating and organizing fundraising activities
- iv. organizing community projects and presentations after returning from the project



d. Parents assist students with trip planning and preparation.

- i. Parents oversee legal and medical forms required of the students.
- ii. Parents may participate in fundraising activities with the understanding that project activities are best initiated, planned, and implemented by the students as part of the learning process.
- iii. Parents are responsible for payment of trip fees not covered by group fundraising
- iv. Parents generally are not allowed to join the trip as a chaperone



- e. Meetings
  - i. All meetings will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order
  - ii. Meetings will be announced at least two weeks in advance with dates determined, preferably, by group decision
  - iii. Meeting minutes will be distributed to all students and parents within two days after a meeting
  - iv. Any questions should be addressed on the agenda at a subsequent meeting, and participants must abide by decisions made at a meeting



- III. Distribution of group funds
  - a. All grant monies will be divided equally among the students to cover trip costs.
  - b. Funds raised by group activities will be divided equally among the participating students to cover trip costs.
  - c. Group monies will be collected into and distributed from the MIEP account at Mountain Valley Bank
  - d. Students will make their best effort to participate in group fundraising activities. It is understood that not every student can help with every fundraising activity but that participation averages out over the year.
  - e. If a student is not carrying their fair share of the load, as judged by the sponsor, then the sponsor will counsel the student and his/her parents with the purpose to assure fair contribution by all students to the group effort.
- IV. Student behavior
  - a. Students should recognize that they are representing their community and their nation. The sponsor will strictly enforce the behavior guidelines set forth in the EPI Participant's Manual.
  - b. A student who violates the behavior guidelines will be excluded from further participation, and if inappropriate behavior occurs on the trip the student will be sent home early.

