

# Video Hints

Consider videotaping your class's field trip experience. Video records are fun to watch later, are useful learning tools (What can be done differently next time?), and are a great part of a comprehensive display or "wrap-up and share" activity (see Shorebird Fair classroom activity). Students learn technical skills by operating video equipment and later incorporating their videos into computer programs. Finally, students enjoy using and posing for the camera. This enjoyment may enhance their learning experience. Parental permission is required if you intend to send your video footage into the Shorebird Sister Schools Program for use on the Web site. A Shorebird Sister Schools Program permission form is included in this section.

- Become familiar with the video camera you will be using.
- Practice, practice, practice.
- Use a tripod and external microphone.
- Avoid external, distracting noises (cars, planes, wind, etc.)
- Plan ahead. What do you want to show?
- Use an outline to plan shots and sequences. Have a definite beginning and end.
- Plan your filming sequence to avoid editing hassles in the field.
- Use a variety of shots, angles, and distances.
- Mix close-ups with mid-distance and scenic shots.
- Pan slowly; do not repeat back and forth.
- Start with an empty tape.
- Have plenty of extra batteries.
- Slowly zoom both in and out, but avoid overuse.
- Start filming at least one second before talking.
- Include as many birds as possible.
- Have students make interesting title signs or plan verbal introductions ahead of time.
- Concentrate on getting good sound, especially from students.
- Include important people--all students, biologists, refuge personnel, teachers, and parents.
- Protect the camera body and lens from the weather.
- Show action close-ups--hands, feet, faces, and movement.
- Include mood shots like sunsets and sunrises.
- Explain habitat type and something about the location.
- Explain what is being seen.
- Tell a story. Present a message.
- Some filming can be done before and after the field trip.



# Student Photo/ Video Release for In-school Use

Dear Parent:

As part of our shorebird unit, our class will be going on a field trip to observe shorebirds and learn more about their habitats. I would like to videotape their activities for other students to review in school and to post on the Shorebird Sister Schools Program's Web site. Please fill out the parental release form. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at \_\_\_\_\_.

## Photo/Video Release Form

I \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for my child  
*(parent's printed name)*

\_\_\_\_\_ to be videotaped as part of their class  
*(child's printed name)*

Field Trip to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
*(field trip location)* *(field trip date)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(parent's or guardian's signature)*





# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Shorebird Sister Schools Program  
698 Conservation Way  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443



A signed release is required from Non-Service subjects in all photographs and videos. In the case of minors, the parents or guardian must sign the release. Please send completed release forms to the Shorebirds Sister Schools Program Coordinator with photos and/or video.

**PHOTO/VIDEO TAKER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE AND PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHOTO CAPTION(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Photo and Video Release

I hereby grant permission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use my, or my child's, photographic or videographic likeness in official Service publications and displays, and on its World Wide Web (WWW) site without further consideration, and acknowledge the Service's right to crop or treat the photograph at its discretion.

I also understand that the image can be downloaded by a computer user in or out of the Service. Therefore I agree to indemnify and hold harmless from any claims the following:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- All employees within the Department of the Interior

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Field Trip Permission and Medical Information Form

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child will be participating in a field trip as part of our study of shorebirds. This trip will involve outdoor activities. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. Hiking boots or sturdy gym shoes are recommended. We suggest that you send along the following items: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

In order for your child to attend, please complete the form below.

## PERMISSION

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, may attend the Field Trip to

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature* *Date*

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

*(Educator: If this information is on file, you may bring emergency cards from the office.)*

Be aware that my child has the following limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medications my child is currently taking: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Responsible adult who can be reached on the day of the field trip

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name* *Phone Number*

Doctor and/or Medical Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_