



Interactive Video Field Trips (IVFT) & Classroom Collaborations

Interactive Video Field Trips can bring the world to your classroom, but how do you get started? Below we have answered some of the most common questions regarding IVFT and compiled a quick, "How-to" guide.

What is an Interactive Video Field Trip (IVFT)?

IVFT events bring experts, guests, and other classrooms directly to your students via Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC). Video Field Trips provide the opportunity to enhance the learning environment, create excitement, offer insights, and bring destinations into the classroom that would otherwise not be possible. Zoos, museums, and science centers are popular destinations. Lessons are typically 30–45 minutes long and range in price from \$0 to \$300 per session. Most providers offer programs designed to integrate with standard K12 curriculum. In some cases more than one school may share in a lesson at the same time in a video conference call.

What equipment is needed?

A Video Field Trip is delivered via Interactive Video Conferencing. Both sides have a camera, microphone, monitor, and a codec, which takes live audio and video and compresses it into a format that can be sent over the Internet. This equipment is high quality, specialized equipment that runs on an IP standard (H.323), which is not compatible with web-based products such as Skype. UEN manages the statewide IVC network (formerly EDNET) which is available in most high schools. This equipment can be scheduled and used for IVFT when not in use to deliver courses. Additionally, regional service centers and some districts have IVC equipment available to use for IVFT.

Where can I find out what Field Trips are available?

There are several good websites that list content providers and programs. Listed below are two of the largest databases:

<http://www.cilc.org>

The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration, or CILC, has an extensive listing of content providers for Field Trips, as well as a listing of teachers interested in doing collaborations with other teachers on specific projects.

<http://www.vccontentproviders.org/>

Polycom, a manufacturer of IVC equipment, sponsors this site. The site lists many program providers as well as acts as the portal for CAPspace, a social-networking-type site that connects teachers looking for collaboration partners.

Can UEN come help me do an IVFT?

Currently UEN does not have the personnel resources to provide technical support for Video Field Trips. However, the UEN Logistics Department is happy to answer questions about how to bring IVFT to your students. For other help, contact your Regional Service Center or school district technology department.

1-800-863-3496
www.uen.org/distance_ed
logix@uen.org



IVFT Steps to follow:

- Locate IVC Equipment to use through your school or Regional Service Center
- Find a program or collaboration
- Contact Program Provider to schedule a date/time