

Center for Naturalism

ACTIVITIES

Education on naturalism

Develop policies consistent with naturalism

Create a community for naturalists

POLICY DOMAINS

Science and critical thinking

Social and economic inequality

Criminal justice

Behavioral health and psychotherapy

Environmental sustainability

YOUR HELP & SUPPORT WANTED

The CFN seeks your expertise, enthusiasm and input. We need dedicated, like-minded naturalists to help analyze current events from a naturalistic perspective, write policy papers and proposals, find funding support, and conduct courses and research related to philosophical and applied naturalism. Your donations are also welcome, see contact information next page...



Center for Naturalism

P.O. Box 441705
Somerville, MA 02144-1705
(617) 480-8846

www.naturalism.org
www.centerfornaturalism.org

CENTER FOR NATURALISM



Naturalism.Org

Connection – Compassion – Control

CENTER FOR NATURALISM

MISSION – The Center for Naturalism (CFN) is a non-profit educational organization devoted to increasing public awareness of scientific naturalism and its implications for personal and social well-being. The CFN seeks to foster the understanding that human beings are fully caused, entirely natural phenomena, and that human flourishing is best achieved in light of such understanding.

www.centerfornaturalism.org

NATURALISM – Based on knowledge from the physical and social sciences, naturalism holds that we are fully included in the natural order. Our character and behavior are entirely the result of prior and surrounding causes, genetic and environmental; we are not self-made. This crucial insight about causality reveals our intimate connection to the world, leads to a compassionate understanding of human faults and virtues, and gives us more control over our circumstances.

centerfornaturalism.org/descriptions.htm

IMPLICATIONS – Since it shows our full connection to the world and each other, naturalism challenges contra-causal free will, the idea that human beings are first causes. But accepting our completely natural nature has profound and beneficial psychological, social, and spiritual consequences. We discover ourselves at home in a vast, awe-inspiring universe as we create meaning in our lives and a more humane, equitable society.

naturalism.org/resource.htm

Naturalism can help create a better world...

...by illuminating the conditions under which individuals and societies flourish, and by providing a tangible, real basis for connection and community. Doctrines and policies which assume the existence of a freely willing agent, and which ignore the actual causes of behavior, are unfounded and often counter-productive. To the extent to which we suppose persons act out of their uncaused free will, we will be blind to those factors which produce criminality and other social pathologies, or, on the positive side, the factors which make for well-adjusted, flourishing individuals and societies.

naturalism.org/applied.htm

CFN OBJECTIVES

Policy development – By taking a fully causal view of human nature, naturalism can inform the design of social policies which reflect the full range of factors that influence human development and behavior. Such a view can also influence policy objectives by changing fundamental attitudes about credit and blame based in supernaturalistic views of the self.

centerfornaturalism.org/policy.htm

Serve as a resource for personal growth – Seeing our deep connection to nature in every respect can supply the basis for a mature, fulfilling, and cognitively consistent quest for personal growth and meaning.

naturalism.org/spiritua.htm

Create a community for naturalists – Because naturalism is a relatively new and unexplored worldview, naturalists need contact with like-minded individuals who can offer guidance and encouragement. In collaboration with other secular organizations, the CFN seeks to develop a broad-based community within which naturalists can develop strategies, local activities, and opportunities for creative expression.

centerfornaturalism.org/community.htm