INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Your school district is offering your child a week-long educational experience at the San Mateo County Outdoor Education Program. This award-winning environmental education program is conducted by the San Mateo County Office of Education in cooperation with local schools and the San Francisco YMCA's Camp Jones Gulch.

This week at Jones Gulch is part of your child's class work, and he or she should attend if possible. Since 1968, over 190,000 fifth and sixth graders have learned about the physical and social sciences as well as art and music in this residential outdoor science school. The program emphasizes experiential and interdisciplinary learning, the type of learning that involves students so much that they refer to it as fun. In addition to the academic learning, the program provides a unique opportunity for students to grow in self-esteem, self-sufficiency, and social responsibility. Students take care of themselves (making their beds, caring for their clothes, keeping themselves clean) and also work as part of a team (setting up and cleaning the dining hall, working together on skit performance). The opportunities for new friendships and the spirit of cooperation make the week at Jones Gulch a memorable social and educational experience.

STAFF
The Site Director and naturalists are especially skilled at providing a successful learning experience. Classroom teachers from your child's school attend and serve as a link between school and home.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Students live in heated cabins with bunk beds. The YMCA staff prepares well-balanced meals which are served family style. Special diets, for medical reasons, should be noted on the REGISTRATION FORM and discussed with the Site Director, (650) 747-0414, one week prior to attendance.

COMMUNICATION

PHONE: There are no phones available for students, so please do NOT ask your child to call you or expect to reach him or her by phone. For emergencies, you may call (650) 747-0414. In case of an emergency at the site, the Site Director will contact you.

VISITS: To have parents visit might detract from the positive development of self-reliance and might impose a burden on those children who cannot have a parent visit. We ask that you NOT visit your child while he/she is attending Outdoor Education

MAIL: Your child will look forward to a letter from you. Letters should be written EARLY to assure that they arrive BEFORE your child leaves. The address is -

Student's Name and School
San Mateo Outdoor Education
11000 Pescadero Rd.
La Honda, CA 94020-9711

HEALTH INFORMATION
To help us provide a safe and enjoyable experience for your child, please fill out the accompanying yellow form. We need to know about your child's current health status and any medications that he/she is taking. In the event of an accident, we need to know where to reach you, what to do if you are unavailable, and the name of your insurance carrier.

CLOTHING
A list of recommended clothing is on the reverse side. Older but serviceable clothing is best. We urge you NOT to buy new clothing or equipment and do not send highly valuable items. Clearly label all items with student's name. Space is limited - please send only one duffle bag or suitcase and a sleeping bag.

FIRST DAY LUNCH
Students should bring a sack lunch for the first day. Send only food that can be eaten during this meal because the program will provide all meals and snacks for the rest of your child's stay. Gum and candy are not permitted.

BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS
The Outdoor Education Program is part of the public school system; therefore, there are rules and regulations. Our rules are based on the idea that we wish to respect and protect the participants and the environment. Each student has an opportunity to attend the program, but no student has the right to interfere with another's enjoyment of the program. A more complete listing of the program's rules are on the reverse side. Please review them with your child. Your cooperation and support of these rules will enhance everyone's opportunity for an enjoyable week at Outdoor Ed.

TRANSPORTATION AND COSTS
Each school determines the cost of the week at Outdoor Education and arranges for transportation to and from the site. If you have any questions about the costs or arrival/departure time, please ask your child's teacher or principal.

*PLEASE KEEP THIS GREEN SHEET FOR REFERENCE. THE ATTACHED YELLOW SHEETS (REGISTRATION, MEDICAL INFORMATION, AND VIDEO RELEASE) SHOULD BE READ, SIGNED, AND RETURNED TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.
OUTDOOR EDUCATION STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Each student has the right to feel safe and respected;

   Therefore each student has the responsibility to be respectful towards everyone.

   No one should be made to feel uncomfortable or threatened.
B. Each student has the right to enjoy the outdoors and the facilities at Outdoor Education;

   Therefore each student has the responsibility to take care of the natural environment and to maintain the facilities.
C. Each student has the right to learn and enjoy activities;

   Therefore each student has the responsibility to safely participate in activities, follow all directions, and allow others the opportunity to learn.

Specific Outdoor Education Rules

1. Stay with an adult leader at all times.
2. Cooperate with your leader and follow all directions.
3. Respect all students and staff members. Avoid using put-downs, name calling, or hurting other people’s feelings.
4. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Fighting will result in being sent home.
5. Respect others belongings. Avoid touching others hats, clothing, sleeping bags, and personal belongings.
6. Avoid using foul and inappropriate language and gestures.
7. If you have a disagreement with someone, find a way to talk it out peacefully.
8. Stay on the trails and behind your leader.
9. Avoid running unless it is part of an activity.
10. Participate only in safe and supervised activities. Avoid jumping on beds, pillow fighting, rough housing, or play fighting.
11. Enter only the cabin to which you are assigned.
12. Leave sticks, rocks, and other objects on the ground.
13. Keep noise moderate and respect cabin quiet hours.
14. Leave all food items, money, knives, and electrical devices at home.
15. Allow plants and animals to remain undisturbed by people.

Consequences

Fighting or cabin raiding will result in students being sent home.

When students break any of the above rules they will be referred to the Principal’s Office and the following steps will be taken.

1st A behavioral contract will be made and recreation time will be missed.
2nd Another contract will be made. Teachers and parents will be notified. Recreation time and a major activity will be missed.
3rd Parents or guardians will be contacted to pick up their child.

*Note: major rule infractions, i.e. pushing, fighting and sexual harassment may result in the student receiving an immediate second or third referral.

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<tr>
<th>MARK YOUR CHILD’S LUGGAGE AND EACH ITEM OF CLOTHING WITH HIS/HER NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEEDED ITEMS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Sleeping bag (or two blanket bedroll and sheets) and pillow</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Two pairs of shoes (tennis shoes are fine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Five pairs of socks</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Five changes of underwear</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Three T-shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Two heavy cotton/flannel or wool shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Three pairs pants (jeans, cords, or heavy trousers)</td>
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<td>(regardless of the weather)</td>
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San Mateo Outdoor Education: A program of the San Mateo County Office of Education • www.smcoe.k12.ca.us/outdoored/ Instructional Services Division • 101 Twin Dolphin Drive • Redwood City CA 94065-1064 • (650) 802-5360