

OUTDOOR EDUCATION INFORMATION

WEATHER

Our outdoor activities will be carried on even in wet or cold weather. Students must be prepared with appropriate clothing. If your child doesn't have a heavy winter coat, please contact Ms. McDonald, Mrs. Reff or Mrs. McAlarnen.

SAFETY/DISCIPLINE

- ✓ Safety is the primary consideration in executing a successful Outdoor Education program.
- ✓ Behavior prior to the trip is taken into consideration. Students who are suspended prior to outdoor education may be asked not to attend.
- ✓ Please review and sign the **Behavioral Expectation** sheet on page 9 of this packet. This sheet must be returned with the other forms.
 - It is the responsibility of each student to know the rules and to follow them. Breaking a rule which jeopardizes the safety of any student will not be tolerated.
 - There will not be any warnings or second chances when safety is involved.
 - **In the case of serious infraction, parents will be called and required to pick up their child immediately.**

DAY OF DEPARTURE

MCPS will not allow students to bring their luggage on the school bus.

- Please make arrangements for your child and his/her luggage to get to school at 8:00 am on Monday, November 17, 2008 (Ms. McDonald's classes) OR Wednesday, November 19, 2008 (Ms. Abiodun's classes).
 - Your child's belongings should be contained in only two pieces of luggage. One may be a suitcase or a duffel bag and the second should be a sleeping bag wrapped in a waterproof cover such as a large plastic bag and tied securely.
 - Clearly label your child's luggage with first and last name.
- Each student will need a bag lunch for the first day of Outdoor Ed. **DO NOT PACK YOUR LUNCH IN YOUR LUGGAGE!**
 - All lunch items must be packed in disposable bags or containers. Be sure to clearly write the student's first and last name on the lunch bag. Drinks will be provided.

DAY OF RETURN

- Students will return to Newport Mill Middle School at approximately 1:15 PM on Wednesday November 19, 2008 (Ms.

McDonald's classes) OR Friday, November 21, 2008 (Ms. Abiodun's classes).

- o Sixth grade staff and students will be dismissed to go home immediately after the buses have been unloaded.
- o It is essential to make transportation arrangements for your child to be picked up at this time.
- o Please be sure to note the arrangements for your child on the form with the permission slip.

Again, students are not allowed to take luggage on their regular school bus for safety reasons. Students will not be allowed to wait for the afternoon buses.

WHY DOES MCPS ENCOURAGE OUTDOOR ED PARTICIPATION?

The MCPS Sixth Grade Outdoor Education program is an exciting three-day, two-night learning experience beyond the classroom walls. The objectives for this program are:

- ✓ to cultivate students' awareness, knowledge, appreciation, and concern for the natural environment.
- ✓ to motivate students to develop positive attitudes toward learning through varied experiences in the natural environment.
- ✓ to provide students with many direct experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring, classifying, hypothesizing, and predicting.
- ✓ to make the students' school program more meaningful by applying the knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real-life situations beyond the classroom.
- ✓ to help students learn to live democratically and responsibly for the welfare of the total group. to improve human relations among students and between children and adults.
- ✓ to instill a sense of responsibility to the environment and promote positive actions toward it.

We hope this information will be helpful. Parents and students should carefully read this packet together. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to take responsibility for themselves with the support of their parents and teachers. If we can be of any further assistance, please give us a call at 301-929-2244.

THINGS TO BRING TO OUTDOOR EDUCATION

BEDDING

- Sheets and a blanket or a sheet and a sleeping bag
- Pillow

TOILETRIES

- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Soap and container (A "ziplock!" plastic sandwich bag works great)
- Bath towel
- Brush
- Shampoo
- Deodorant

CLOTHING (Label clothing. Bring only comfortable clothing appropriate for outdoor physical activity. Try to avoid buying new items that might get soiled.)

- Sleepwear
- Underwear
- Socks(five pairs)
- Two pairs of jeans, slacks, or sweatpants
- Warm long sleeved shirts or sweatshirts (It is November and we will be outside a lot!)
- T-shirts
- Two pairs of sturdy shoes (sneakers are fine)

OUTERWEAR

- Warm jacket/Coat
- Hat or hood
- Rain poncho or large garbage bag (we'll improvise)

OPTIONAL/RECOMMENDED

- Plastic water bottle
- Lip balm
- Large plastic garbage bag for laundry

THINGS NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Pocket knife
- Sandals
- Blow dryers
- Drinks, gum, snacks or food
- Anything electronic
- Matches or lighters
- Money

*Other items **not** normally permitted in school.*