

2009-2010

# Gaithersburg Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education



**Who:** Gaithersburg Middle School 6th Grade Students

**What:** Outdoor Education

**When:** Mrs. Lane's Classes: November 30, 2009 - December 2, 2009  
Mr. Fitch's Classes: December 2, 2009 - December 4, 2009

**Where:** Lathrop E. Smith Outdoor Education Center, Rockville, MD

**Outdoor Education Coordinator:** Mrs. Jill Lane (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher)  
Jilliane\_E\_Lane@mcpsmd.org

## Parent Checklist:

\_\_\_ Completed and signed parent permission form - Due November 13, 2009

\_\_\_ Final Payment Due November 13, 2009 - (unless the attached Financial Aid Form has been submitted with permission slip.)

\_\_\_ If your child needs to take medication while at Outdoor Education:

- Complete and sign the attached MCPS Form #525-13 (*Authorization to Administer Medication*).
- Adult brings medicine (new and unopened container) to the GMS nurse no later than Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

# *Why Outdoor Education?*

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 awareness, knowledge, appreciation, and concern for the natural environment.
- To develop positive attitudes toward learning through varied experiences in the natural environment.
- To provide direct experiences using scientific processes.
- To apply knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real-life situations beyond the classroom.
- To develop citizenship.
- To promote physical fitness.

An interdisciplinary approach is used to achieve these objectives. Outdoor Education is a memorable experience for all students.

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION INFORMATION

## DATES:

Mrs. Lane's Classes: November 30, 2009 - December 2, 2009  
Mr. Fitch's Classes: December 2, 2009 - December 4, 2009

## FINANCES

- The cost is **\$76.00**, which includes transportation to and from the Smith Center, meals, lodging, snacks, on-site nurse, medical insurance, and other expenses.
- Payment is due as soon as possible but no later than **November 13, 2009** (unless the attached Financial Aid Form has been submitted with the permission slip).
- Make checks or money orders payable to Gaithersburg Middle School. *Please write your child's name and science teacher's name on the check/money order.*
- **If this fee creates a financial hardship, please complete the attached Outdoor Ed Financial Aid form (there are options to receive full scholarships and/or to pay in installments).**

## MEDICATIONS

- All medications to be administered at Outdoor Education - including over-the-counter medications - must be accompanied by MCPS form 525-13, "Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication" (which is attached). You may also pick up a copy of the form in the GMS health room or your child's science teacher.
- The medicine should be in an unopened container and be labeled with the student's name and science teacher's name.
- **Parents** must bring their child's medication and form 525-13 to the GMS school nurse by **November 25, 2009**.
- Medications must be picked up from the GMS health room **by the parent** at the conclusion of the Outdoor Education program.
- Please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor, to discuss any confidential concerns.

## DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

- If your child requires a special diet, please send dietary instructions as soon as possible.
- The kitchen at the Smith Center can provide alternative menus to accommodate most dietary restrictions.
- In extreme cases, parents will be asked to send prepared meals which meet their child's individual needs.

## WEATHER

- Weather varies greatly. All outdoor activities continue regardless of the weather.
- Please send comfortable, *not new*, shoes and clothing with your child.
- Bread bags are helpful to protect feet from wet shoes or boots.
- For safety reasons, shorts and open-toed shoes are not permitted.

## MAIL

- Students love to receive mail at outdoor education. A letter mailed one week before the first day of the program should arrive on time.
- The address is:

**Smith Center  
5110 Meadowside Lane  
Rockville, MD 20855**

- Write your child's name, science teacher's name, and Gaithersburg Middle School on the envelope.

## SAFETY/DISCIPLINE

- The safety of each child is a primary concern of the GMS staff at outdoor education.
- All Board policies and school rules that govern student behavior during school hours apply at outdoor education.
- It is each child's responsibility to know and follow the rules. Breaking a rule that jeopardizes the safety of any student will not be tolerated.
- In such cases, parents will be required to pick up their child immediately.

## DAY OF DEPARTURE

- Bring your child or arrange for your child (and his/her luggage) to be brought to school at **8:45 a.m.** on the day of departure. MCPS buses will depart GMS to transport students to the Smith Center at 9:30am.
- **Please do not send your child (and/or luggage) to school on the normal school bus (Teachers will be preparing for the trip and will not be able to supervise students until 8:45 a.m.)**
- **Your child may only bring one suitcase or duffel bag and a sleeping bag or bed roll (placed in large plastic bag). Label both with child's name.**
- **Students need a bag lunch for the first day.** Please label with child's name.

## DAY OF RETURN

- Students will return to GMS at approximately **1:15 p.m. on the day of return.**
- Sixth grade staff and students will be dismissed after the buses have been unloaded.
- Please make transportation arrangements so your child will be picked up at this time.

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION 2009

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Calendar

*Please mark your calendars with these important dates!*

August 27 &

Week of Aug. 31: Outdoor Education Information Packet sent home with students

September 10: MCPS Outdoor Education Open House at the Smith Center  
(See attached flyer for more information)  
(6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Smith Center  
5110 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, MD)

October 7: PARENT INFORMATION MEETING NIGHT (in English)  
7:00 p.m. GMS Cafeteria

October 8: PARENT INFORMATION MEETING NIGHT (in Spanish)  
7:00 p.m. GMS Cafeteria

November 13:

**ALL PERMISSION SLIPS AND FEES DUE**

\*\*Please complete Outdoor Ed Financial Aid form if you have financial issues.

November 23: Parent Volunteer Meeting 7:00 p.m. GMS Library

November 25: Medications and MCPS Form #525-13 due to GMS nurse

November 30-  
December 2 Outdoor Education (Mrs. Lane's Students)

December 2-4 Outdoor Education (Mr. Fitch's Students)

# Things to Bring to Outdoor Education

## Bedding

- Sheets and blanket or a sleeping bag
- Pillow

## Toilet Articles

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap and container (a plastic sandwich bag works great)
- Bath towel
- Brush
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Hair Dryer (optional—one per cabin)

**Clothing** (LABEL all clothing. Pack only comfortable clothing appropriate for outdoor physical activity. Avoid buying new items!)

- Sleepwear
- Underwear
- Socks (many pairs!)
- Pants (jeans, slacks, or sweatpants)—3 or 4 pairs if possible (NO SHORTS!)
- Long-sleeved shirts or sweatshirts
- T-shirts
- 2 pairs of sturdy shoes (sneakers are fine)—NO OPEN TOED SHOES!

**Outerwear** (we go outside in all safe weather conditions—rain and snow included!)

- Jacket/coat
- Hat, gloves
- Rain coat or poncho
- Plastic bread bags to line the inside of shoes so that feet stay dry

## Other

- Book for independent reading
- Trash bags for laundry and wet items
- Chapstick, (Sunscreen and bug spray if attending ODE in Fall or Spring)
- Water Bottle
- Disposable camera labeled with child's name (optional)

\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT BRING \*\*\*\*\*

Pocket knife, matches or lighters, firearms, flashlights, sandals, shorts, drinks, gum, snacks or food (except lunch on the first day), money, electronic equipment, or other items not permitted in school.

Child's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Outdoor Education Financial Aid Form

We understand that some individuals are unable to pay the entire Outdoor Education fee at one time. If you need financial assistance, please complete this form and return it with your child's permission slip.

### Payment Options: (Check One)

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **3 Payments:**

\$26 - Payment #1: due September 25, 2009

\$25 - Payment #2: due October 22, 2009

\$25 - Payment #3: due November 13, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **2 Payments:**

\$38 - Payment #1: due September 25, 2009

\$38 - Payment #2: due November 13, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Other**

Please contact Mrs. Lane to arrange an alternative payment plan.

\_\_\_\_\_

We are unable to pay any amount of the fee and need FULL financial assistance.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be reached: \_\_\_\_\_



**Gaithersburg Middle School**  
**Outdoor Education Parent Volunteer Application**

I can help during the following sessions:

_____	Mrs. Lane's Classes	November 30 - December 2
_____	Mr. Fitch's Classes	December 2 - December 4

I am available (check all that apply):

_____	To spend the first night in a cabin with 18 students.
_____	To spend the second night in a cabin with 18 students.
_____	To lead a simple craft activity (first night from 6-7pm)
_____	To assist with evening activities on first night (7pm-9pm)
_____	To assist with evening activities on second night (7pm-9pm)

I am not available to assist at the Smith Center, however I can:

_____	Help load student gear onto buses on the first day (9:00 a.m.)
_____	Help unload student gear from buses on the last day (1:15 p.m.)
_____	Donate needed supplies and deliver them to GMS (we will send out a list of needed donations)
_____	Serve as pre-trip translator for non-English speaking families

Volunteer's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*Training for Parent Volunteers \*\*\*\*\*

November 23, 2009

7:00 p.m. in Media Center