

January 3, 2020

Hello Parents and Guardians,

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade team is very excited to begin the process of planning our Outdoor Education experience. We hope the following information will be helpful in your planning with your child for this amazing opportunity.

The MCPS 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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, and 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

The following packet contains vital information about this opportunity. Please read everything carefully, and return all parts of the permission slip to school.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you!

Christina Lynch and Anne Isleib  
Gaithersburg Middle School  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leaders

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Location:** Lathrop E. Smith Education Center  
5110 Meadowside Lane  
Rockville, MD.

## **Sessions:**

**Session 1:** Monday, March 16th - Wednesday, March 18th

Ms. Edwards' and Ms. Paciotti's periods 2 and 3

**Session 2:** Wednesday, March 18th - Friday, March 20th

Ms. Edwards' and Ms. Paciotti's periods 4 and 5

**Session 3:** Monday, March 23rd- Wednesday, March 25th

Ms. Edwards' and Ms. Paciotti's periods 7, and Ms. Brown's period 5, and students who do not have Science class

**Financial Information:** The cost of the Outdoor Education program is \$76. We are asking for a \$4 donation to make it a total of \$80 to be able to provide the following:

- Meals and Snacks
  - Day 1- Dinner
  - Day 2- Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
  - Day 3- Breakfast and Lunch
- Lodging for two nights
- Medical Insurance and On-site Nurse
- Activity Supplies

Please make any check payable to Gaithersburg Middle School. Please write the full name of your child in the memo section of the check. ***If this trip imposes a financial hardship, please indicate so on the financial obligation form provided in this packet.*** Students will be provided assistance if needed to attend this wonderful opportunity.

**Medication:** Parents of students who require medication of any type must give the medication in the original container to, Ms. Congo RN, school nurse. All medication (prescription and over the counter) must be accompanied by the MCPS medication form. Over the counter medication must have the safety seal intact. Medications stored and administered from the health room will not be sent to camp. The only exception will be epi-pens and inhalers, which will be sent with your child on the bus to the Smith Center.

- All medications must be accompanied by the MCPS Form 525-13 "Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication to an MCPS Pupil While in School."
- Parents must bring their children's **unopened and labeled** original container by Friday, February 28, 2020.

**Dietary Restrictions:** In this packet, you will find the list of meals that are provided to the students. If your child requires a special diet for religious or medical reasons, please send dietary instructions with your permission slip. The kitchen is prepared to provide menus which will accommodate most dietary restrictions. **In extreme cases, parents will be asked to send pre-prepared meals to meet their child's individual needs.**

**Weather:** Our outdoor activities will be carried on even in wet or cold weather. Students must be prepared with appropriate clothing. If school is canceled or delayed, communication will be sent via Connect Ed messages.

**Safety/Discipline:**

- All students will be continuously supervised by MCPS Staff and Parent Volunteers.
- Safety is the primary consideration in executing a successful Outdoor Education program. Please take the time to read over the Code of Conduct with your child.
- **In some cases, parents will be called and required to pick up their child from the Smith Center.** There will not be any warnings or second chances when student safety is involved.
- *We expect that all of our students will have a safe and wonderful time*

**Day of Departure Information:**

- Report to school at **8:45 AM.** **Parents must provide this transportation to the school.**
- **Drop students & luggage off in the front of the school** where students will check in with a staff member.
- **Bring a bag lunch for the first day (no glass).** Water or milk will be provided during lunch.
- The first meal served by the Smith Center will be dinner.
- Students are to report to the cafeteria with their labeled bag lunch after checking in.
- The students will depart for the Smith Center by 10 a.m.

**Essential Equipment:**

- **All MCPS regulations about items prohibited in school ALSO apply to Outdoor Education.**
- Students are allowed **no more than two pieces of luggage** – one for clothing and one for bedding.
- **Each student's gear must be clearly labeled with their names.** Students will also receive a piece of colored string that they will attach to their luggage to indicate their cabin.
- We will participate in outdoor activities whether it rains or snows, so please pack accordingly.
- The list of what to pack is included in this packet.

**Overnight Accommodations:** Males and females sleep in separate buildings. Students will be supervised in cabins by an adult chaperone or a student counselor from GHS at all times. If this is a concern to you, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lynch. Arrangements can be made for any situation. Parents, remember that we are always in need of adult chaperones.

**Return Information:**

- Students will return to school at **1:00 pm** on the last day of their trip. Session 1 on Wednesday, March 18th, Session 2 on Friday, March 20th, and Session 3 on Wednesday, March 25th.
- **Parents need to make arrangements to pick up their student at this time.**
- **Students will not be returning to classes.**
- **Students are not allowed to ride the school bus home with all of their belongings.**

**Contact Information:**

**Kids love to get mail!** To reach your student at Outdoor Education, letters should be mailed by the preceding Saturday for Session 1, Tuesday for Session 2 or Saturday for Session 3. Mail should be addressed as follows:

Student's Name  
c/o Smith Center  
Outdoor Education  
5110 Meadow Side Lane  
Rockville, MD 20853

Phone Number: 240-740-1404 (**Emergency Only!**) **Students will not be calling home except for emergencies. For MCPS Outdoor Education information online, please visit:**

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/outdoored>

**For any questions prior to departure, please contact Ms. Christina Lynch at 240-740-4950.**

## **Site Specific Information**

**Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center**  
**5110 Meadowside Lane**  
**Rockville, MD 20855**  
**Phone: 240-740-1404**  
**Fax: 301-924-3149**

This center, owned and operated by Montgomery County Public Schools, is located approximately in the middle of Montgomery County and is included completely within the boundaries of the Rock Creek Regional Park. The site is host to Grade six residential programs as well as day programs.

### **Directions**

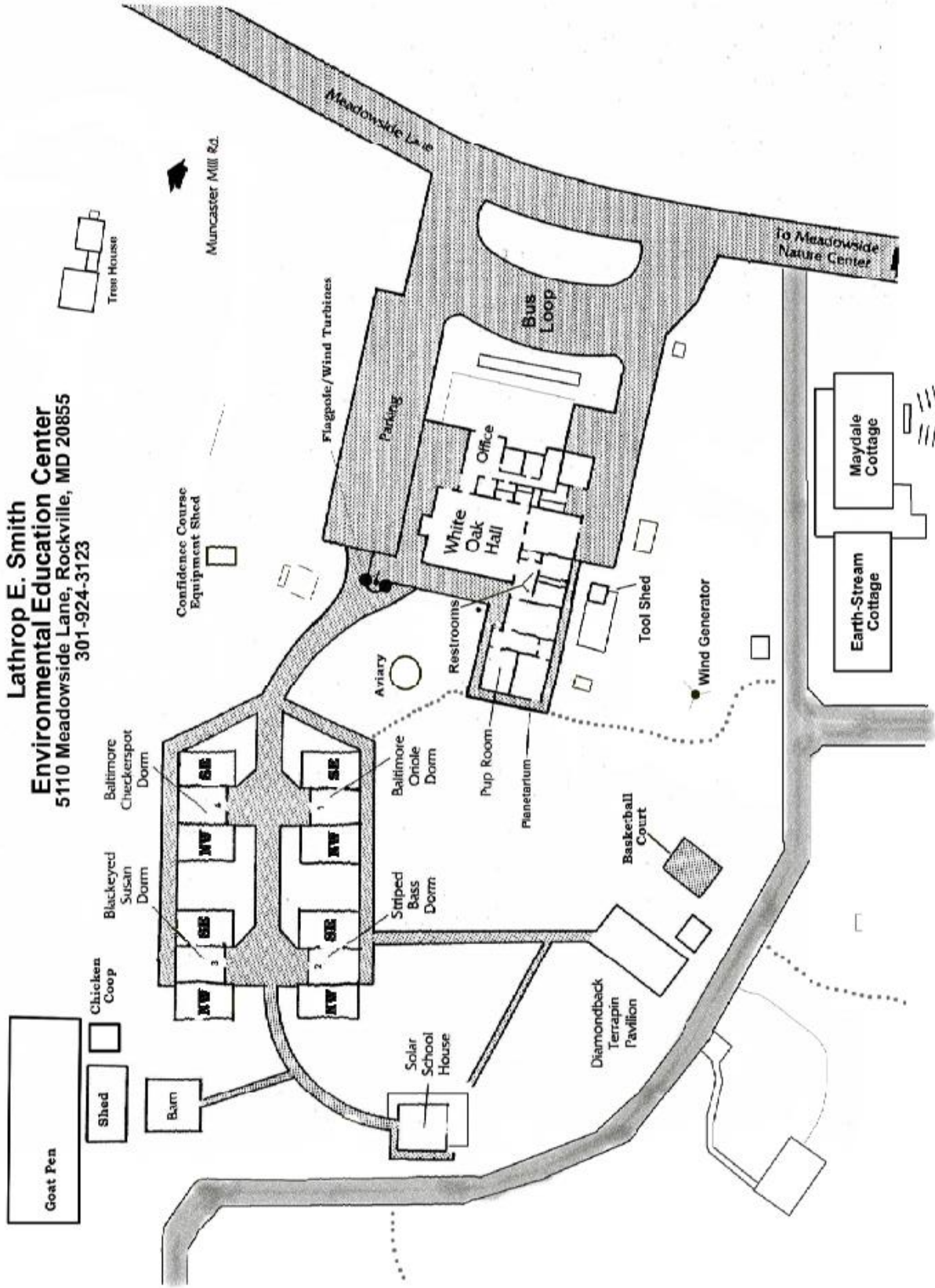
From Washington Beltway (I-495): Take Exit 31 for Georgia Avenue; Travel North on Georgia Avenue past Leisure World; Turn left on Norbeck Road (Route 28); At first light turn right onto Muncaster Mill Road (Route 115); Travel 1.5 miles and turn left onto Meadowside Lane; Take the first right into the L.E. Smith Center parking lot.

From I-270 North: Take exit 8 for Shady Grove Road; Bear Right onto Redland Road; Cross Route 355; Turn right onto Needwood Road; Turn right onto Muncaster Mill Road; Cross Avery Road and turn right onto Meadowside Lane; Take the first right into the L.E. Smith Center parking lot.

From I-270 South: Take the exit for I-370 towards the Metro; Take the Shady Grove Road exit just before the Metro access; Turn left onto Shady Grove Road East; Pass Midcounty Highway and turn right onto Muncaster Mill Road; Cross Avery Road and turn right onto Meadowside Lane; Take the first right into the L.E. Smith Center parking lot.

There are four dormitory buildings at the Smith Center, each housing up to 40 people. Girls' dorms are completely separate from boys' dorms. The dorms are heated in the winter and have fans in the warmer months. The rooms have bunk beds and private showers and bathroom.

**Lathrop E. Smith  
Environmental Education Center**  
5110 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, MD 20855  
301-924-3123



# Code of Conduct

Please read this code carefully with your child. You and your child must sign that you read and understand the code of conduct on your permission slip.

Students: Your behavior is appropriate as long as it does not:

1. Physically hurt you or others.
2. Mentally hurt you or others.
3. Involve theft or destruction of property.
4. Interrupt the program.

## **Here are some helpful hints about your behavior:**

1. Do not go into your cabin or another cabin during times when the group is not there.
2. Do not go into a cabin that is not assigned to you!
3. Keep your schedule with you. You are expected to be on time and in the correct place.
4. Be prepared for your instructional activity and KP duty.
5. Dress appropriately for the weather.
6. Remember to clean your area after all activities.
7. When lights out are called, you should be in bed.
8. Listen to all directions given by a teacher, staff, or chaperone.

## Grade 6 Residential Outdoor and Environmental Education Program Equipment List

Essential Equipment	Optional Equipment	DO NOT Bring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boots/sturdy hiking shoes (2)</li> <li>Long pants (2-3)</li> <li>Shirts- long/short sleeved (2-3)</li> <li>Socks (4-6)</li> <li>Underwear (2-3)</li> <li>Pajamas</li> <li>Jacket/Sweater/Coat</li> <li>Raincoat/poncho</li> <li>Hat</li> <li>Sheets and blanket or sleeping bag</li> <li>Pillow</li> <li>Laundry bag</li> <li>Reusable water bottle</li> <li>Toilet articles: bath towel, wash cloth, comb, brush, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camera</li> <li>Flip flops for shower</li> <li>Sunscreen</li> <li>Insect repellent</li> <li>Watch</li> <li>Lip balm</li> <li>Shorts (recreation time only)</li> <li>pen/pencil</li> <li>Book</li> <li>Journal</li> <li>Binoculars</li> <li>Compass</li> <li>Small games</li> <li>Bandana for a napkin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gum, candy, food</li> <li>Bottled drinks</li> <li>Cell phone</li> <li>Aerosol sprays</li> <li>Hair dryer</li> <li>Curling iron</li> <li>Money</li> <li>Electronic games</li> <li>MP3 player, radio</li> </ul> <p>As in all schools: weapons, firearms, and matches are not permitted</p>

### Remember:

- Check the weather and pack accordingly
- Label all equipment with the student's name
- Pants must be worn to all instructional sessions
- Bagged lunch for first day (no glass)



### **Day and Evening Areas of Study:**

#### **Daytime classes:**

- o **Stream Study:** Students investigate the local watershed and work in groups to assess the health of a nearby stream. Students learn techniques for collection of biotic and abiotic data of an aquatic ecosystem using macro-invertebrate surveys, chemical analyses, and stream buffer analysis.
  
- o **Predator/Prey Relationships:** Predator/Prey is a guided simulation designed to increase understanding of the predator/prey relationship that animals exhibit in our local ecosystem. Participants are assigned a role in the food chain, participate in the simulation, collect and analyze results, and assess factors affecting their survival.
  
- o **Treasure Earth:** Treasure Earth focuses on natural resources in the local environment through geocaching. Students will navigate to predetermined locations based upon varying habitats where they will use testing equipment and make observations to determine the location.
  
- o **Confidence Course:** Trained teachers will lead students through obstacles and challenges to test their confidence and teamwork. Students work in small groups to communicate and problem solve through a course. All teachers that lead this course have been trained and certified.

#### **Evening activities:**

- Crafts
- Planetarium
- Night Hike
- Campfire/S'mores
- Relay Races and Games
- SSL Activity
- Journal Writing and Reflecting

**Smith Center Menu: Could be subject to change.**

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Breakfast		Egg Pattie Bacon Whole Grain Bagel Assorted milk Juice Fresh/Canned Fruit  Vegetarian Cereal	Whole Grain French Toast and Syrup Sausage Link Whole Grain Bagel Assorted milk Juice Fresh/Canned Fruit  Vegetarian Cereal
Lunch	GROUP ARRIVAL Students must bring lunch Assorted milk provided	Hamburgers and Hot Dogs French Fries Veggie Bar Assorted milk Lettuce, Tomato, Whole Grain Roll Fresh/Canned Fruit  Vegetarian Cheese Dippers	Whole Grain Pizza Pepperoni or Cheese Green Beans Veggie Bar Assorted milk Fresh/Canned Fruit  Vegetarian Cheese Pizza
Dinner	Baked Barbeque Chicken Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Carrots Salad Bar Whole Grain Dinner Roll Assorted milk  Vegetarian Calzone	Spaghetti Meat or Meatless Sauce Broccoli Salad Bar French Bread Assorted milk  Vegetarian Meatless Sauce	

**Salad Bar Lunch/Dinner:**

Salad mix

Tomatoes

Shredded Cheese

Baby Carrots

Chick Peas

Romaine

Kidney Beans

Dressings: Ranch, Caesar, Salsa Ranch

The permission slip for Outdoor Education 2020 begins on the next page.

Please be sure to fill out **ALL** sections on the permission slip.

Remember, any medication needs to be brought to the school by Friday, February 28th.

Deadline to hand in permission form is Friday, February 28th.