

Dear Parents:

Your child's class will be participating in Mendocino Outdoor Science School this year. This is a unique educational opportunity for your student, as the outdoors will become their classroom for a week. The standards-based curriculum focuses on interdisciplinary studies of the natural world, conservation and language arts.

Group living skills, problem-solving and communication skills are stressed throughout the program as well. Your child will be living with classmates during the five-day program and will learn valuable social skills. A feeling of community is created as we all share responsibility for daily camp chores such as meal cleanup, setting tables, and cabin cleanliness. The group also learns to cooperate with each other through group initiative and discussion activities.

The program takes place at the Mendocino Woodlands State Park, a national historic landmark and group camping facility operated in agreement with the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The 720acre facility is located nine miles east of the coastal village of Mendocino. The camp lodge is equipped with a large kitchen and dining room. Students are housed in separate cabins, which are in clusters near restroom and shower facilities. Students sleep four to a cabin on mattress-covered beds. Teachers and cabin leaders supervise cabin time.

The Education Director and professional teaching staff will be on duty full-time and will be responsible for field studies. Keeping safety in mind, the ratio of students to instructors is kept to 12:1. Cabin groups are closely supervised by volunteer cabin leaders provided by the school. These cabin leaders, depending upon school preference, will be adult chaperones or trained high school students. Children are supervised at all-times. In the unlikely event of an emergency, parents will be notified immediately. A hospital is 30 minutes away from the site.

Students will be served three well-balanced meals a day. You are asked to make certain that your child does not bring any food with them other than their lunch for the first day.

Please read over the equipment list of items your child should bring with them. Have them practice packing. **Make sure he or she has adequate rain gear and warm clothing.** A poorly prepared child may have a disappointing experience. Working together we can make certain your child is prepared!

We look forward to meeting your child and feel confident that he or she will have an enjoyable educational experience.

Thank you.