6th Grade Outdoor Education Trip

Informational Sheet

We’re looking forward to the Outdoor Education trip this September! It will surely be a highlight of our year. Below is an outline of what to expect. Get ready for an adventure!

Purpose

The purpose of the Outdoor Education Program at Taft is to teach an appreciation, understanding, and awareness of the natural community by studying and interacting with the natural world. Underlying the trip is the belief that learning is not restricted to the classroom. Learning is also found in the world around us. Through the combination of related, multi-disciplinary activities and an interaction with the natural world, it is hoped that students will not only acquire new knowledge, but also will come to appreciate this philosophy.
Facility

Taft Campus is located just off of Highway 64 near Oregon, Illinois. The scenic campus is located next to the Rock River and adjacent to Lowden State Park. Students will sleep dormitory style in bunk beds, with boys and girls housed in separate rooms or buildings. Meals are served family style in the dining hall.

Health

Taft Campus employs a nurse who is on site from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM. She will package medications and dispense them at morning and noon meals. School personnel will dispense evening medications. All students are required to have a completed and signed health form before they can participate in the program. Taft Campus carries a basic accident and illness insurance policy on all participants. In addition, Taft staff are trained in First Aid and CPR.

Instruction

A variety of activities and projects are prepared by Taft and Nettelhorst staff. The activities will take advantage of the natural surroundings of the area using the environment as a natural stimulus for learning. Activities will include the areas of reading and language arts, science, health, social studies and physical education. Examples of activities include the following:

- bird watching
- forest ecology
- geology
- fire science
- orienteering/GPS
- survival skills
- team-building games
- garbology
- Native American and pioneering studies

Packing

Students will need to dress for the weather since we will be outside. Pack only old clothes and shoes. New clothes may be ruined by heavy outdoor use. Students need to bring a sleeping bag or bedroll and a pillow. A packing list with more specific items will be provided closer to the date of the trip.

Cell Phones

Students will turn in their cell phones at the start of the school day as normal prior to boarding the bus. Students will have 30 minutes in which to call home after the evening campfire before turning in their cell phones for the night. Phones will be returned to students upon arrival at Nettelhorst on Friday afternoon.

Supervision

School staff or adult chaperones will assume the responsibility of supervision and discipline. A Taft staff member will be on site in a security role throughout our visit, as well as maintenance personnel to take care of any emergencies.