

Outdoor Education

One of the richest learning experiences a child may have is to participate in a carefully planned school camping project. The camp provides an opportunity for children to learn more effectively those things that cannot be taught in the classroom. The children and their teachers learn to understand each other better, to relax, to work and play together, to care for their own needs, to practice proper health habits, and to gain insight into some of the moral and spiritual values associated with life in the open.

The outdoor education project will offer opportunities for the children to learn about wildlife, astronomy, water safety, and the history of this area. We expect that outdoor education in Wyalusing State Park will give our students additional knowledge and appreciation of our beautiful state and a desire to preserve our great outdoors. Experiences scheduled for this trip may include Effigy Mounds, an eco-cruise, astronomy, orienteering, wildlife identification, canoeing, hiking, fishing, craft activities, and activities designed to build stronger relationships with other students and teachers.

Educational Objectives

To live democratically with other children and adults while in an outdoor setting.

To understand and better appreciate the natural setting.

To develop self-reliance in the outdoors.

To demonstrate safe and healthful practices in a social setting.

To recognize the wise use of natural resources.

To expand our personal view of our American heritage.

To connect classroom learning with on-site experiences.

Wyalusing State Park

Wyalusing State Park comprises 1,671 acres rising over the Mississippi Valley where the Wisconsin River joins the Mississippi River. The crest of the park is Sentinel Ridge, 500 feet above the Mississippi River. This provides an excellent view of the city of Prairie du Chien, the confluence of the two rivers, and the sloughs and ridges in the surrounding area. As we walk through the park, we find that it is much the same as it was in the days of the Indians. The name "Wyalusing" means "the home of the warrior."

*The camp has four cabins (dorms) which are equipped with bunk beds, mattresses, toilet and shower facilities, and heat.

*The kitchen lodge is completely modern with all new stainless steel equipment, including a dishwasher. The kitchen adjoins a large dining area and an assembly room.

*Wyalusing State Park, from De Soto, is reached by following Highway 35 south through Prairie du Chien and across Bridgeport Bridge, ½ mile, where Highway C intersects. Turn right (west) and follow C to the top of the bluff where Highway X intersects. Turn right on X and follow it to the park entrance which is CX.

NOTE: There is a telephone in the main building at the campsite; however, there may not always be someone on hand to answer it. The number is (608)996-2224.

In case of an emergency, you may also contact the school (608-648-0100) and have a message relayed to us.

READ AND REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT REGULATIONS

1. Curfew: Every student staying in the camp must be in the dorms by a given time each night. The time may change depending upon scheduled activities. Be sure to listen to directions and ask your counselor if you have questions.
2. Quiet hours: 11:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. (Subject to change.) All students are in bed during this time.
3. Clean-up Time: Beds in dormitories must be neatly made by 7:20 each morning. Keep your suitcase or bag and other articles off the floor so those assigned to clean dorms can sweep the floor. All personal articles must be taken from the restrooms.
4. Boys stay in the boys' dorm area; girls stay in the girls' dorm area.
5. The "Buddy System" will be used. Two girls or two boys will be together. No one goes off by himself or herself.
6. Adjust the windows for ventilation, using respect for others. DO NOT adjust the thermostat.
7. Keep your clothing and personal belongs to the very limit-see PACKING GUIDELINES.
8. Health
 - a. NO FOOD – do not bring food into the dorms, it draws flies and mice. If food/drink is found it will be confiscated and reported to a supervisor.
 - b. DO NOT walk barefoot in the dorms. This is a safety precaution.
 - c. If you require first aid, report to your supervisor.
 - d. If you require medication of any kind, it must be turned in to staff for dispensing.
 - e. Wash your hands with soap often. Shower each evening.
9. Accept responsibilities: Cooperation makes camp life and dorm life pleasant. Accept your responsibilities willingly.
10. Supervision: Respect is to be shown to EVERYONE.
11. Checking Out: When camp is to be broken up, check your belongings to see if you have everything. Don't expect someone else to take care of your things.
12. Follow all directions and safety procedures given by teachers, adults, and High School counselors.

BE RESPECTFUL; BE RESPONSIBLE; BE SAFE

PACKING GUIDELINES

Two Bag Limit

Each child will take along the items listed below for personal use. Pack the items in a duffle bag, suitcase, or box. Heavy duty garbage bags work well. LABEL ALL BAGS, BOXES, SLEEPING BAGS with students name in such a way that it will not wear off.

Bedding:

- 1 sheet
- 1 blanket or sleeping bag
- 1 pillow (roll into blanket/bag)

Toilet articles:

- 1 bath towel
- 1 hand towel
- 1 wash cloth
- soap, shampoo
- toothbrush/toothpaste
- comb/brush
- deodorant
- Plastic bag for dirty laundry

Clothing:

- 2 jeans (old ones work best)
- heavy jacket or sweatshirt
- underwear (3 changes)
- shoes (old –suitable for hiking)
- socks (2-3 extra pairs)
- flip-flops (around dorm/shower)
- raincoat or poncho
- pajamas (warm ones)
- T-shirts (3-4)
- shorts (1-2 pair)
- hat/visor/sunglasses

Equipment:

- optional: disposable camera
- **student is responsible for own Camera**
- **put student's name on camera with permanent marker**

You should NOT purchase new clothing or equipment for this camp out. Use your own judgment in substituting items on list.

DO NOT bring: curling irons, make-up, playing cards, jack knives, matches or lighters, mp3 players, iPods, electronic games, digital cameras, or CELL PHONES. Anything expensive such as jewelry, watches, rings, etc., should be left at home – the district will not be responsible for lost items.

LITTLE OR NO SPENDING MONEY WILL BE NEEDED. If you must bring any, NO MORE THAN \$10 for the gift shop at Spook Cave.

To prevent loss or misplacement of toilet articles, towels and wash cloths, they should be enclosed in a plastic bag or basket when not in use. Put your name on the bag. Gallon-sized Ziploc works well.

WYALUSING STATE PARK 6th GRADE TRIP PERMISSION AND FEE SLIP

There will be a \$10.00 fee per student to cover expenses of craft materials such as T-shirts. Please return this completed form and cash/check made out to De Soto Area Schools to the District Office by **July 30, 2015.**

_____ (student's name) has permission to attend the Wyalusing Outdoor Education Project on August 21 - 23, 2015.

Phone number where **parent/guardian** can be reached: (We **MUST** be able to reach someone at any time.)

Who to contact: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

Alternative emergency contact person in case you cannot be reached:

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Relationship to child: _____

MEDICAL:

List medical conditions, allergies, or special dietary requirements your child has:

Provide detailed information regarding prescription and/or OTC medication, directions for administering, over the course of this trip. This medication is to be provided by the parent/guardian.

1. ALL MEDICATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE OR MS. CHRISTOPHERSON BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN BEFORE LEAVING! DO NOT PACK IT!
2. ALL MEDICATION MUST BE IN ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION OR OTC CONTAINER.
3. MEDICATION WILL BE RETURNED TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN ONLY UPON OUR RETURN TO SCHOOL.

Staff has my permission to administer over-the-counter medicine if needed other than what is noted above. Yes No (i.e. Tylenol, Advil, Pepto Bismol, Benadryl, Cough Drops)

Miscellaneous

T-shirt size - _____ Permission to watch PG 13 movie: Yes NO

I have read the information pertaining to the outdoor educational programming experiences and understand there is the potential risk for minor to major injuries resulting in my child's participation. I have discussed with my child the importance to follow all directions and safety instructions given by teachers and high school student counselors.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____