

June 18, 2010

Dear Ninth Grade Parents,

Sage Ridge School's Outdoor Education Week is September 13 through September 17, 2010. The entire student body and faculty will be participating on grade level trips. Regular classes will not be held. The Outdoor Education Trip Informational Meeting for parents is scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Sage Ridge School. This is an important meeting for parents to attend. The faculty members for each trip will be present to answer any questions and to provide essential trip information. Please mark your calendars.

The 9th grade will travel to the Leavitt Meadows Trailhead off of CA 108, Sonora Pass, accessing a "recommended" wilderness area adjacent to the Emigrant Wilderness just south of Bridgeport, California. We will employ the services of Naturalists at Large, a well-established outdoor education organization. Their naturalists, backpacking specialists, organization and curriculum make this an exceptional and safe experience for our students. This trip includes a four-night backpacking experience. Sage Ridge School faculty will join each of the trail groups and be a part of all the activities throughout the week. Students will depart Sage Ridge School at 8:30 a.m. Monday, September 14 and travel to the trailhead by chartered bus. Students will return to Sage Ridge by 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 17. Please supply your child on the departure day with a bag lunch, drink and snack for the bus ride. Lunch on the return will be provided.

On Book Day, August 23, there will be an area dedicated to an **Outdoor Gear Swap and Share:** the swap and sharing of outdoor equipment and clothing. If you have anything to give to the swap or share with another family, a list will be established to keep track of the sharing between families, please keep this in mind over the summer. Consider your child's outgrown boots, rain jackets, extra sleeping bag, etc. and please bring it to the Great Space by Friday, August 20. For this trip, SRS does own and can loan to a family in need of a backpack or sleeping pad. Please contact me if you would like to reserve an item. The School also has for loan many backpacks. Please contact me if you wish to borrow a SRS backpack for your child.

Please find attached the required forms to be completed by you on behalf of your child and returned to Mrs. Stephens, Divisional Assistant, no later than Friday, August 27. Please do not hesitate to call or email me regarding this trip.

Sincerely,

Colburn Shindell
Middle School Head
Outdoor Education Coordinator
cshindell@sageridge.org



www.natsatlarge.com

BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT LIST

Weather can be unpredictable and extreme. Night and morning temperatures can be cold, while the days can be warm and sunny. To make your trip comfortable and enjoyable, please follow this equipment list carefully. Bring everything on the list. If students have excess gear, adjustments can be made by the naturalists at the trailhead.

STAYING COMFORTABLE DURING THE DAY

Layering your clothing is the key to comfort in an active outdoor environment. The philosophy is that you can add or shed "layers" of clothing as necessary. Layers should start with thermal underwear (top and bottom) as the innermost layer. This should be a synthetic material, so it will wick away perspiration and keep you dry. Your next, or middle, layer is an insulating bulky layer, followed by a protective (wind and rain proof) outer layer.

Wool or synthetic fabrics are the best choices for keeping warm and comfortable in the outdoors. While cotton fabric is comfortable in warm, dry conditions, it does not retain body heat when it is wet. A wet cotton sweatshirt will not keep you warm. *Therefore, we recommend not bringing cotton items, like jeans (which are made of cotton and are not comfortable to hike in).*

Wool and synthetic items are easily available from surplus stores, discount stores, and sporting goods chains. They can often be borrowed from friends, and may even be found in your own closet.

YOU SHOULD BRING:

- One (1) set of thermal synthetic (not cotton) long underwear:** Polypropylene, Thermax, or capilene are good material choices: your first layer.
- Underwear:** number appropriate for trip length.
- Two (2) pairs wool or synthetic pants:** Jeans and cotton pants are too difficult to walk in for extended periods of time.
- Shorts for walking**
- Shirts or turtlenecks:** Long and short sleeved - number appropriate for day use. Any material is fine. Remember, cotton will not keep you warm when wet or sweaty.
- One sweater:** Wool or acrylic; *not cotton*. Synthetics and wool are lightweight and warm even when wet.
- Jacket:** Warm ski type, or pile jacket with waterproof shell.
- Rainwear:** Poncho or coated nylon rain jacket with hood and pants. They can be purchased at Target, K-Mart, or other discount stores in the Sporting Goods department. Make sure they are sturdy enough to walk in without tearing.
- Hat with brim:** Baseball cap is O.K.
- Wool cap or fleece hat:** Essential for warmth!
- Gloves or mittens:** Synthetic material or wool

FOOTWEAR:

- Boots:** Well broken in and waterproofed or STURDY WALKING SHOES. (*High top Nikes, Reeboks, etc. make good hiking shoes.*) Running shoes or "sneakers" do not provide adequate ankle support, and are not waterproof. Backpack trails are often across uneven terrain. Boots provide the necessary support for feet and ankles as well as increased protection from

“stubbed toes.” *Break your boots in before you come:* you will save your feet from blisters and uncomfortable “hot spots” !

- Another pair of shoes THAT CAN GET WET:** Lace-up shoes preferred. These are needed for creek crossings, or water activities. Old tennis shoes are a great choice.
- Two (2) pairs of heavy wool or synthetic socks:** Remember that cotton does not retain heat when wet and will not dry quickly.
- Lightweight synthetic socks:** These act as a liner under wool socks and help prevent blisters.

KEEPING WARM AT NIGHT:

Sleeping warm in a wilderness setting is crucial. The key is to create a system that insulates you from the elements while keeping warm air trapped around your body while you sleep. The following items work together to create a system to keep you warm:

- Compact synthetic sleeping bag with a minimum of 20 degree rating:** Down sleeping bags, while warm and light, cannot keep you warm if they get wet. Sleeping bags can be rented at a sporting good shop. “Mummy” shaped bags will provide more warmth than regular rectangle bags. You will be carrying this bag in your backpack: keep it lightweight!
- Ensolite or Thermarest ground pad:** The purpose of this pad is to insulate you from the cold ground. It is an important component to your system. Swimming pool-type air mattresses are inappropriate because they tend to rip and are difficult to fix in the field. Good inexpensive options are Ridgerest and ensolite pads.

SLEEPWEAR:

- A second set of synthetic thermal underwear (different from the ones you wear during the day) or sweats. A warm wool or fleece hat to keep your body warmth from escaping from the top of your head.
- Tent:** Your tent will be provided by Naturalists at Large.

SUNDRIES:

- Two (2) Water bottles:** Each should be **one quart minimum**. Inexpensive bottles are available from REI, Adventure 16, or Sports Chalet. A good water bottle is an essential piece of equipment.
- Medications:** Enough for the week!
- Sunglasses with a retainer strap:** Crokies or Chums retainer strap help keep glasses from getting lost and broken.
- Lip balm:** with SPF included.
- Sunscreen:** SPF of at least 15. At this altitude, the potential for sunburn is greatly increased. Be prepared!
- Toiletries:** Tooth brush and toothpaste.
- Bath towel:** For possible shower at the end of the program.
- Swimsuit**
- Bowl, eating utensils:** These should be unbreakable and easy to pack.
- Reusable heat proof plastic cup:** For hot drinks, soups, etc.
- Bandanna(s)**
- Small journal and pen or pencil**
- Plastic bags:** Four (4) each of one gallon (Ziploc variety) and thirty-three gallon sizes (garbage bag variety) for packing up sleeping bags, extra gear, muddy shoes, etc.
- Small flashlight (or headlamp):** Be sure to put in fresh batteries and a new bulb!
- Day pack:** Capable of holding lunch, water bottle, sweater, poncho, and notebook. Your day pack may become your “in camp” storage for extra toiletries, travel home clothes, towel, etc.

YOUR BACKPACK:

You will need an internal or external frame backpack, at least 4000 to 4500 cubic inches, capable of holding a sleeping bag, personal and group equipment for one or two days, and food for one or two days. A backpack can be rented. REI, Adventure 16, and Sports Chalet are good resources, or consult the yellow pages under Backpacking or Sporting Goods. About 1/3 of the pack's capacity should be available for group gear.

The fit of your pack is extremely important for your comfort and well being. Pack size should be appropriate for the length of your torso. The hip belt should fit comfortably around your waist so that most of the weight rests on your hip area. The shoulder straps should not cut off circulation to arms and hands, but should distribute the weight more evenly and comfortably.

"Test load" your pack to ensure comfort. Place approximately 35-40 pounds into your pack and walk around the block a time or two. Make sure there are no "hot spots" (areas where the pack rubs uncomfortably, especially on hip bones when using an external frame pack). You should be able to stand upright and look forward without bowing your head. The bottom of your pack should not be lower than your buttocks. If you are renting a pack, make sure to ask the sales people to help you fit your pack.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DO NOT BRING FOOD ITEMS OF ANY KIND! (including gum, soda, candy etc.). Keep in mind that any scented item (perfumes, shampoos, magazine insets, body spray etc.) as well as any food item will attract bears.

NOTE: PLEASE PACK ALL EQUIPMENT IN A DUFFEL BAG OR BACKPACK

Please do not bring many loose items. Mark everything you bring!

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT: Camera, board games, binoculars, reading material, carabiners for attaching loose equipment (such as water bottles) to your pack, a small duffel bag for keeping extra items at camp while you are out on the backpack.

DO NOT BRING: Pocket knives, personal music devices, radios, electronic games, gum, junk food, personal water filters (unless allergic to iodine) or cell phones (they do not work at most sites and may be damaged or lost on program).

NATURALISTS AT LARGE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR DAMAGED PERSONAL BELONGINGS

NATURALISTS AT LARGE

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PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WITH SERIOUS FOOD ALLERGIES

Food allergies are becoming more and more apparent in students on our programs. Following are some guidelines for you, your child and your child's physician to consider when deciding whether or not to participate in a Naturalists At Large program. We will do everything possible to accommodate your child's needs, however, there are some requests that are simply not possible to honor. We cannot guarantee a peanut, tree nut, gluten, or dairy free environment on any of our programs. It is not possible for our kitchens to cook separate food for your child. We cannot accommodate requests for specific brands of food or ingredients to avoid. We will try to make information available about our food, but the ingredients of certain snacks or entrees may not always be available. Above all else, it is necessary for your child to be personally responsible for their own dietary needs as they would in any environment away from home.

If you or your child is worried about the availability of nut free snacks, we encourage you to send some of your own snacks for the duration of the program. We will assist your child in the storage and handling of their food. At the request of the administrator in charge of the program for your school, we may take peanut butter off the menu completely.

For a wheat, gluten, or dairy free menu it is best to talk with the Field Coordinator at Naturalists at Large about the menu for your program. You should supplement our menu by sending food with your child. We will assist in the management and handling of this food to the best of our ability. We will ice your child's cooler on tent-based programs, or find refrigerator space on our lodge based programs. It is best to send your child with a cooler packed with prepackaged/ready-to-eat style meals that require little or no preparation.

If your child has a serious allergy resulting in anaphylactic reactions, consult your doctor. It is up to you and your Doctor to decide whether your child's allergy is too serious to keep them safe on a program with us. We encourage any student with a prescription for Epinephrine to bring two full doses with them to the program. Your child should carry one dose, and the school faculty in your child's trail group should carry the other.



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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY
OUTPOST PROGRAM --CHILD**

NATURALISTS AT LARGE and its authorized agents, employees, and representatives (referred to herein, collectively, as "NAL") take precautions to provide proper organization, supervision, instruction, equipment, and supplies for participation in programs organized by NAL. However, there are significant elements of risk in any adventure, sport, activity, or training associated with the outdoors or wilderness, including environmental education, hiking, backpacking, ropes courses, rock climbing, boating or swimming that may be carried out in the course of your child's participation in this NAL program (referred to herein as "Activity" or "Activities") and the use of any related equipment. Any or all of these or other activities may involve physical contact with employees and/or other participants.

Outpost Based Program: This program is an outpost (camping) program. Participants may camp in NAL provided tents and assist NAL personnel in food preparation. Risks which are part of NAL's outpost based programs include, but are not limited to, changes in the weather, temperature related injuries, falling on uneven terrain, excessive sun exposure, equipment failure, loss of participant's sense of balance, and problems which may result from a participant's inability to follow directions. NAL attempts to mitigate these risks by previewing and debriefing all activities, teaching safe wilderness travel techniques, providing appropriate safety equipment (such as climbing helmets, climbing gear, and top ropes) and monitoring all participants.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS: I recognize the fact that there is inherent danger, foreseeable and unforeseeable, in these types of Activities. These risks may result in serious injury or loss of life, and include but are not limited to falls, cold weather related injuries, heat related illnesses, altitude related sickness, "acts of nature," accidents resulting from river crossings, fordings, or travel including travel to or from the Activity, equipment failure, varying wind, water, and weather conditions, vector exposure, and problems arising from a participant's sense of balance or inability to follow directions. I realize that a participant may suffer accidents or illnesses in remote places where there are no available medical facilities.

Parent's Initials: _____

NAL instructors and school faculty attempt to monitor all participants. Participants can lessen the inherent risk by carefully following the equipment list and following directions.

Parent's Initials: _____

EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY: In recognition of the various risks relating to the Activities which my child will engage in, both foreseeable and unforeseeable, I confirm that my child is physically and mentally capable of participating in all Activities and/or using equipment. I acknowledge that during the Activity my child may experience symptoms such as fatigue, chill and/or dizziness, which may diminish his or her reaction time or increase the risk of an accident. My child's participation is voluntary and I will assume all risks and full responsibility, on behalf of all parties including myself, my child, and my child's heirs and assigns, for (a) any and all losses incurred as a direct or indirect result of personal injury, accidents, or illness, and (b) any and all damage to or loss of personal property arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any Activity.

Parent's Initials: _____

WAIVER AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY: ON BEHALF OF MY CHILD, MYSELF, MY CHILD'S OTHER GUARDIANS AND MY CHILD'S HEIRS AND ASSIGNS, I HEREBY ASSUME ALL RISKS AND WAIVE, RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE NAL FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION AND DAMAGES OF WHATEVER KIND WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, GENERAL, SPECIAL, COMPENSATORY AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES, FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, NEGLIGENCE OR WRONGFUL DEATH ARISING OUT OF, RELATING TO OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ACTIVITY.

Parent's Initials: _____

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION: I hereby authorize any medical treatment deemed necessary in the event of any injury while my child is participating in the Activity. I either have appropriate insurance, or in its absence, agree to pay all costs of rescue and/or medical services as may be incurred on my child's behalf. I agree to hold NAL harmless for any and all costs or liabilities so incurred.

Parent's Initials: _____

NAL ACTIONS: I realize that NAL, as provider of goods and/or services, may find it necessary to terminate an Activity, whether due to forces of nature, medical necessities, problems in the group or other reasons that NAL, in its discretion, deems prudent. I also realize that NAL may refuse or terminate the participation of any person NAL, in its sole discretion, judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors or requirements of participating in the Activity. I accept NAL's right to take such actions with respect to my child and other participants.

Parent's Initials: _____

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY AND WAIVER AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND A RELEASE FROM LIABILITY THAT INVOLVES THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Participant's Name

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date



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CHILD PARTICIPANT'S PERSONAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION
To be completed by parent or guardian: PLEASE PRINT and use dark ink.

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: _____ AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ / _____ / _____ SCHOOL _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ FAX (IF AVAILABLE): (_____) _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____ PARENT'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S WORK NO.: (_____) _____ PARENT'S WORK NO.: (_____) _____

PARENT'S FAX: (_____) _____ PARENT'S FAX: (_____) _____

PARENT'S CELL PHONE: (_____) _____ PARENT'S CELL PHONE:(_____) _____

PLEASE INCLUDE INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

IN AN EMERGENCY, NOTIFY: _____ RELATION TO CHILD: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ ALTERNATE PHONE: (_____) _____ WK/FAX/PGR _____

PARTICIPANT'S PHYSICIAN: _____ PHONE: (_____) _____

DATE OF MOST RECENT TETANUS TOXOID VACCINATION: _____

YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY: _____ PLAN NO./I.D. NO. _____

Non-swimmer?	Yes	No
Any medical conditions which will restrict participation in vigorous physical activity, such as a five mile hike?	Yes	No
Other conditions?	Yes	No
Allergies to plants or medications?	Yes	No
Carries Epinephrine for emergencies?	Yes	No
Taking any regular medication? (Fill out attached medical information form)	Yes	No
Recent surgery, dietary restrictions, or other pertinent medical information?	Yes	No

Please provide details of any items to which you have answered "yes" to above:

Please understand the importance of honest and accurate disclosure. Incomplete or misrepresented information may impact your child's well being.