

OUTDOOR EDUCATION INFORMATION AND INQUIRY FORMⁱ

Outdoor Education Camp from [dates] is quickly approaching for our 5th graders. Due to recent passage of legislative bill AB 1575, we want to inform you of some important changes in how we plan for fieldtrips generally and also reiterate some important information about the cost and payment of the upcoming Outdoor Education trip. AB 1575 goes into effect January 1, 2013 and its purpose is to avoid stigmatizing students who cannot afford to participate in certain school activities and fieldtrips. The new law mandates that schools cannot require that students to request a scholarship or inform the school if they cannot pay to attend a fieldtrip. Specifically, it prohibits schools from asking families if they need financial assistance. The new law is in keeping with other California laws which mandate that school fieldtrips must be free for all students.

The result of the law is that: if any student at a school cannot attend a fieldtrip due to lack of funds, then one of two things must occur: (1) the school must cover the cost of the trip either by direct payment, soliciting voluntary contributions, or participating in voluntary fundraising; or (2) no student is allowed to go and the trip must be cancelled.

Outdoor Education has been a long-held tradition at _____ Elementary. In past years, we collected payments for the trip in the form of donations which were due by [date] of each year. _____ has a wonderful history of families paying a large percentage of the total cost of Outdoor Ed. The remainder has come [from our small scholarship fund]

This year the total cost for Outdoor Education is \$ _____. While the law precludes us from assessing a per student cost to each family, the amount works out to approximately \$270 per student. Neither the District nor the school has the funds to cover the cost for this trip. It is our desire to participate in this wonderful program. However, in order for our students to attend, the entire trip must be paid for with funds raised by the students and/or family voluntary donations. Furthermore, our agreement with vendors requires payment for the trip to be paid in full by [date].

As a grade level, the 5th grade students have raised over the past months in preparation for Outdoor Education. Thank you to those who have worked help in the fund-raising efforts. In light of AB 1575, if the voluntary donations raised are not sufficient to cover the cost of all students desiring to attend, then we will need to cancel Outdoor Education. **In the event the trip is cancelled, we hope those of you who have donated will allow all the funds raised to be retained in the school's general fund for next year's camp.**

We are still \$ _____ away from our fundraising goal. At this point, we must determine how many students actually plan to attend Outdoor Education next spring. We realize that not all families feel comfortable sending their children to camp and may not want to participate in this off-site trip.

Please indicate below whether you want your child to attend Outdoor Education from [dates of upcoming camp]. **If you indicate that your child does not want to go, this decision is final and your child will NOT be allowed to attend the trip.** For planning purposes, we must determine the maximum number of students who will be attending this trip. **Please do not make this decision lightly because if**

you indicate that you are not interested in having your child attend, you cannot change your mind later.

Student Name: (pre-fill this field so that one notice goes out to each student)

Parents Name (s): _____

Parent Contact Information:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ YES, I want my child to attend Outdoor Education in the March of 2013.

___ NO, I do not want my child to attend Outdoor Education in the fall of 201_.*

***Note: This decision is binding and by indicating "No", your child will not be allowed to attend per this stated lack of consent.**

I understand that this expresses my desire for my child to attend Outdoor Education or my desire for them not to attend Outdoor Education and that if I say "NO", then my child will not be allowed to attend.

ⁱ This is not a permission slip for Outdoor Education. Permission slips will be provided closer to the date of the trip to students whose parents complete this inquiry form by checking "Yes" above.