

Dear WTMC Student, Parent/ Guardian,

March 5, 2019

Hikes in the redwood forest, visits to local farms and fish market, canoeing... WTMC has the unique opportunity to offer every ninth-grade WTMC student a learning experience at the SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OUTDOOR ACADEMY near Santa Cruz, California. This trip is the capstone experience of their spring Biology of Healthy Living course and compliments the year-long study of sustainability in the Ninth Grade Program. Students will be immersed in hands-on and team-based outdoor projects and experiences to deepen their understanding of what it means to live healthy lives.

When: Monday, June 10 - Friday, June 14, 2019

Cost to Students: None.

What: A unique sustainability camp program based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on the following: food, water and energy systems, conservation and consumption, life on land and under water, climate change, and sustainable cities.

Additional activities: Archery (with certified instructor), swimming (with lifeguard), fishing, and camp crafts. Social time in the evenings will include night hikes, star gazing, campfires and reflection.

Where: Cutter Scout Camp, 300 acres nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains of Northern California, about 90 minutes from San Francisco.

Accommodations: Students will stay in brand-new safari tents on platforms with plenty of zip-up windows to let in the light and keep out the bugs. Each tent is equipped with LED lanterns and accommodates 2-6 campers in bunk-bed cots. Three meals are served daily in a rustic dining hall. There are individual showers and restrooms. In addition there is an EMT/RN on site 24/7 to handle any medical issues, with a helicopter landing site if needed.

Adult Supervision: Students will be supervised during the entire trip. In addition to the staff of SFOA, we will maintain a ratio of one adult WTMC staff member for every ten to twelve students.

Travel: Students will travel with chaperones by plane to and from California. Small buses will then transport students to and from the Cutter Scout Camp.

Students will need to arrange transportation to and from Detroit Metropolitan airport. We will work to help students and parents arrange ride sharing to and from the airport.

What to bring: All students will need to bring a sleeping bag in addition to personal travel items and clothing. Packing lists will be shared with students at a later date.

Informational Sessions: We ask that parents and caregivers attend one of the following information sessions to learn more and have questions answered.

Wednesday, March 13, 5:30-6:00 Towsley Auditorium OR Tuesday, March 19, 5:30-6:00 room ML 105

What if a student cannot travel? There is no way to replicate this extraordinary experience. We hope all students will choose to participate. However, students unable to travel will be expected to attend WTMC during that week, completing a research paper to share with their peers upon their return.

Registration: Families will need to **register online by March 31**. The website and link for registration will be given at the information sessions (above) and posted on the WTMC website after March 13.