



6TH GRADE

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Family Information Meeting:

Monday, December 5, 2022

6:00 – 6:30 PM

[Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 829 6935 7309

Passcode: 679991

Outdoor Ed Dates:

Session 1: Ms. Wendt's Science Classes

Monday, Jan 30 - Wednesday, Feb 1

Session 2: Ms. Gerstein's Science Classes Pd. 2, 5, 6 and 7

Wednesday, Feb 1 - Friday, Feb 3

Session 3: Mrs. Gerstein's Science Class Pd. 4, Mr. Barnett's Science Classes, Mr. Hadfield's Science Class

Monday, Feb 6 - Wednesday, Feb 8

Lathrop E. Smith Center

5110 Meadowside Lane

Rockville, MD 20855

Outdoor Education MCPS Website

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/outdoored/>

Outdoor Education Information

What is Outdoor Education? All sixth graders at each middle school in MCPS are invited to participate in a three-day, two-night residential outdoor environmental education program. While in residence, students study various aspects of the local environment as they participate in outdoor investigations that are directly connected to the grade six curriculum and the MSDE environmental education standards. Students are accompanied by their teachers, who, in collaboration with an OEEP staff member, provide instruction and supervision during their stay.

During their stay, students participate in a variety of lessons and activities that support the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum. Instruction focuses on environmental studies and science, while integrating math, reading, world studies, and physical education. Generally, students will participate in four to five of the lessons listed below as well as evening activities. Classes are led by staff from the school and the outdoor environmental educator.

STREAM/POND INVESTIGATION

Students investigate the complex interactions within the local watershed and work in groups to assess the health of a nearby stream or pond.

EXPLORING THE WATERSHED USING MAP AND COMPASS

Working in groups, students conduct a field survey of the surrounding forest and riparian buffers in the local watershed using maps and compasses for navigation.

PREDATOR/PREY RELATIONSHIPS

Students explore the predator-prey relationships that animals exhibit in our local ecosystem by participating in an outdoor simulation.

CONFIDENCE COURSE

Students participate in a series of mentally and physically challenging team and individual events designed to strengthen teamwork, cooperation and self-esteem.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Instruction does not end when the sun goes down! After dinner students participate in various outdoor and indoor activities determined by the school.

Parents and students should carefully read this packet together.

OE is an invaluable opportunity for students to develop self-advocacy, team building and leadership skills with the support of their teachers and peers.

2022-2023 Outdoor Education Coordinators Contact Information:

Jessie Wendt

Email: jessica_l_wendt@mcpsmd.org

Brittany Hawkins

Email: brittany_hawkins@mcpsmd.org

DAY OF DEPARTURE – Session 1: Jan 30; Session 2: Feb 1; Session 3: Feb 6

Please make arrangements for your child and their luggage to get to school at **8:45 AM**.

MCPS will not allow students to bring their luggage on the school bus.

- As they arrive, students should drop off their **labeled** luggage at the flagpole near the drop off loop and proceed to the cafeteria through the rear door. Staff will be available to assist with the luggage.
- Your child's belongings should be contained in **only 2 pieces of luggage**. 1 may be a suitcase or duffel bag and luggage 2 should be a sleeping bag wrapped in a waterproof cover such as a large plastic bag, labeled with tape, and tied securely.
- All luggage will be transported directly to Smith Center on separate MCPS buses.

Each student will need a bag lunch for the first day of Outdoor Ed.

- All lunch items must be packed in **disposable** bags or containers.
- Be sure to **clearly write the student's first and last name**.
- For this meal, only water will be provided at the Smith Center.

Lunch should NOT be packed in the luggage.

DAY OF RETURN– Session 1: Feb 1; Session 2: Feb 3; Session 3: Feb 8

Students will return to Tilden at approximately **1:00 PM**. Staff and students will be dismissed to **go home immediately** after the buses have been unloaded.

It is essential to make transportation arrangements for your child to be picked up at this time.

Again, students are not allowed to take luggage on their regular school bus for safety reasons.

If you are not able to meet your child, please make sure a **note authorizing alternative transportation** is received by Ms. Hawkins prior to the first day of Outdoor Ed.

Students **will not be allowed** to wait for the afternoon buses.

Modified Schedule

In order to accommodate students/parents and increase participation in the outdoor education program, we can provide a modified schedule and/or have your child not spend the night.

Please contact Ms. Wendt as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Cost

The total cost for the outdoor education program is \$90.00.

Each child is charged **\$76.00** for the 3-day outdoor education program.

This fee includes **transportation, meals, lodging, snacks** and **on-site nurse** and **medical insurance**.

Additionally, students are charged **\$14.00** for **instructional pieces, night activities**, and a **night snack**.

*** Payment is due no later than Friday, January 20.**

You can pay: check, cash or online.

- Please make checks or money orders payable to Tilden Middle School writing your **child's name and session number** on the memo section.
- The online payment portal can be found on Tilden's website, a permission slip and med form (if applicable) still need to be turned in to their **science teacher**.
- Students should give the fee and completed forms to their science teacher.

If you would like to help support children in need at Tilden, donations of any amount above the fee are always appreciated.

There will be no refunds after January 30. If your child can't complete the program, the funds will go towards the Outdoor Education expense account here at Tilden.

Financial Aid - If this fee imposes a financial hardship, confidential arrangements can be made by contacting Ms. Mendez in the front office at 240-740-6700.

We want to make this trip possible for all of our Timberwolves!

Safety/Discipline

Safety is our number one priority at Outdoor Education; the entire staff is trained and committed towards this objective.

The phone at Smith Center (240-740-1404) **may only be used in an emergency**. If it is necessary for you to call, ask for Ms. Wendt or Ms. Hawkins.

Students are not permitted to use the phone, except in an emergency.

It is the responsibility of each student to know the rules and to follow them.

Breaking a rule that jeopardizes the safety of any student will result in that student being sent home from Outdoor Education.

- There will be no warnings or second chances when safety is involved.
- **In the case of a serious infraction, parents will be called and required to come pick up their child immediately, day or night.**

Medications

- All medications, including aspirin, vitamins, and cough medicine to be administered at Outdoor Education, must be accompanied by the [MCPS Form 525-13](#) "Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication to an MCPS Pupil While in School".
 - The medicine container should be labeled with the child's name. Prescription medicine should be in the original container with the pharmacy label. Over the counter medication should be in an unopened container.
 - **The night nurse can only administer the exact dosage at the specified time written on the medicine label by a registered pharmacist.** If the dosage has changed, the label must be updated by a registered pharmacist prior to leaving for Outdoor Ed.
- Medication and Form 525-13 to the Tilden Middle School nurse by **Monday, January 9**, the medications will be stored and administered in the health room at Smith Center.
- Medication must be picked up by the guardian in the Tilden health room at the conclusion of the Outdoor Education program.
- Please make a notation on the permission slip if your child has any health concerns, including allergies, a need for medication, or any condition of which the nurse and the staff should be aware.
- If your child already has medication at school that is given whether routinely or as needed, the medication will automatically be sent to Outdoor Ed. **A new order form will not be necessary.**
- **If your child does not need any medication while at Outdoor Education, you do not need to complete the medication form.**
- Please feel free to contact the school nurse if you have any questions or concerns regarding medication. Phone Number: (240) 740-6702

Menu And Dietary Restrictions

The menu for the Smith Center can be found on the Outdoor Education Website.

<https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/outdoored/>.

If your child requires a special diet of any kind, please send this information in writing to Ms. Wendt, attached to the permission form.

The Smith Center meals are served family style. This *should* accommodate most dietary restrictions.

If necessary, parents can send prepared meals for their child's individual needs.

This must be organized ahead of time with the Outdoor Ed coordinators and the Smith Center.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION ESSENTIAL ITEMS PACKING LIST

Please reach out by Friday, Jan 13 if you need help with anything!

Bedding

- Sheets and a blanket or a sheet and a sleeping bag
- Pillow

Toiletries

- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Soap and container (A plastic sandwich bag works great)
- Bath towel
- Brush or comb
- Shampoo
- Pillowcase or large plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Deodorant

Clothing

Plan for the weather. As you know Maryland weather can be tricky in winter. **Our outdoor activities will be carried on, rain or shine**, students must be prepared with appropriate clothing.

Bring only comfortable clothing appropriate for outdoor physical activity.

- Sleepwear
- Underwear
- Socks (5-6 pairs...some will get wet!)
- Three pairs of jeans, slacks, or sweatpants (NO SHORTS, NO EXCEPTIONS!)
- Long sleeved shirts
- Sweatshirts/sweaters
- Two pairs of sturdy shoes

Outerwear

- Warm winter jacket
- Hat
- Raincoat or poncho
- Scarf
- Gloves

OPTIONAL

- Novel for reading
- Reusable Water Bottle
- Watch
- Lip Balm/Sunscreen
- Journal/Pen/Pencils
- Flip Flops for showers only
- Disposable camera
- Flashlights

STUDENTS MAY NOT BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Pocket knife | Matches or lighters |
| Drinks | Gum, snacks or food |
| Blow Dryers | "Teva Type" Sandals |
| Money | Aerosol Sprays |
| Gaming devices | Cell phones |
| iPod/iTouch | Comic books/magazines |

If it is inappropriate for school, it is inappropriate for Outdoor Ed.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION TO DO CHECKLIST:

Rip this page off & hang it somewhere you will see it regularly!!

- ☐ Turn in Permission Form and Payment (\$90) by **FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**
- ☐ If needed, turn in medications and form to nurse by **MONDAY, JANUARY 9**
(Adult must bring in the medications to the nurse)
- ☐ Pack all items on the Packing List
Please check in with Ms. Wendt, Ms. Hawkins, or your counselor if you need help.
- ☐ Label all luggage + bedding
- ☐ Pack a **DISPOSABLE** bag lunch for the first day
- ☐ If unable to pick your child up on the date of return, send a **permission note describing your alternative transportation arrangements ASAP.**