



Dear Parents/Guardians of Odessa Shannon Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

Each middle school in MCPS participates in a three-day, two-night residential outdoor environmental education program (OEEP) which is part of the curriculum for all sixth graders. OEEP is staffed by MCPS-certified teachers. While at Outdoor Education, students study various aspects of the local environment as they participate in outdoor investigations directly connected to the grade six curriculum and the MD state-mandated environmental education standards. OEEP supports the 10 SSL hours earned through their science class. Students are accompanied by their teachers, who, in collaboration with an MCPS OEEP staff educator, provide instruction and supervision during their stay. The Outdoor Education program can be one of the most memorable and beneficial experiences in your child's middle school career. **It is an expectation that all 6th-grade students participate in Outdoor Education. No child should miss this opportunity due to financial need, and no documentation of that need is required.**

Students will travel to The Smith Center for this unique, memory-making educational adventure. Sixth graders attend one three-day session.

Session 1	March 17-19, 2025	Last Names A-M
Session 2	March 19-21, 2025	Last Names N-Z

**Parent Meeting:** On **February 12th, at 6:00 pm** please join us for a virtual Outdoor Education Information Meeting. This meeting will provide a detailed breakdown of the three days and two nights your child will spend at Outdoor Education. All sixth-grade parents are urged to attend. For assistance, we will have translators for this meeting. If you have any questions but cannot attend please reach out to Ms. DeFrehn at [mary\\_c\\_Defrehn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:mary_c_Defrehn@mcpsmd.org)

**Permission Slip:** Please fill out the required [permission slip](#) for your child and return it by March 7, 2025.

**Cost:** It is an expectation that all 6th-grade students participate in Outdoor Education. No child should miss this opportunity due to financial need. The full cost is \$90.00 per student. MCPS will cover the expense of any child who cannot afford the \$90.00 fee. If your student is ONLY spending DAYS at the Smith Center (not spending the night), the cost will be \$52.00. Please email Mary DeFrehn ([mary\\_c\\_defrehn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:mary_c_defrehn@mcpsmd.org)) for more information about financial assistance.

### **Payment Options**

The preferred method of payment for MCPS is School Cash Online (SCO). If unable to pay online, you can send in cash or a check with your student's permission slip instead.

### **Meals**

Students must bring a bagged lunch for the first lunch. All other meals will be provided to students while at Outdoor Education. Here is a [link](#) to the menu. Please contact Mary DeFrehn if you have any food concerns or allergies at [mary\\_c\\_Defrehn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:mary_c_Defrehn@mcpsmd.org).

### **Medication**

All medication and complete forms must be submitted to the health room by March 14, 2025. Medication will **NOT** be accepted after that date. Medication that is already in the health room for this school year will automatically be sent along with the program, and no additional information is required.

Please read the following if your child requires medication that is NOT already in the health room: If prescribed medication is needed, [MCPS form # 525-13](#) must be filled out by your child's physician. If your child requires non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication during their stay, you must complete Part 1 and Part 2. All medications (prescription or over-the-counter) must be brought in **SEALED, UNOPENED** containers by a parent/guardian along with the MCPS form # 525-13 completed. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse at 240-740-4152.

### **Chaperones**

We encourage parents/guardians to chaperone this field trip. Adult chaperones are needed during the daytime and overnight. **If you are interested in being a chaperone, please contact Ms. DeFrehn at [mary\\_c\\_Defrehn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:mary_c_Defrehn@mcpsmd.org) for more information about what your role in the program might look like and to discuss your availability.**

**Expectations:** Please remember that Outdoor Education is an extension of the classroom and that all students are expected to follow the same rules and meet the same behavioral expectations required of them while at school. In case of a serious incident, students may need to be picked up by their parents/guardians. Students will not need their cell phones during their Outdoor Education experience but can keep their cell phone locked in the cabin during the day. Expect your child to get wet, have fun, return tired, and have great memories to share.

**Day of Departure:**

**Students must be dropped off at school by 8:30am on the day of departure with their bagged lunch, reusable water bottle, bedding and luggage.** Students will be hiking when they arrive at the Outdoor Education site. Make sure that they are dressed for the weather and ready to hike.

**Returning back to school:**

Students will return to school at approximately 1:00 pm on the third day of their session.

**Session 1: Pick up your student on Wednesday, March 19th at 1:00pm.**

**Session 2: Pick up your student on Friday, March 21st at 1:00pm.**

Your child will need to be picked up at this time. Students will not be allowed to wait for the afternoon buses.

In case of an emergency, and you need to reach your student, please call (240)987-8015.

## **Packing List:**

### **OUTDOOR EDUCATION ESSENTIAL ITEMS PACKING LIST**

Check the weather and pack accordingly

#### **BEDDING**

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

**CLOTHING** (Label all clothing and items. Bring only comfortable clothing appropriate for outdoor physical activity. Try to avoid buying new items - worn-in shoes and clothes work best.)

- Sleepwear
- Underwear
- Tall Socks (5-6 pairs...some will get wet!)
- Three pairs of long pants- jeans or sweatpants (no shorts)
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Sweatshirts/sweaters
- Two pairs of sturdy shoes that can get wet and muddy
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#### **OUTERWEAR**

- Cold Weather- gloves, hat, extra socks and extra clothing for layering
- Warm Weather - short sleeve shirts for layering
- Hat
- Raincoat or poncho (We're outside- rain or shine)

#### **TOILETRIES**

- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Soap
- Bath towel
- Brush or comb
- Shampoo
- Pillowcase or large plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Deodorant

#### **ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT**

- Reusable water bottle
- Bagged lunch for first day
- Long pants

#### **OPTIONAL**

- Watch
- Lip Balm/Sunscreen
- Journal/Pen/Pencils
- Flip flops (for showers only)
- Book to read

### **STUDENTS MAY NOT BRING THE FOLLOWING**

- Pocket knife
- Matches or lighters
- Gum, snacks, food
- Aerosol sprays (such as deodorant, insect repellent, and sunscreen)

- Portable game devices
- Blow dryers, curling iron
- Money
- Anything else you are not allowed to bring to school

**If it is inappropriate for school, it is inappropriate for Outdoor Education.**

# Outdoor Education Participation Information

Please fill out all sections of this form

**FORMS DUE BY: March 7, 2025**

This form **MUST** be completed for **ALL** students, even those who will not attend the program.  
Please note: Individual student attendance requires approval from OSMS administration.  
Refunds will not be given

## Student Information:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Intention to Attend

- \_\_\_\_\_ My child **WILL** attend Outdoor Education for the entire session, including overnight. (\$90)
- \_\_\_\_\_ My child **WILL** attend Outdoor Education for the **DAY SESSIONS only** (\$52)  
(Parent **MUST** be responsible for transportation to and from The Smith Center-  
Drop off by 8:00am, Pick up by 9:00pm)
- \_\_\_\_\_ My child **WILL NOT** attend Outdoor Education..

## Financial Information:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will pay the full amount of \$ 90.00 (My student will attend 3 days/2 nights)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will pay the full amount of \$52.00 (3 days ONLY- My student is NOT sleeping over)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am able to pay a partial amount of the total- Amount I am paying \$\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will need a **full** financial aid from MCPS for **both day and night**
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will need a **full** financial aid from MCPS for **just the day** session (My child WILL not be sleeping over at The Smith Center)

**Please return this form and the official MCPS permission slip by  
March 7th, 2025**