

Dear Second Grade Family,

Your child will soon be taking a field trip as part of our life science study. The Environmental Education Program's staff will assist us on this trip, which will take place at the Freeman Environmental Education Center. The trip is designed to support and expand on concepts from our classroom science units. In particular, we will concentrate on plant communities, plant reproduction and life cycles, and interactions with other organisms, including humans.

On the day of the trip, an Environmental Education staff member and several volunteer naturalist guides will be present to accompany the class on the field trip. This will allow us to work in small groups in the field.

Your child will also participate in a Zero Waste lesson about composting and recycling, led by instructors from the Ecology Center. We encourage you to ask your child about their experiences during this full day of learning at Freeman!

**Clothing:** please make sure that your child is dressed adequately for the field trip in terms of the weather and other conditions. This is an outdoor field trip and your child will be walking on trails for about one hour.

- **Shoes** (that Velcro or tie - no sandals or flip flops, no party or dress shoes) and **socks**
- **Boots** if conditions are muddy or cold
- **Long pants** for leg protection (even on hot days, to protect against poison ivy, thorns, etc.)  
Long sleeves are also recommended during mosquito season.
- **Hats/hoods & gloves/mittens** if windy or cold; hats are useful on sunny days, too.
- **Raincoats** if raining (no umbrellas, as they are a nuisance on the trail)
- **Insect repellent** – if necessary, please apply it at home or provide the roll-on or stick type – no sprays!

**Equipment:** extra equipment such as binoculars, cameras, etc. is not necessary on this trip. Items can get damaged, wet, lost, etc. Students also tire of carrying extra items in the field.

**Lunches: keep it simple with minimal packaging.** An ideal lunch is easy to eat and has minimal packaging for disposal. Reusable lunch boxes and containers are preferred! “Lunchables”-type lunches are not ideal, as they create a lot of single-use plastic waste. Avoiding peanuts and tree nuts is a helpful precaution. A reusable water bottle for each student is recommended. Filtered water bottle filling stations are available on site. No food or drinks are available for purchase at Freeman.

In the event of severe weather, high winds or other hazardous conditions, the trip will be canceled. However, a cancellation decision will normally not be made until the day of the trip. Therefore, we ask that you send your child fully prepared on the day the trip is planned. We will generally conduct trips even in light rain.

We look forward to facilitating this meaningful outdoor learning opportunity for your child! Thank you!

AAPS Environmental Education - [www.a2schools.org/ee](http://www.a2schools.org/ee)