



Dear Teachers and Chaperones,

Thank you for supporting your school and students in preparing for a field trip to Wildwood Outdoor Education Center! We know you have many options for field trips and are so glad you've chosen Wildwood for your out-of-class learning experience. We want to help achieve the goals you have for your students and welcome your questions or suggestions at any time before or during your program.

Your school contact for this program received a detailed **contract** and a "**User Group Guide**" containing specific information about Wildwood Outdoor Education Center. It may be helpful to reference those documents if you are looking for additional information.

Visit our website to find pre-Wildwood classroom activities that may be useful to your class in preparing for your excursion. (Find them in the Outdoor Education section.)

Your role as a teacher or chaperone for Wildwood programs is essential to students and to Wildwood staff. Responsibilities of teachers and chaperones:

- **Set expectations.** Students are more physically and emotionally prepared for their Wildwood adventure when teachers and chaperones help them know what to expect. Once your school has set their activity schedule with Wildwood's staff, share it with students so they understand what they will be doing.
- **Manage medications.** School personnel are responsible for all medications that students bring and will dispense medications in keeping with school policies. In the event of illness or injury, school personnel will make transport, treatment, and parent contact decisions.
- **Control the crowd.** For each activity, a school teacher or chaperone will accompany each group. Please intervene if discipline or coaching is required for a student who is disrupting the group and putting themselves or others at risk.
- **Monitor known allergies & issues.** Please help keep an eye on any student with a known medical issue or food allergy. Wildwood staff will work to meet all known dietary requirements.
- **Let them do it.** During hands-on learning activities like the Adventure Challenge Course, please resist the urge to direct or provide answers for students who are working to overcome a challenge. You are welcome to participate in wrap ups or discussions by presenting questions or relating the activity back to the classroom.

- **Be a spotter.** For some ACC or high ropes activities, Wildwood staff may request your assistance with “spotting” and preventing falls. Prior to requesting your help, the facilitator will provide instructions on safe spotting techniques.

**Of special note, Wildwood’s philosophy for activities is “The Challenge of Choice.”** Please support each student in choosing the level of challenge that is right for them during each activity. For some, this may mean going all the way while for others, it means watching and listening. Often, a student learns more from saying “No” when something is too risky or intimidating for them and standing firm by their personal choice. Their peers can learn empathy and practice respect by appreciating the rights of each student to say “yes” or “no” to a challenging activity.

*Here is the list of supplies that we provide for parents. You will find it useful in preparing for your trip to Wildwood.*

**What to Bring to Wildwood**

Mark all items with your student’s name to reduce loss.

Packed	Brought Home	For All Outdoor School Programs	Additional Items for Overnight Programs	Packed	Brought Home
		Close-toed shoes such as tennis shoes	Sleeping bag or twin sheets and pillow		
		Old tennis shoes or water shoes for canoeing	Change of clothes for each day and an extra change		
		Insect repellent	Socks and underwear		
		Sunscreen	Towel		
		Hat	Pajamas		
		Waterbottle	Laundry bag/pillowcase		
		Small backpack	Toothbrush/toothpaste		
		Jacket, raincoat	Soap/toiletries		
		Long pants or socks	Flashlight		
			Stamps, paper, envelopes		

**Do not bring:** Cell phones, music players, pets, personal sports equipment, electronic games, books or magazines with adult content, money, candy/food/gum, knives or weapons, fireworks, jewelry/valuable items, alcohol, tobacco or drugs. Students who bring prohibited items may be immediately dismissed. We reserve the right to search camp property including student luggage or possessions at any time without notice. If any risk to participant safety or illegal possessions are believed present, local law enforcement will be notified.