

7th GRADE YOSEMITE TRIP

Wed, June 29- Sun, July 3

Dear Parents and Students:

We are pleased to announce that Muirlands will be participating in the NatureBridge program for our 42nd year. In cooperation with NatureBridge program we have planned a week of environmental studies and daily hiking. The staff of NatureBridge program will act as instructors and guides for our instructional hiking groups. Each instructor is a college graduate with a background appropriate to the park setting. Further information concerning NatureBridge program may be obtained by visiting their website at www.naturebridge.org. At the top of the page, place your cursor over "School & Group Programs", then click on "at Yosemite."

Please understand this trip will involve strenuous hiking. We may cover up to 10 miles in a day with an elevation gain of 3,200 feet. All participants must be in good cardiovascular condition, and must be physically capable of participating in every activity.

NatureBridge does not provide alternative activities for its participants.

In order to comply with district and state guidelines, the Yosemite trip will not be a school sponsored excursion. World Expeditions will offer this trip for Muirlands students. World Expeditions is the tour company that organizes the eighth grade east coast trip.

Meetings will be held after school on campus. And all participants must be able to attend the after school meetings. Excessive meeting absences will result in a student being dropped from the trip, and an alternate taking their place. We always have a list of "eager" students waiting to be added.

Yosemite National Park has a medical clinic located in the valley. It is open between 9am and 5pm. If a student experiences an illness or injury that requires medical attention outside of the clinic's hours, an EMT team will perform triage and determine if the student needs to be seen immediately by a physician. If a student needs immediate medical attention, they will be transported to a hospital in the town of Mariposa (appx. 1 hour from the valley).

The total cost of the trip will be approximately \$1100. This will cover all expenses, including bus transportation, food, lodging, tuition for NatureBridge, and miscellaneous items. Due to Yosemite Valley lodging and transportation constraints a limited number of students will be able to participate.

An applicant will only be eligible for consideration if she/he has a minimum 2.0 academic GPA, and a 3.33 citizenship GPA. Grade eligibility will begin with the second progress report of the first semester. Meeting the minimum GPA requirements does not automatically place a student on the participants list.

Forty five qualifying students will receive invitations to participate in the field trip. If more than 45 students are eligible to participate, the chaperones will hold a lottery to fill the trip. All students will be notified as to their trip status by the end of November. For every accepted student who drops from the trip another will be selected. Qualifying GPA's must be maintained throughout the year. If a student's GPA falls below the trip requirements, s/he will be placed on the inactive list until the trip standards are again met. If a student remains on the inactive list after the first progress report of the second semester, he/she will be dropped from the trip. All grades will be checked at the semester, and the following two progress report periods.

A student may be dismissed from participation should serious disciplinary action occur before the trip.

A parent/student meeting will be held during the month of June for all participants.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. To apply for the Yosemite trip you must turn in your application by **November 20, 2015**
2. All applicants will be notified by the end of November as to their trip status.
3. If you are selected to go and accept the invitation, you will be contacted by mail from World Expeditions concerning the trip payment of \$1100. Please note the due date for the payment. If the payment is not in by the due date, another student will be selected as a replacement.
4. You must maintain your grades between the time you are accepted up until the date of departure. Also, you must not be involved in any serious disciplinary action.
5. Partial scholarships may be available depending on the number of applicants accepted.
6. If you are selected to go, but for some reason must cancel before the June departure date, you must notify Ms. Judy or Steve Ewalt. Refunds depend on an alternate taking your place.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Judy at 858-531-4676 or jvisque@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Ms. Judy Visque
Teacher/Lead Chaperone

Mr. Mike Phillips
Teacher

Ms. Natasha Coady
Teacher