

GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS ASSISTING WITH RESIDENT OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Many schools are calling on the services of parents or other adults for assistance in supervising their resident outdoor education programs. It is imperative for teachers and/or administrators to meet with adult helpers before the experience to clarify their roles and responsibilities.

The following are some guidelines to review with adult helpers. Adult supervisors are welcome to participate in all aspects of the outdoor education program, but particular emphasis is given to rules that apply to dormitory supervision. A minimum of 2 supervisors per dorm is required for groups larger than 30.

- Children should never be left unsupervised in dorms
- Children should be in bed with washroom duties completed by 10 PM
- Children should be quiet so that students and staff can sleep
- Children should stay in bed until 7 AM unless otherwise scheduled
- Fire exits are for EMERGENCY use only
- Towels and wet clothing may be hung over the metal bars of the beds
- Trash should be picked up by children in bathrooms and around bunks; children should be responsible for keeping dorms neat and bathrooms (sinks, showers, toilets) clean during the day
- Beds should be made daily
- Extra blankets can be made available; thermostats may be adjusted by WPR staff
- Toilet paper, cleaning materials and trash bags are stored under sinks

In Emergency

- First aid supplies are located in cabinet near the Ranch House office
- Contact WPR staff; the telephone system will be explained by WPR staff the first evening

Overnight supervisors may wish to bring a flashlight and a book or tape of stories and/or a tape of soft music to play before bedtime.

Please do not allow students to run or play in dorms for safety reasons. "Raiding" dorms, rough play, pillow fights, and such are NOT allowed.

Please do not administer medication without consulting a teacher or school nurse.

During the Day

Supervisors are welcome to join the activity groups, but parents should join groups with children other than their own.

Adults may join a riding group, but are allowed that same number of rides as children (usually one). Adults should not all join a single ride, as there may not be enough horses saddled. Usually, 1-2 extras are available.

Adults please do not give answers to questions to children when WPR staff is teaching. Adult conversations with other adults or with children can be a disruption; please be sensitive to the teaching process.

Decisions concerning children's participation in activities are the responsibility of classroom and WPR teachers. Children may opt not to go on a horseback ride, but, generally, do not have options on others.

Parents and adult supervisors can be extremely valuable assets to resident outdoor education programs. Teachers have a tremendous responsibility for planning, implementing and supervising the resident OE program. The more capable adults we have working together, the more successful the programs will be. We want the children to benefit the most from their experience and this can be accomplished when everyone is working with a similar understanding of procedures and standards.

We appreciate your help and cooperation!!

