



Live. Learn. Lead Yourself Forward in Community.

March 22, 2019

Dear Community Orienteers and Their Parents:

In our ever-changing quest to understand where we live, how we can endure and how to sustainably thrive on pathways into the future, we will be visiting the Cosmic Campground and Frisco Farms in two weeks. This visit, shorter in duration than last semester's Sonoran Sojourn, will see us depart the school after F Block at 3:40 on Thursday April 4th and return to school at 3:30 on Friday April 5th.

Here are the essentials:

Who: Students who are currently enrolled as 9th graders

What: A 2-day "Sustainable Pathway Visualization" trip to the Cosmic Campground and Frisco Farms, both of which are in the Glenwood area

When: 3:40 Thursday, April 4th – 3:40 pm Friday, April 5th

Where: Cosmic Campground (East of Hwy 180, North of Alma)

Why: To deepen our understanding of ourselves in the community – *plant and animal... 'human beings' included* -- that makes life possible in the Gila Bio-Region

We hope that all students in the class will be able to attend this overnight trip that offers students *an opportunity to (1) visualize individual and collective paths from 9th grade to graduation, and (2) learn about local food production, ecological succession, & astronomy in the integrating context of direct experience.* The cost of this trip – not including teacher and substitute salaries – comes to \$20.00. This fee covers one night of camping; the cost of driving the bus & 3 meals. If coming up with the money to pay for this trip is a hardship, please consider either of two more affordable options. First, we have established a "barebones" cost for this trip of \$15. This covers your student's food costs only. Second, eligible households receive a school subsidy of \$7, bringing their cost to only \$8. This option is available to families who qualify for the free lunch program. The Aldo faculty will never let a student's financial challenges get in the way of attending a school trip.

Last year the weather was spectacular, but the principle of layering prevails when you're in the desert; a jacket or fleece is necessary, as are light clothes & a hat for warm days. So, too, is a warm sleeping bag critically important. And, while rain is rare in April, it's always possible—so students should bring rain gear.

Finally, as a change to previous trips and to create a learning atmosphere in which positive health decisions are optimized, facilitators will confiscate foods that are heavy on sugar, high fructose corn syrup or processed ingredients. It will be the discretion of trip facilitators to determine what is a junk food and what is not. Healthy snacks (such as trail mix) will be provided.

A packing list is attached below. If you have any questions about the trip, don't hesitate to contact me at 575-654-3622 or at prankin@aldocs.org.

With kind regards,

Pete Rankin

9th Grade Spring Trip – April 4 & 5, 2019

Parent Signature *Please detach & return with payment:*

Name of student: _____

All medical information is up-to-date in our school records.

Our address & phone number are up-to-date in our school records.

I understand that junk food is prohibited on the trip and sodas are not allowed on the bus.

\$20 is attached; this fee represents the full per-student cost of the trip.

\$15 is attached, this fee represents the cost of food.

\$8 is attached; this option is for families that qualify for the free or reduced lunch program.

Parent signature: _____

'Sustainable *Pathway Visualization*' Trip - Packing List

Items with an asterisk (*) beside them are available on loan from the school. "Loaners" require that students offer \$50 collateral as a guarantee that items are returned in good condition. Please let Pete Rankin (prankin@aldocs.org) know if you need any of these items.

- Duffel or "softside" travel bag (or backpack*)
- Tent*
- Cool-weather sleeping bag in a stuff-sack*; should be rated 20 degrees or lower
- Sleeping pad* (more important than you might think)
- Cap with a brim
- Rain poncho *or* raincoat and pants
- 2 sturdy water bottles or Camelbak-style hydration system
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sturdy hiking shoes
- Sandals for camp (optional)
- Mess kit (sturdy bowl, cup, spoon, fork)
- Trash bag
- Hand towel and washcloth
- Bandana
- Snacks if you feel you need them
- Toiletries: sunscreen, lip balm, soap, comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant
- Journal, along with at least one pen & pencil
- 2 optional items for camp:
 - Lighter (for fire-starting)
 - Pocket knife with a 3-inch (or shorter) blade

- In general, you need **clothes for 1 day**: the clothes you wear to school on Thursday, & a couple changes of clothes for. The key word is **layering**.
 - 2 pair of socks; cotton is not recommended
 - Warm jacket—but probably not a "winter coat"; cotton is not recommended
 - Warm cap; cotton is not recommended
 - 1 long-sleeved shirt; cotton is not recommended
 - 1 short-sleeved shirts; cotton is not recommended
 - 1 pair of pants; long pants that convert into shorts are ideal; cotton is not recommended
 - Underwear, of course—including some sweatpants or long-johns for sleepwear
 - Also, a watch would be handy, so that we can stay on schedule.

Note: All secret stashes of food should be shared with the chaperones.