



Live. Learn. Learn to Live Within our Means.

Jan 23, 2020

Dear Students and Parents:

In our quest to better understand where we live and where we could choose to *sustainably* go, we are venturing further afield in a few weeks, heading down from the mountains of our beloved Gila & Mimbres watersheds, into the Salt River valley around Phoenix. It's time to learn about each student's 'capacity to endure' (e.g. 'to-live-sustainably') while focusing upon one of the most engaging and *historically significant* skill-sets for the provision of basic needs (such as clothing, food, art and tools). These skill-sets are taught at an annual gathering-of-multiple-cultures called Winter Count, adapted to a 'modern' setting, and come to us through an oral tradition well-grounded in direct experience. This tradition is largely independent of fossil fuel inputs. Students will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning from experienced crafts-people, choosing from an array of options – a few examples include sandal-making, knapping, antler ring making, par fleche containers, etc. We will depart ALCS on Monday February 10 at 8:30 am and return on Wednesday February 12th around 6 pm. Classes will occur all day Tuesday Feb 11 and half day on Wednesday Feb 12, with ALCS staff facilitating the Winter Count curriculum. There are plenty of classes offered for free, and there will also be classes that require a materials-fee. If your daughter or son wants to take one of these fee classes – or if she / he wants to buy items from vendors who specialize in jewelry & tools related to primitive skills – extra money is required. Please be advised that school policy concerning knives still applies on this trip.

Here are the essentials:

Who: Community Orientation Students and LEW (Leadership Enhancement Workshop) Participants

What: A 3-day trip to the Salt River watershed... <https://wintercountcamp.com/wintercount/about>

When: Depart ALCS at 8:30 AM on February 10 & return to ALCS around 6 PM on Wednesday February 12.

Place we are Visiting: About 30 minutes east of Florence, AZ.

Why: To engage in experiences that guide us in expanding our consciousness of the biological, cultural, economic and political realities that (a) form our collective heritage, and (b) could form a collective future if *non-fossil-fuel-based* life-style changes are adopted in the direction of creating 'a world that can endure.'

How Much: \$65 standard fare; up to \$75 to help us cover all costs; \$30 "bare-bones" fare

Travel, as you know, can be both enlightening & expensive. As always, ALCS faculty have endeavored to keep our trips as affordable as possible, sleeping in campgrounds, taking advantage of student discounts, and packing as much as possible into 3 days of travel. 2020 marks the fourth year that ALCS has sponsored a

multi-curricular trip for several grades, & we are hoping that all students in the class will be able to attend this road trip that offers students a glimpse of what a sustainable human community might look like.

The cost of this trip to the school – not including teacher and substitute salaries – comes to \$85 per student. This amount includes registration, classes and 4 meals for the Winter Count event (\$60); two school lunches plus snacks (\$10), and the cost of driving the bus. As is our usual practice, we have a three-tiered fee structure for this trip. The “bare-bones” cost covers just the food we will purchase to feed your student. At \$5 per meal (plus snacks) for 6 meals that’s \$30. In addition to the two school meals plus snacks, the standard cost also includes Winter Count class fees; that brings the amount to \$70. And the full-fare option, for those families able & willing to help us continue to provide such rewarding experiences to Grant County’s teenagers, is \$85. If coming up with the money to pay for this trip is a hardship, know that eligible households will receive a school subsidy of \$15, bringing the “subsidized bare-bones cost” to only \$15. This last option is available to families who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Please know that the Aldo faculty will never let a student’s financial challenges get in the way of attending a school trip.

We are asking students to bring a sack lunch for Monday & bus snacks as well as 2 quarts of water each. We will return to ALCS between 4 PM and 6 PM on Wednesday, February 12th.

ALCS participation at Winter Count is intended to reify the school’s stated vision to create graduates who have the necessary skills “to enhance their own lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.” To achieve this intention, it is our goal that these young people gain confidence in their ability to live well through their own creativity without the heavy levels of addiction to fossil fuels that characterize much of today’s globalized capitalist world. Ironically, yes, we will be using diesel fuel to arrive at Winter Count; however, we feel this compromise is worth it for the sake of providing these young people with the opportunity to grow in the areas of self-confidence & hands-on skills.

Even though we will be lower in elevation than Silver City and in a warmer climate, the principle of layering prevails when you’re in the desert during winter; a jacket or fleece is necessary, as are closed-toed shoes, light clothes, & a hat for warm days. So, too, are a warm sleeping bag and a shared tent necessary. And, while rain is a rare blessing here in the Southwestern U.S., it’s always possible—so students should bring rain gear.

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

Winter Count Costs & Checklists (Feb. 2020) Please complete & return with payment.

Name of student: _____ Meal Preference: Meat _____ / Vegetarian _____

___ All medical information is up-to-date in our school records. If this is not true, then please let Jim McIntosh (ALCS school nurse) know as soon as possible.

___ Our address & phone number are up-to-date in our school records. If not, please update these with Cathie.

___ We have signed the 'WC Registration Liability and Photo Release' (attached to this packet as a pdf)

Choose from the following options:

___ \$70 is attached, representing the cost of food for my student and Winter Count fees.

___ \$85 is attached, representing the standard fee plus the cost of driving our bus.

___ \$30 is attached, representing the cost of food for my student

___ \$15 is attached; my family qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program.

Winter Count - Social Contract (Feb. 2020)

I _____ agree to uphold the following ALCS rules and norms on the 2020 Winter Count trip. I understand that failure to follow the ALCS rules and norms will get me kicked off my trip and my parent/guardian will be called to come pick me up *en route*. I also understand that going on trips like these is a privilege, and my actions will impact our ability to participate in these trips in the future.

- All ALCS norms will be upheld and followed
- Manufactured sugary drinks will not be allowed on the school trip
- There will not be an opportunity to stop to buy snacks or drinks on the trip. ALCS will provide snacks.
- Phones will not be out or used during instruction times, or during the Winter Count lessons and activities

I understand that because Winter Count is a special community, there are additional rules that we must uphold when we are there:

- No perfumes, cologne, or strong synthetic smells on the trip (deodorant okay)
- No unnatural sounds; which includes music, tones from the phone or Walkie etc. Acoustic/ live music OK.
- No screaming or loud and distracting noises while classes are in session
- No horseplay in the camp

I understand the above rules and requests and will abide by them while attending this trip. I understand that we are entering a culturally-distinct community, and I will conduct myself with the utmost respect for this opportunity and gathering.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Signature or Parent/ Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Concerns:

Winter Count 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* (This will be necessary if we stay, as planned, in a campground)
- 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 Camelback-style hydration system
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sturdy hiking shoes
- Sandals for camp (very optional in winter)
- Mess kit (sturdy bowl, cup, spoon, fork)
- Trash bag
- Hand towel and washcloth
- Bandana
- A "sack lunch" for the first day of the trip, and bus snacks for the drive
- Spending money in case your child wants to purchase crafts or snacks (optional)
- Toiletries: sunscreen, lip balm, soap, comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant (optional)
- Journal, along with at least one pen & pencil
- 2 optional items for camp:
 - Lighter (for fire-starting)
 - Pocket knife with a 2-inch (or shorter) blade

- In general, you need **clothes for 3 days**: the clothes you wear to school on Monday, & a couple changes of clothes for Tuesday & Wednesday. The key word is **layering**.
 - 3 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
 - 2 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; the class schedule requires you to keep track of time.

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