

6th Grade Fox West Academy Field Experience

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

Hello Fox West 6th graders and families,

This year we are continuing to offer our 6th graders a 3 day/2night field learning experience to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Hopefully they have already brought it up to you at home. The trip is purposefully scheduled at the beginning of the school year to help launch various aspects of our leadership curriculum – The Leader in Me (Coveys 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens).

Why Wolf Ridge? Why not something in Wisconsin? Wolf Ridge is a nationally recognized and accredited K-12 school and residential learning center located on the north shore of Minnesota (1 hour north of Duluth). Their certified staff run educational activities that immerse students in nature exploration, cultural history, team-building, and personal growth. We did consider local options to carry out our curricular and leadership goals; however, the prices and opportunities available at Wolf Ridge are beyond compare. We found previous 6th grade trips here to be an extremely well-organized, meaningful learning experiences.

We also selected Wolf Ridge, seeing that this might be the first overnight field trip for many of the students. The Wolf Ridge housing arrangements, staffing, rules and expectations, and rigorous, fun schedule ensure this is SAFE, FUN, and MEMORABLE. Although, this trip is not required, we would love to have the entire 6th grade attend. We are also opening up this trip to moms, dads, and/or grandparents that would be available and interested in chaperoning portions of the trip. Please read over the back of this letter for more details regarding this trip.

Please pass along any questions or concerns that you may have to me at greghall@hasd.org. I will be holding an informational meeting Monday September 18th at 6:00 PM in the Fox West Academy classrooms for families wanting more information. I will also post a video covering the same details to our school website for those unable to fit this meeting into your schedule.

Thanks,

Greg Hall and FWA Staff



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DETAILS

Who: 6th grade students at FWA, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Koenecke, & a few of the Fox West 6th grade parents

When: Be at school **Monday September 25th** at **6:15 AM** for a 6:30 AM departure. Return to school **Wednesday September 28th** around 9:30 PM. *We will have students call/text on the way home to give you a more precise ETA so that you are not waiting around for us.

Where: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center; 6282 Cranberry Rd. Finland, MN 55603

What to learn more: visit their website at www.wolf-ridge.org

Supervision: Every aspect—classroom, bus ride, and gender separate sleeping arrangements -will be supervised by the appropriate HASD staff members attending (all Wolf Ridge activities are led by certified educators and supervised by Fox West Teachers)

Cost : \$150/students This cost covers all meals (minus a packed lunch in route and Subway dinner when returning), lodging, and classroom activities.

Cost for Chaperones: \$75/chaperone

Payment: The cost for this trip has a flexible due date. Some Families pay up front prior to trip. Some families pay portions throughout the year. Other families wish to fundraise the money throughout the school year using the numerous opportunities presented by our Fox West Parent. Payments can be made with checks or cash. We will issue you a receipt after we have received payments. Mrs. Koenecke keeps track of families using fundraising using student spreadsheets and notifies families of their balance quarterly. If your fundraising efforts have not met the \$150 cost by May 1st we ask that you pay for the remaining balance at that time. If this cost puts undue stress on any families please do not hesitate to reach out. We do not want money to prohibit anyone from attending this field experience and can help create a plan of action.

Questions: Please direct questions to the Fox West team via e-mail to foxwestacademy@hasd.org This will ensure it gets seen by all three Fox West Teachers.

Example of schedule. Groups have not yet been finalized.

Day 1 – Monday September 25th

6:15 AM Arrive at HMS/FWA to begin boarding bus

6:30 AM Leave from school to travel to Wolf Ridge with a packed lunch on bus with rest stops

1:30 PM – Stopping at Gooseberry State Park – North of Duluth, MN for a geologic story of the region – waterfall views and mini hike

3:30PM – Leave Gooseberry State Park

4 -4:15 Arrive at Wolf Ridge and get settled into our accommodations.

4:30 – 5:15 Camp Store Open for group 3b 5:25 -6:00 pm Dinner (Fireplace Dining Hall)

6:30-9:15 pm – 3a – High Ropes (Dress warm) 3b – Rock Climbing

9:30 pm-6:30am Quiet time in dorm *Lights out by 10:00

Day 2 – Tuesday September 26th

7:40 -8:15 am Breakfast

8:30-11:30 am Morning Class – 3a– Northwood's Mammals ED11 3b Superior View Hike;

12:25 -1:00 pm Lunch followed by some ultimate or R&R

1:30 -4:30 pm Afternoon Class – ; 3b – Voyageurs Life ED 10 3b – Northwood's Mammals ED4

4:30 – 5:15 Camp Store Open for group 3a Supervised by Mr. Hall

5:25 -6:00 pm Dinner (Fireplace Dining Hall)

6:30-9:15 pm Evening Activities 3a - Rock Climbing3 – 3b – Ridgetop Adv. Ropes ED1

9:15 – 10:00 Campfire – Office Ring Campfire

10:00 pm -6:30am Quiet time in dorm *Lights out by 10:30

Day 3 – Wednesday September 27th

7:40 -8:15 am Breakfast

PACKED UP with stuff stored in Dayroom A Storage ready to leave after morning classes

8:30-11:30 am Morning Class – 3a Superior View Hike; ; 3b – Voyageurs Life ED 10

11:45 Load up bus – Eat travel lunch enroute.

12:30–9:30 pm Travel back to school *Stopping for dinner together at SUBWAY



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What to Bring to Wolf Ridge Students and adults are responsible for bringing personal items and clothing that are appropriate for the season. We want your stay at Wolf Ridge to be as pleasant and trouble free as possible. The majority of learning takes place outside regardless of weather. A suggested list follows:

Clothing:

Old tennis shoes or hiking boots (They may get dirty and wet) We will be hiking.

A second pair shoes.

Rain gear *We do have rain ponchos available to borrow for students that do not have rain gear. PLEASE do not spend extra money on gear for this trip. You child can enjoy this trip without having to spend additional money beyond the original cost. *(Please contact Mr. Hall at greghall@hasd.org to request a rain poncho)*

Warm jacket (Fall jacket and/or winter coat)

Fleece or sweatshirt

2 days of outfits (outer and under clothing) in addition to the one you are wearing on Monday

Several pairs of socks(regular socks and/or wool socks)

Optional - Brimmed cap (baseball cap works)

Winter cap, gloves/mittens, scarf (just to be on the safe side) The adventure course(high ropes is 20 + feet up in the trees)

Weather: To check the forecast search Finland, MN 55603

Personal Gear:

Sleeping bag and pillow or sheets and blankets(for twin bed) if you don't have a sleeping bag.

Towel, soap, and shampoo

Personal toiletries - ex. Toothbrush and paste, deodorant

Pajamas or shorts and t-shirt or sweatpants and t-shirt

Medications *(*Please contact Mr. Hall at greghall@hasd.org if medicine taking requires adult reminding)*

Water bottle that doesn't leak (screw top lid)

Plastic bag, garbage bag, or other bag to serve as a laundry bag for dirty clothes

Money:

Money for supper on Wednesday's return trip (Subway) \$7-10

Optional - Money for gift shop (small bills) * Please visit the Wolf Ridge website's store link to see what is available for what cost

Optional Items:

Flashlight

Sunglasses

****Camera's** *(we are recommending leaving cameras at home as we will be bringing our waterproof/drop proof cameras from school **for students to use**)*

For Bus Ride:

Bag lunch and mid morning snacks for bus trip up (we do stop at gas stations for bathroom breaks)

In the interest of time and to prevent more bathroom breaks than necessary, we ask that students do not use bathroom stops as a chance to buy snacks and beverages. We will provide a cooler of healthy snacks if someone feels famished.

Electronics with headphones (optional) *make sure to bring chargers * I would label chargers and cords with tape or something.

Things to entertain themselves for a long road trip. There are not plugins on the school bus.

There is not WiFi on this bus.

Do not Bring:

Electric appliances (hair dryers, curling irons)

Aerosol Insect sprays

Chewing Gum

Candy/soda

Alcohol or drugs

Non-recyclable items

Plan on bringing used batteries home

Please Complete and Return by Wednesday September 13, 2017

Name of FWA Student _____

Will be attending the Wolf Ridge class trip.

Will not be attending the Wolf Ridge class trip.

We are still unsure and would like to learn more before making the decision.

Please check this space if a parent/grandparent of this student is interested in attending. All parents/grandparents attending will need to pay \$75 and have to clear a HASD background check completed at no cost to you. Parents/grandparents attending participate in or watch most activities and stay in the same type of accommodations gender appropriate chaperones. .

If attending please select the payment option you wish to use for this trip.

Will pay \$150 by September 25th. Checks can be made out to Fox West Academy.

I We would appreciate a little more time and will pay \$150 sometime before May 1st.

The cost of the trip makes the trip difficult. We would like to explore additional options for payment.

We will apply any money my child has raised through Fox West fundraisers this trip.

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF FOLLOWING:

We plan on attending the information meeting Monday September 18th at 6:00 PM at FWA

We plan on watching the online video.

We are comfortable with saying yes with the information already provided

Parent Signature

Date

Additional information will follow including but not limited to packing list, allergies notices, and logistics.

Permission slips including medical information will come home separately.