

Expectations of Outdoor Education Activity

Lesson Summary:

This activity will help students identify their expectations of their week at Mission Springs Outdoor Education. The goal of this activity is to provide an opportunity for students to evaluate their thoughts and feelings about their upcoming trip.

Background for Teachers:

Review the Teacher Information Manual so you can give the students an overview of what to expect. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the Student Guidelines & Expectations, Behavior Policy and Procedures, point system, and the classes you have selected for the students to participate in. All of these are found in the Teacher Information Manual.

Materials:

Each student will need:

- Outdoor Education Expectations Worksheet
- Behavior Contract

Procedure:

1. Discuss some of the things students might learn and do while at Mission Springs, for example:
 - a. Observe and study plants, animals, and nonliving things (air, water, soil, rocks, etc.) and their relationships.
 - b. Use your senses to explore nature.
 - c. Learn about natural resources and explore ways we can be good stewards of the earth.
 - d. Participate in conservation practices (saving water, electricity, food, etc.).
 - e. Assume the duties of a member of the outdoor education community (keeping room clean, helping during meals, staying on the trails, treating others with respect, etc.).
 - f. Have opportunities to make new friends from other classes and/or schools.
 - g. Have fun!
2. Distribute Outdoor Education Expectations Worksheet.
 - a. Ask students to complete the worksheet and be prepared to discuss it.
 - b. Have students discuss their answers in small groups or with the entire class.
3. Review Behavior Contract with your students.
 - a. As a group, ask student to think of an example of positive behavior that models each expectation.
 - b. Distribute Behavior Contract and have each student fill it out and sign the bottom.

Discussion Questions:

How could your experience at Mission Springs Outdoor Education provide experiences to help you develop appropriate citizenship skills (sportsmanship, fair play, problem solving, respecting others)?

What do you plan to do to make sure your outdoor education experience will be worthwhile for you?

Extension:

Have students write a letter home to their parents telling them about the upcoming Outdoor Education trip and what they are most excited about.

Outdoor Education Expectations Worksheet

1. What are some things that are easier to study outside than inside?
2. What two things do you hope to learn while at Mission Springs Outdoor Education?
3. What two things do you hope to see while at Mission Springs Outdoor Education?
4. What are you most excited about concerning the upcoming trip?
5. What do you personally plan to do to make your experience at Mission Springs Outdoor Education a positive one for you and all participants?
6. What concerns or worries do you have about going to Mission Springs Outdoor Education?

Behavior Contract

Student Guidelines & Expectations

To ensure the safety of every participant, Mission Springs Outdoor Education has set the following behavioral guidelines and expectations.

- Respect each others' personal space and property. Students may only enter their assigned cabin/room. Treat your rooms like you would treat your home.
- Be considerate of others. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am. All students should be in bed with lights out by 10:00 pm.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated. Show respect to each other and encourage one another.
- Respect teachers, chaperones, and naturalists. When a leader raises a hand or claps, please quietly direct your attention to the leader for information.
- Respect the natural world around you by not littering or disturbing plant or animal life. Do not handle equipment or animals when you have not been given permission to do so.
- Stay with your group. Remain on trails and in designated areas for all activities. Soda, snack and ice machines are off limits.
- Come to classes and activities prepared. You should have a full water bottle, journal, writing utensil, and appropriate clothing for all classes.

If these guidelines are not followed, the 3 Step Behavioral System will be used. Steps can be given by teachers, chaperones, and Mission Springs staff for behavioral problems. Fighting is not tolerated on Mission Springs' campus. Students fighting will be given a Step 2 or 3, depending on the circumstances.

Step 1 – Warning: Student receives a warning and name is recorded in Step Binder.

Step 2 – Phone Call Home: Student must call home and report their behavior to their parent(s).

Step 3 – Expulsion: Student will be asked to leave Mission Springs Outdoor Education.

I understand the Student Guidelines & Expectations and the 3-Step Behavioral System described above. I agree to follow these guidelines during my time at Mission Springs Outdoor Education. If I need help following any of these guidelines, I agree to talk to a teacher, chaperone, or naturalist.

One thing I will do to ensure that my experience at Mission Springs Outdoor Education is a positive one is....

Student's Signature

Date