

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM



WHAT IS THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM?

Each Monday, throughout the school year, almost 600 sixth grade boys and girls go with their classroom teachers to the three school camps in the mountains of San Diego County. There, under the leadership of trained camp teachers, they explore their new environment in a thrilling and adventurous learning experience.

For four and one-half days they live together in a camp and outdoor setting. The students take an active part in planning their week, setting standards of behavior, and accepting the responsibilities that are a natural part of camping and outdoor living.

Camp teachers, classroom teachers, and other camp personnel are always available; however, they

work in a manner to encourage children to grow in self-reliance and independence as they learn new skills taking care of themselves.

Cooperation and consideration for others become the means for gaining greater rewards from camp activities.

The friendly, relaxed atmosphere of the outdoors provides a climate wherein new friendships are made and increased understanding and respect for others are developed.

The camping experience in the mountains is part of the regular school instructional program.



THE OUTDOOR CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the school camp program is a curriculum of action: working, exploring, discovering, creating, conserving, sharing, investigating, and evaluating.

The new classroom includes many interesting places and things to study: the hills, the valleys, the river, the clear skies, the plants and animals, and the camper group.

The tools they use are the simple hand tools of the woodsman and draftsman: loppers, axes, shovels, saws, files, chisels, hammers, drills, glue, and sandpaper.

The equipment they use is that of the discoverer: maps, compasses, telescopes, binoculars, microscopes, and magnets.

The methods they use are those of the scientist: exploring, discovering, collecting, recognizing problems, planning, cooperating, proposing, testing, investigating, and evaluating.

In this outdoor classroom the activities include: studies in astronomy, geology, ecology, fire control, hiking, conserving soil, improving the forest, building dams, constructing bridges, planting trees, tracking animals, preparing and cooking meals over an open fire, tobogganing, sharing experiences around the campfire, carving in rock and wood, and singing and dancing.



CONSERVATION AT CAMP

Of all the activities, the most exciting and important to the students is the work that is done to help the forest become a better place. They build gulley plugs and check dams to control soil erosion. They plant seedlings where new trees are needed. They build fire breaks and reduce fire hazards in selected areas. They thin and prune trees to improve the timber stand. Many conservation work projects are carried on under the supervision

of the United States Forest Service or the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

The most ambitious and popular phase of the conservation work program has been the insect control project—an attempt to control the damage done by certain beetles that kill many trees in San Diego County.

WHY SHOULD CHILDREN GO TO CAMP DURING SCHOOLTIME?



The world in which children are living today is a technical world of pushbuttons, automation, and remote control. Children no longer have an adequate natural heritage in which they can orient and relate themselves to simple, natural laws of cause and effect.

Children need to take part in activities in which understanding and a strong feeling of purpose grow directly from firsthand, real-life situations.

The San Diego school camps are located in environments that offer many opportunities for such learning experiences. In a very real sense, the school camp is a laboratory of learning.

The outdoor experience is a part of a broad and carefully planned instructional program.

The outdoor education program provides unique experiences in citizenship that reinforce the total school program.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

The students find many ways to express their enthusiasm over the camp experience.

Singing along the trail, at powwows, and while doing work, lifts the spirits and adds to fellowship and fun.

Dancing pioneer square dances and folk dances gives students a joyous and active feeling for this country's pioneer heritage.

Creating beauty out of the natural materials from the mountains brings the students closer to a fundamental relationship with their natural world.

Recognizing and appreciating the great beauty and wonder of the outdoors develop esthetic and spiritual feelings in children.



HEALTH CARE AT CAMP

A registered nurse is in attendance at all school camps. If a child becomes too ill to participate in camp activities, parents will be called to pick up the child. In an emergency, when parents cannot be contacted, medical treatment will be given under the authorization parents sign as part of the application procedure.

Only essential medications should be sent to camp, in original containers clearly labeled with the child's name, name of medication, dosage, and nature of condition being treated.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM SUPPORTED?

The Department of Education, San Diego County, is responsible for providing and maintaining facilities for operating the program. The participating school districts pool their resources in providing the instructional program and the camp teachers. Students pay for their meals, lodging, health insurance, and transportation.

In an average week, approximately 600 students go to Camp Cuyamaca, Camp Palomar, and Camp Fox. There are nearly 60 members of the resident camp teaching staff and 37 other technical personnel who work under the direction of the director of outdoor education and three camp principals to provide a thrilling week of living and learning together in a new social and natural environment.



WHAT IS THE COST TO THE STUDENT?

The cost of attending the school camp is as follows:

Five days at camp	\$24.40
Health and accident insurance for five days	.60
CAMP COSTS	\$25.00
Plus transportation (as arranged by school district)	

The cost of transportation varies. Some school districts use school buses when they are available; in other cases charter buses are used.

Your child may already have saved part of the money needed for the trip. If not, he may want to start saving now.

WHAT SHOULD YOUR CHILD TAKE TO CAMP?

The amount and kinds of clothing that your child will need at camp will vary with the seasons. In early fall and late spring the days become quite warm. In the winter the temperature may drop to 10° above zero, and considerable rain or snow might fall.

Used and comfortable shoes and clothing are preferable to new ones that can be rough and stiff.

Even if the weather is clear, send rain gear. A few raincoats and galoshes are kept at camp for use by a few children in emergencies.

A list of suggested clothing and equipment will be sent to you later.



Superintendent of Schools
Department of Education, San Diego County