

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of your child and his or her class at the Outdoor Education Center! The following is a brief overview to familiarize you with the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center and our educational program.

History: Our center began in 1956, with two buildings constructed by Antioch students. It has grown to include a central lodge, three cabins, a craft hut, a raptor center and staff living space. We are located in the beautiful 1,000-acre Glen Helen Nature Preserve, which has been declared a National Natural Landmark and a National Environmental Study Area by the National Park Service.

What is Outdoor Education? Outdoor Education means using the environment as an integrating context for learning. Educators are increasingly seeing the value of authentic learning, which is learning based in real-world experience. You can't bring a forest, meadow or pond into the classroom. You must visit these communities to discover the many interrelationships between plants and animals. Nature is the living laboratory where students can develop concerns for the environment by forming a relationship with it. It is our hope that by developing a relationship with nature, students will gain an appreciation and a desire to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Learning About Ourselves: Just as important as the awakening to the natural world, is the students' awareness of who they are. At Glen Helen, students have the opportunity to work together as a team. They have the chance to grow in understanding, giving, caring, and sharing. Few students could participate in a week of working together outdoors without bringing home a deeper respect for each other, their classroom teachers, and their parents or guardians.

During a typical day, your child will have two major field trips in the Glen, which include activities centered on themes such as ecology, geology, or living history. Also during the day and early evening, additional activities may include pioneer crafts, music, baking, sports, dramatics, and of course some relaxation and good food.

For most students, their time spent at Glen Helen is an unforgettable experience. Many adults believe that their week at Glen Helen as a child was one of the most meaningful events of their school years! Thank you for sharing your child with us. We appreciate your support and will do everything we can to make this a wonderful, memorable experience for him/her.

Sincerely, the Staff of the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center

SOME OTHER QUESTIONS PARENTS OR GUARDIANS MIGHT HAVE:

- LOCATION:** The Outdoor Education Center is located off State Route 343 on the north side of Yellow Springs. Mail for students should be addressed to them at 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, Ohio, 45387. The emergency telephone number of 937-767-7648.
- TELEPHONING YOUR CHILD:** Students are not able to receive phone calls, except in emergencies. Students are not permitted to call home. However, parents and guardians will be notified immediately of severe behavior problems, accident, or illness.
- SUPERVISION:** Your child will be supervised closely by teachers and chaperones from your child's school or by Outdoor Education Center staff at all times. Our qualified staff includes college or graduate students who come to Glen Helen from all over the country and even abroad.
- HOUSING:** The students are housed in comfortable dorms with electricity, central heat, clean restrooms and showers. Supervision in the dorms is provided by teachers and chaperones coming from your school.
- FOOD:** Please do not pack food with your child. Three hot meals are served each day, and your child will not go hungry. Parents may send supplemental food only if their child has medical dietary restrictions. Food should be sent with teachers and will be coordinated by teachers throughout the week.
- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:** In the case of accident or illness, a parent or guardian will be contacted immediately. Each staff member is certified in First Aid and CPR. We have basic first-aid supplies on site and are located just minutes away from Greene Memorial Hospital and Miami Township Fire and Rescue.
- STUDENT INSURANCE:** Each child must be covered by some form of accident insurance before arrival at the Glen. If a personal or school policy is not in effect, the Center can provide the required insurance for 35¢ a day where the student is insured for the period of the stay. Contact your child's teacher if you are interested.
- CAMPSTORE:** We stock t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, postcards, hand lenses, pencils and other assorted items at our Camp Store. If your child's school chooses this option, a list of sample items and prices will be sent home. Students must bring the **exact amount of money** in a sealed envelope labeled with their name.
- WHAT TO BRING:** A list of recommended clothing and equipment will be sent home from school with your child.
- ECOCAMPS:** The Center offers a specialized program in the summer for children ages 5 – 14. Our summer Ecocamp program includes day camps and overnight camps. Look for a brochure in early winter. Call 937-767-7648 for information or visit our website at www.glenhelen.org