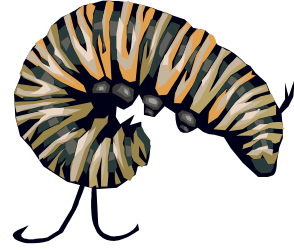


# A LETTER TO STUDENTS

Dear Student,

You'll be coming soon to the Outdoor Education Center for a field trip, which will last part of a week instead of just part of a day. You're probably wondering just what to expect, and whether you'll have a good time - We'll try to answer some of your questions here.



We are an outdoor classroom with three cabins, a main lodge, a clinic for injured hawks and owls, a pioneer log cabin, and several other special buildings. All of this is tucked into one corner of Glen Helen, a 1,000-acre forest, where there are over 25 miles of trails, more than you can possibly cover in a few days, but filled with surprises at every turn. There are raccoons, opossums, deer, and groundhogs, if you know where to look, and the two streams are filled with crayfish and minnows, plus lots of other interesting critters you'll learn more about while you're here.

To make the most of your stay with us, we need your help. It can be the best week of your life if you will observe the rules of the Glen and the Outdoor Education Center, be



thoughtful of others, and keep your eyes open and your mind tuned to what you may see and do. Be ready for everything and willing to try new things. You'll learn what Killer Statements and Actions are and why we think it is so important to stamp them out. You'll go on a Night Hike and learn what it might be like to be a nocturnal animal. You'll learn more

about your friends and more about yourself. And finally, you'll learn more about plants and animals and how you can help preserve the earth.

We look forward to meeting you, to learning with you, and to having exciting adventures together.

Now for some of those questions...

## Why is there an Outdoor Education Center?

We need to understand how we fit into the natural environment. This environment - the air, water, plants, soil and wildlife - is important for our survival! It is easier to appreciate these things when you are out there in the middle of them.

*Will we learn stuff at the Outdoor Education Center?*

Sure we will. We'll be learning more about math, social studies, science, art and language arts while exploring a 1,000-acre outdoor laboratory. But we think this is fun and we think you will too. We'll play some games and learn about animals and trees while we play.

*Who will teach us?*

You will do some teaching, your classroom teacher may do some, but mostly your leaders will be some very special teacher-naturalists who love the Glen and enjoy working with students.

*How can I help to make my visit the very best?*

1. Carefully study the materials your teacher provides about the Outdoor Education Center
2. Come prepared for those wet and/or cold days with adequate clothing.
3. Bring your curiosity.
4. Be respectful to all - fellow students, teachers, naturalist, plants and animals.

*Are they strict at the Outdoor Education Center?*

Unless your words or actions hurt others, you will see what fun you can have when people cooperate and work together. On occasion, students who have been unable to obey the rules have been returned to school.

*What happens if one of us gets sick, gets homesick, or needs daily medication?*

If you get sick or injured, we'll call your parents and see that you get medical help. If you get homesick, we'll help you get over it. If you regularly need medicine from home, your teacher will give it to you.

*Will we have some free time?*

Yes, a little before and after each meal, during a mid-afternoon break and possibly just before lights out at night. Bring along a good book or a quiet game to use in the cabin for those times.

*May we bring gum or food to the Outdoor Education Center?*

Gum is not allowed. Food may not be brought into the cabins because it attracts mice and squirrels. Your class may want to bring an evening snack which can be stored in our kitchen.

*Can parents visit me at the Center?*

Not during your stay with us. Bring them back afterward, though and you be the naturalist for them! Park at Trailside Museum where trail maps are available.

*Do I need money at the Center?*

Only if you want to buy something from our Campstore, and then only bring the exact amount needed, in cash.

*What should I take with me?*

Included in this packet is a suggested list of clothing and equipment you will need.

*Will I really enjoy myself there?*

Do birds fly?