**Frequently Asked Questions: 5th Grade Environmental Education Trip**

The Pines Catholic Camp
Tuesday, March 6th – Friday, March 9th, 2018

**Q. What is the Pines Environmental Education trip?**

A. This experiential learning model is designed for upper elementary students to have hands-on activities in nature, and see God’s glory in His creation. Environmental Education (EE) covers principles of religion, science, math, language and history. EE is also designed to enrich and enhance the current classroom curriculum through teaching in an outdoor classroom setting.

**Q. When and where do I drop my child off on the morning of 3/6?**

A. You are asked to sign your student in to us in the Lion’s Lair on the sign-in sheet provided. Students may be brought to the cafeteria beginning at 7:15 if needed. Otherwise, please have your child to the Lion’s Lair gym at 7:30 a.m. At that time, students will see lists for cabin and group placement while at the Pines. Nurse Townsend will be there to collect any medication as well.

**Q. When and where will I pick my child up on 3/9?**

A. Buses will leave Big Sandy just after 12:30 p.m. on 3/9. Mrs. O’Connor will send an e-mail to notify you of the precise arrival time. We should be back to school around 3:00 a.m. and we encourage you to pick your child up at arrival time. Pick up takes place in the cafeteria/front circle driveway. As always, if someone other than yourself is going to pick your child up please let his or her homeroom teacher and Mrs. O’Connor know via e-mail. ASP students will be escorted to after school care following dismissal. If you provided any medication for your child, please pick up from Nurse Townsend at that time.

**Q. Where is the Pines Catholic Camp located?**

A. 300 White Pine Road, Big Sandy, TX

**Q. Who will teach my child while at the Pines?**

A. The Pines Missionary Staff facilitates all programming during the time at the Pines. They come from all around the country, and they are always a highlight of the student’s experience!

**Q. What will my child learn while at this educational trip?**
A. Activity areas include forestry, archaeology, limnology, meteorology, entomology, and orienteering. We integrate the teachings of the Church, saint stories and scripture study to enhance the knowledge of the students and open eyes to see how God is at work in our environment.  A mass for the groups is celebrated as well.

**Q. What is the cost of the Pines trip?**

A. The fee for this educational trip is $260. Payment may be made electronically through our school website (simply indicate Pines fee) or by check. We ask that payments be submitted by Friday, February 9th.

**Q. How many chaperones will attend?**

A. The three 5th grade teachers and a minimum of twelve safe-environment trained parent chaperones will be with the group of students.

**Q. Where will my child stay?**

A. At the Pines there will be assigned two girl cabins and two boy cabins with up to 15 other children and three to four parent chaperones in each.

**Q. What will my child need to pack or bring?**

A. Please refer to suggested packing list provided. Please label ALL of your child’s belongings! No rolling bags of any kind are allowed. Please note your child will be carrying his or her own luggage and belongings, so plan for that. Students are not permitted to bring money and a $15 stipend to use in the general store will be given to each student.

**Q. What will my child eat while at the Pines?**

A. Three well-balanced and nutritious meals are prepared each day for the students. There are options provided to students for each meal and we work diligently to make sure children are getting all they need nutritionally. Students are not permitted to bring and food items in their luggage. Nurse Townsend will oversee any meals given to students with food allergies.

**Q. What if my child needs to take medication while away?**

A. Teachers will dispense and monitor all medication to students. Completed forms are required if your son or daughter is going to have any medication while at the Pines.

**Q. Where will my child shower?**

A. Each cabin has bathroom facilities with individual shower stalls and students are monitored by parent chaperones. Students are required to shower daily due to high outdoor activity levels!

**Q. Will I be able to communicate with my child?**

A. The 5th grade team will provide a nightly update to e-mail addresses provided in RenWeb to all parents-we know you will look forward to receiving that : )

**Q. Can my child bring a camera, cell phone, or other electronic device?**

A. Only disposable cameras are permitted. Please remind your child no pictures may be taken in his/her cabin at any time. We encourage students to bring a book, deck of cards, coloring sheets, etc. for downtime in the cabins.

**Q. What forms must I complete and when are the forms due?**

A. Two completed forms are required. A St. Mark permission slip and a Pines permission slip must be completed and returned to Mrs. Ferri by Friday, February 9th.

**Q. Is there a website I can go to for further information?**

A. The Pines website has additional resources you may find helpful: <http://www.thepines.org/>. All forms that are required are on Weebly should you need to locate them again. Parent-teacher conferences held at the end of October are a great time to share any insights or to ask questions about this exciting educational opportunity!