

Parents' Guide

20th Annual Snapp's Brats' Camporama - June 1-3, 2007

This trip is a reward for good behavior. In order to earn an invitation a student must have:

- no more than one yellow slip for misbehavior in the third trimester
- not been sent to the office on a behavior-related matter
- no Behavior Referrals
- not have received a 2 hour suspension in the office
- not have been suspended from school.
- have an **S** or better in all behavior-related categories on the third trimester report card (S- is not good enough.)

For those who earn the privilege of an invitation, the trip is not intended as a study trip. We're just going to go and camp and have fun!

Where Chorro Group Campsite at Morro Bay State Park. I will send home a map the week prior to the trip.

Transportation Each student is responsible for his or her own transportation to and from the campground. If you can't bring your child, you will have to find someone else to drive him or her.

Cost - The cost is \$20 per child for the weekend. The cost will be the same regardless of how many meals you eat with us, or whether you spend the night. This covers the cost of the large group campsite for two nights, plus all of the food. The cost for parent chaperones is \$10, which is only to cover food; not camping. Younger siblings (only allowed if the parent(s) attend as chaperones) cost \$20.

When - The campout starts at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, and ends at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 3. Please don't come early, and **PLEASE DON'T BE LATE PICKING UP YOUR CHILD ON SUNDAY**. (I'll be so exhausted that every minute of delay will seem like hours!) You should feed your child dinner before bringing him or her on Friday - we won't be preparing any food that night. You **can** come late on Friday - for instance, if your child has a baseball game - but I recommend that you try to get there before it gets dark. It can be difficult putting up a tent in the dark, especially if you are unfamiliar with it. You can also come get your child early on Sunday - you don't have to wait until 10:00.

Coming and Going - I know lots of kids will have games that weekend. If your child needs to leave the campground and come back later, that's fine, but you will have to arrange transportation. Also, I ask that you please not leave kids unattended. For instance, if you bring your child back from his or her game and there's nobody at our campsite because we're off on a hike, don't just leave your child. Wait with him or her until I return.

Another option is to spend the days with us, but to take your child home at night. Some kids have a hard time sleeping on the ground. Some kids might need to get plenty of sleep - for instance, if they have a big game the next day - and won't be able to do it when the kids in their tent are staying up late talking. That's fine. Come and get your child at night and bring him or her back in the morning.

Who - All students who have met the previously mentioned criteria are invited. Of course, no one *has* to go. If your child prefers to stay home, that's fine. Parents are invited. I can use your help, particularly when we're preparing meals. (I will handle all of the supervision of the kids.) Younger siblings are allowed to come if both parents are coming and there's no one to watch them, however they must follow my behavior rules or they'll be asked to leave. Older siblings are generally not allowed to come. The only exception might be if the older sibling was once in my class, and was not a behavior problem, and their sibling who is presently in my class is okay with their coming. Talk to me if you think this might be the case. **Siblings will pay a full share of \$20.**

Equipment We'll Need - I'm sending home a list of the equipment we need. It's basic camping stuff. We'll probably need at least four camp stoves, probably four or five ice chests, at least one propane barbecue, enough firewood for two mornings and two nights. We'll also need plenty of cooking utensils - frying pans, mixing bowls, cutting boards, kitchen knives, spatulas, etc. Please indicate all the items you can provide, and I'll let you know which of the items you listed that we actually need.

I'm sending home a checklist for the kids. Basically, they'll need a sleeping bag, clothes, and toiletry items, although there are a lot of other things they can bring if they want.

We'll need enough tents for all the kids. Parents (and kids) can sleep in vans or in the backs of pickups, but **no motorhomes, travel trailers, or tent trailers please.**

Food - I will buy all the food. We will cook it ourselves. The kids will do as much of the cooking as is practical, with parental supervision, of course. Here is the menu:

Saturday Breakfast – French toast, bacon, sausage, pancakes, orange juice, milk, hot chocolate

Saturday Lunch - sandwiches, fruit, chips, soda

Saturday Dinner - hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, salad, chips, milk, juice, s'mores for dessert

Sunday Breakfast - doughnuts and bagels with cream cheese, orange juice, milk, hot chocolate

The kids are allowed to bring snacks to supplement these, including candy. Whatever candy they bring is up to you. However, if you are concerned about this, please tell me. It's been my experience that the kids who don't bring a lot of candy end up eating a lot anyway, because the other kids share. From the general food budget I will provide each child with two sodas, which they can drink whenever they wish. They can also choose not to make s'mores, but to just eat their Hershey bars and Graham crackers and marshmallows.

Caution: I have had kids throw up on my campouts before from too much candy or too many marshmallows. I'm not going to be their parent. If you are concerned about this, please give them instructions as to how much they can have.

Bedtime - Realistically, it will be very difficult to get the kids to go to sleep at a reasonable hour, especially on Friday night. By Saturday, they'll be pretty tired, and it will be a little easier. Tentatively, bedtime will be around 11:00. That may change, depending on how things work out (for instance, how well the kids behave, and what kind of mood I'm in.) If you don't want your child staying up this late (or possibly later!), I suggest you take him or her home at night.

In the mornings I'll let the kids sleep in as long as they want, although we'll try to wake them up for breakfast. However, other kids will be getting up early, and it's usually hard to keep them quiet, though I'll try. The result will be that most of us won't be getting enough sleep. You might consider keeping Sunday afternoon open, so that your child will be able to take a long nap.

Behavior - I'm sending home a copy of my behavior agreement. Please read it carefully with your child. One aspect of it that you need to be aware of is that I require that you (or another responsible adult) be available day *and night*, in case I need to send your child home. It doesn't happen very often, but if a child chooses not to follow rules, he or she loses the privilege of attending (*with no refund.*) Also, there's always the chance that a student might get sick or injured, and need to go home.

That's all I can think of now. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me or send me a note.

Yours truly,
Camper Snapp