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January 7, 2020

Dear ARS 6th grade students, parents and guardians,

We have an exciting trip planned for the annual 6th grade overnight field trip. The class will be heading to the **Mountain Trail Outdoor School**, which is located in Hendersonville, NC, **April 20-22, 2020** (Monday-Wednesday). MTOS is part of Kanuga Conference Center.

The Mountain Trail Outdoor School (MTOS) offers programs which provide youth and adults the chance to experience positive community, grow physically and mentally, improve self-confidence and increase awareness and stewardship of our natural environment. During the day, ARS students will be taking environmentally based classes in Mountain Ecology and Outdoor Living Skills and participating in adventure based classes such as Team Building, High Ropes Course and Canoeing. Our nights will include a presentation on "Animals We Love to Hate" by a local Naturalist, Group Games and even a Campfire.

The students will stay together in cabins with bunk-rooms and adult chaperones. Girls and Boys will stay in separate cabins. Linens (*sheets, pillow, blanket, towel and washcloth*) are provided for all students and chaperones. The meals are served family style in the dining hall with a wide assortment of filling and healthy, kid-friendly food. Feel free to visit the MTOS website for more information: <https://www.kanuga.org/camps-outdoor-education/mountain-trail-outdoor-school/>

We will leave ARS at 9:00am on Monday, April 20 and return by 3:00pm on Wednesday, April 22. The cost of the trip is \$225 for students and chaperones. We are looking for at least 4 moms and dads to go with us on the trip. A deposit of \$75 for each student or adult attending is due no later than Wednesday, February 5 in order to reserve a spot. You can pay for the deposit in MyPaymentsPlus.

The remaining balance can be split up into 2 payments (\$75 due March 4 and \$75 due April 1). Possible financial assistance is available from MTOS. Please pick up the financial assistance application from Mrs. Berkley and return no later than February 5.

I will host 2 **parent information sessions** on Tuesday, January 28. Info session #1 from 3:30-4:00 and info session #2 from 4:30-5:00. I will give a general overview of the field trip and answer any questions that you may have about the trip.

This is a wonderful chance for students to experience learning in a whole new classroom! There is enough space for every sixth grade student to go! If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Berkley. I hope you can join us for this fun and exciting program! 704-878-6009 or cathy.berkley@arsnc.org

Cathy Berkley

General Trip Information at a Glance:

DATES: April 20-22, 2020 (Leaving 9:00am on Monday and return by 3:00pm on Wednesday)

CHAPERONES: We are looking for parents (moms and dads) to chaperone for the trip. Please make sure to include a deposit for yourself. Moms will stay in the girl's cabin and Dads will stay in the boy's cabin. There is a chaperone bunk room in the cabin that is separate from the students' bunk room with a private bathroom for the adults.

COST: \$225 per person: includes charter bus transportation, lodging/linens, meals and programs for 3 days and 2 nights.

DEPOSIT: \$75 per person
Due Wednesday, February 5
**Deposit is made on MyPaymentsPlus website*

PAYMENTS: You can choose to pay the entire fee at once or break it up into monthly payments.
Payment #1-due March 4 (\$75)
Payment #2-due April 1 (\$75)
**Field trip must be paid in full by April 1*
**All payments are made on the MyPaymentPlus website*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Deposit Due: (\$75) Wednesday, February 5

1st Payment Due: (\$75) Wednesday, March 4

2nd Payment Due: (\$75) Wednesday, April 1

WHAT TO BRING: You will receive a "What to Bring" list and other required forms on April 1

PARENT INFO SESSIONS:

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|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Tuesday, January 28 | Session #1 | 3:30-4:00 |
| | Session #2 | 4:30-5:00 |

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Berkley at 704-878-6009 or email cathy.berkley@arsnc.org