

STEVENSON

September, 2019

Dear Sophomore Parents,

As you may be experiencing, sophomore year is an interesting year of transition for students. Students begin to think beyond high school, and college commitments begin to take shape. It is a time to try new adventures before the academic rigors of the junior year. Thus, Stevenson offers sophomores the opportunity of an extended backpacking trip in the mountains through the Sophomore Wilderness Expedition. This trip is designed as a physical and mental challenge in a relatively unfamiliar environment. The experience is designed to engender feelings of self-worth and achievement, and provide a level of confidence needed to meet the opportunities that emerge in the years ahead.

This year is the 27th consecutive Expedition! Once again, we will return to Henry Coe State Park. Sophomores will leave Stevenson on the morning of **Saturday, February 22, and return between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3. This trip takes place over most of Spring Break.**

Since other students and faculty will still be on spring break, it is important that you make arrangements for your child for the remainder of Spring Break. The dorms will be closed, and there will be no faculty on campus during this time. Please make arrangements for your son or daughter to depart Stevenson no earlier than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3. This will allow students time to return to school, take a quick shower and change clothes, and then leave school for the remainder of spring break.

Cost and Application Due Dates

The cost of the expedition is \$600. This amount, along with the student's application, is due no later than **Wednesday, October 23.**

The Stevenson Wilderness Expedition is strongly encouraged for all sophomores, and there are a limited number of students who may go on the trip. **Please look carefully at all trip dates and only apply if your child is committed to going on the trip. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and the trip is often full by Pirates Parents Week in mid-October.** In this case, a waiting list will be established. Financial assistance is available based upon need at the time of application (please contact me at bmccormick@stevensonsschool.org). The cost of necessary clothing and equipment is not included in the Expedition cost. Clothing and boot costs can be reasonable with careful shopping. You can also get much of your equipment easily online or at a number of outdoor stores. Sleeping bags and backpacks are available to rent from the school at minimal cost on a first-come, first-served basis. Please indicate if you would like to rent a backpack or sleeping bag on your application. All expedition information is posted on the

Stevenson School website [here](#). *Please read all expedition literature carefully.*

Sophomore Wilderness Q&A Session during Pirate Parents Week

Should you have any questions regarding the trip or wish for a more detailed presentation, you are encouraged to attend a meeting during **Pirate Parents Week at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 18** in the Lindsley Science Center Lecture Hall (S9). There will be a presentation followed by a question and answer period. If you have further questions, contact Bob McCormick at bmccormick@stevensonschool.org or 831-625-8379. If you attend the meeting and would like to revoke your application, we will refund your money. The Wilderness Expedition has been a momentous experience for many Stevenson students. I am hopeful that you will make it a special part of your Stevenson experience, too.

Next Steps

If you wish to have your child participate, you must complete, sign, and return the Application, Medical History, Health / Fitness Disclosure, and Assumption of Risk / Liability forms. Here are the directions for doing this.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you!

Bob

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