

# FRESHMAN MINIMESTER CAMPING 101

## A WILD TIME

The Freshman Minimester is a chance for students to fully immerse themselves in TECH-FREE experiential learning!

Students will NOT be bringing phones, smart watches, iPads or other tech devices on this trip! This trip provides the unique chance for students to disconnect from their electronic world - and connect with each other and the natural world around us. Don't worry - staff will have our phones at all times, and parents will have the emergency contact number to reach staff at any time during the trip. We'll disconnect from our phones and screens, and connect with each other and the natural world around us as we study the flora (plants) and fauna (animals) of the Chesapeake Bay watershed area.

## SAFETY GUIDE

- Use common sense.
- Don't eat stuff you find, unless someone qualified tells you it is safe.
- Don't touch animals without permission (bugs and aquatic life are animals).
- If a situation or person feels unsafe, let a trusted adult/teacher know; your safety is always our priority.
- Watch your step - tripping hazards, holes, poison ivy, etc.
- No horseplay in risky areas - overlooks, river banks, on boats, near roads, etc.
- When in doubt, ask an adult! All of your teachers are First Aid certified.



## REMINDER

Our last payment was due April 5. By now, everyone should have paid in full for the trip. If applicable, PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET CAUGHT UP ON ANY MISSED PAYMENTS - our trip is in less than a month from May 15-19. Reach out to the Freshman Minimester Team if you have any questions or concerns about this.



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## LEAVE NO TRACE

We all share the outdoors, and the outdoors is for EVERY body. If we all do our part, we can make the outdoors a welcoming and inclusive place for ALL people!

An easy way to be a good guest and citizen is to follow the outdoor rules known as “Leave No Trace”

1. Plan ahead and prepare for the day ahead - bring enough lunch, snacks, and your water bottle; bring the right shoes and clothes for the day's activities and weather.
2. Stay on the trail or other designated areas - going off trail can damage habitat; straying into private or prohibited areas can get you in trouble.
3. Respect wildlife - You are in their home; do not harass, hurt, or kill wildlife. This includes plants, bugs, spiders, fish, crabs, snakes and other small animals. If you do this, you will lose any privileges of doing independent or unsupervised activities.
4. Respect other people - We are guests in all the places we visit on this trip! Just like you want to have a nice day, so does everyone else you meet. You are not just representing yourself - you are representing RCHS and the city of Richmond, Va. We want to be welcomed back for years to come - please do not be remembered as the person who ruined that for us!



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5. Pack your trash out - Don't want your trash? Neither does anyone else! Don't throw it on the ground or leave it behind for others to pick up. Hold onto your trash until you can put it in the proper receptacle. You can be a GREAT guest by leaving places cleaner than you found them!
  6. Take nothing but photos - It is tempting to pick flowers or take items we find, but if everyone did that, there would be nothing left for us to enjoy! Photos are a much better and longer-lasting way to remember something cool or pretty that you see.
  7. Have fun! The outdoors should be a safe and fun place for ALL people. Your choices make a big impact on making the outdoors a safe and welcoming place to everyone.