

Helpful Tips for Teachers

COMMUNICATION

There is decent cell reception and wireless internet throughout most of Camp MayMac.

Except under the most unusual circumstances, students will NOT be permitted to talk with their parents over the phone for the following reasons:

1. We find that these conversations often increase homesickness and delay children's adjustment to the Outdoor Project. Additionally, when one student talks to their family and the word spread that they have done so, homesickness can spread throughout the entire community. Homesickness is contagious!
2. We will keep the students very busy during the program. We do not want to pull them away from their groups to come to the phone.

In case of an emergency, families may call 510-452-3377 or they may call you if you like. We also ask that you make this policy very clear to parents and all staff at your school who may be communicating with parents, including the school principal and other administrators. It is extremely important that everyone be on the same page regarding this policy and its reasons.

While we do allow students to receive letters at our Outdoor Project, we ask that you downplay this option for families. We want to avoid mail as much as possible because of fairness and equity issues. It is inevitable that some students will receive more mail than others, and some will not receive any at all. We have also found that letters, similar to phone calls, often increase homesickness. We ask that you do not discuss the possibility of letter writing with parents unless they bring it up with you. If students wish to write letters home, they can bring letter writing supplies.

THE FACILITY

Camp MayMac is located in Felton, California. It is a beautiful site complete with redwoods, large fields, and a creek. It includes hiking trails, a swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, and of course, a campfire circle. The students' cabins sleep up to ten in bunkbeds and have two restrooms with showers in each cabin. Weather permitting, we will give the students the opportunity to swim during downtime with at least three certified lifeguards present. The site also has a large dining room with sliding glass doors we plan to leave open where food will be served.

All students, cabin leaders, and staff will sleep in the cabin area of the camp. Teachers will sleep in a cozy house with a shared bathroom about a 5-minute walk from the student and staff cabins. Like your students, you should bring your own sleeping bag. It is also important to bring clothing for warm and cold weather, good rain gear, a daypack, and a flashlight.

SUPERVISION

The students' physical and emotional safety and well-being are our primary concerns. The students will be supervised 24 hours a day. Cabin leaders will sleep in the cabins every night. Our staff to student ratio is approximately 1 to 6. We ask you to help us with the general supervision of your students when you are present. We encourage you to participate in as many of our activities as possible and to use this unique experience to get to know your students on a different level.

However, we understand that you will need to take occasional breaks. You will have approximately 45 minutes of “Teacher Time” with your students each day. You will be solely responsible for them during this time and can use it however you like (discussion, story time, journal time, etc.). Please bring any supplies you will need for this time along with you. We will also ask you to help supervise the students during their free time.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Because your students’ safety is so important to us, we must strictly enforce our rules regarding safety. Any child who cannot comply with these rules must be removed from the program by their parent/caretaker.

Our staff is trained in First Aid and CPR. Some staff members hold advanced certifications such as Wilderness First Responder. A full-service hospital is located nearby in Scotts Valley, a 15-minute drive away. Because the children live in close quarters in the cabins, we ask that parents **do not send a child with a communicable disease** such as strep throat, flu, chicken pox, head lice, COVID 19, etc.

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

We ask that you oversee all medication that students bring to the Outdoor Project. Any serious medical conditions should be discussed with the Director. All medications should be collected from the students before leaving school (except asthma inhalers and Epi-Pens. If a student uses any of these, the student should bring two sets of any such medication-- one to give you and one to keep on themselves at all times). Please ensure all medicines are in their original container and have complete instructions for use. No medications, except asthma inhalers and Epi-Pens or other bee sting kits, are to be in the cabins. This includes Tylenol and other pain relievers, prescription creams, antibiotic ointments, cough drops/syrup, etc.

Medication Record Sheets: You will be supplied with medication record sheets when you arrive at the Outdoor Project. Each child will have a separate bag for any medication they brought to the Outdoor Project, which you collected prior to leaving school. These sheets need to be signed each time a student is medicated and should be returned to the parents on Friday with the medication or any empty containers. Please be sure that you return each student’s medicine at the end of the week.

Times to Dispense Medications: Medications will be given during breakfast, dinner, and camp-fire. Some teachers prefer to dispense medication at the end of Teacher Time in the late morning. If a student requires a medication schedule that is more frequent or not practical during the times outlined above, please discuss the student’s needs with the Director.

Away from Camp: Anytime the students will be away from the immediate vicinity of their cabins, the office, or the dining hall (such as when they are on a hike), please ensure that any medications students will need during that time period are brought with the group. The medications may be given to a staff member to keep in a backpack, where they will be placed in a plastic baggy and labeled. Please remind the staff person and the student’s cabin leader when it is time for the student to take the medication.

Asthma Medications and Epi-Pens: Children who use inhalers are required to keep their inhalers with them at all times. Parents must also send an extra inhaler for you to keep in case the child misplaces the original. Any breathing machines or special devices need to be discussed with the

Director. Children who arrive with an Epi-Pen must always keep it on them and leave an extra one with you. The child should meet with the teacher, Cabin Leader, and Director to discuss the carrying and potential use of the pen.

Our Medicine Cabinet and First Aid: The Mosaic Project has a well-stocked medicine cabinet. When you arrive at the Outdoor Project, we will review our policies and procedures regarding First Aid. The Mosaic Project staff and teachers can dispense medications from our medicine cabinet to students in your class if we have permission from their parents/guardians. Please do not dispense anything without being briefed on our policies. Please note: *Under no circumstances is a high-school student cabin leader to administer medication.*

If you are not certified in First Aid and CPR, you may leave all medical emergencies to The Mosaic Project staff members. Our staff is certified in First Aid and CPR, and some are Wilderness First Responders.