



Anser Charter School

AN EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING SCHOOL

August 2018

Dear Anser JH Parents,

Greetings from the JH team. We hope you are enjoying summer with your children. The JH teachers are taking the time to breathe, garden, travel and read. We have also started planning for next year. The most critical experience we plan is our adventure trip that is a pivotal and expected component of our fall curriculum. As an EL Education school, adventure is a vital, purposeful, and rich experience for us to have as a community.

"Adventure helps to create the student engagement and focus on character that distinguishes the EL experience. Adventure can be any physical, artistic, or intellectual experience that involves risk, challenge, and discovery. Every adventure has a strong element of entering the unknown and not being certain of the outcome. EL promotes the kinds of adventures that create opportunities for leadership and collaboration as groups of students and teachers face challenges together. Together, students and adults discover they can do more than they thought was possible, and find aspects of themselves that they didn't know were there." *EL Education Core Practices*

Our fall adventure completely captures this spirit. We see adventure as a way to build a supportive learning community of young people and adults, who respect, help and push each other to create and achieve. Our activities during adventure offer opportunities for students to learn and challenge themselves away from school and to give us time to get to know each other better and build community. From this experience, we build a foundation for the entire year. We are eagerly looking forward to this time with students.

This fall, our trip will take place **September 24-28**, with students spending 2 ½ days at adventure. For those who have not experienced it before, our trip involves camping, hiking, team building, games, and reflection; the highlight is an entire day on a ropes course of high and low rope challenges. We camp at Ponderosa State Park for two nights, where students sleep in tents and share in the preparation and clean up of meals. Also at Ponderosa, we enjoy starlight walks, quiet time at the beach, campfires and more.

We have divided the junior high into two equal groups so that half of the students will be out on the trip in McCall while the other half will be attending school. The first group (group A) will leave Monday the 24th and return the 26th by 3:00. The second half (group B) will travel to McCall on Wednesday the 26th returning the 28th by 3:00. When not in McCall, students will be in class like a regular school day. The list of students in each group is included in this letter. We purposefully put siblings in the same group so parents can more easily participate with all their children, if they choose.

More information will come out in the fall to help you and your child prepare and pack for adventure. We have included our standard packing list with this letter to assist you in thinking about your child's needs.

Adventure is a huge undertaking that requires substantial planning, preparation & parent support; but the pay-off is so worth it. We could not accomplish adventure without the help of parents. Please read further for ways to support our adventure.

WAYS TO SUPPORT ADVENTURE

Families: Speak to your child about the importance of this experience and allow them to have a conversation about what they may be feeling about going. Most students are super excited, but some students have concerns around different aspects of the trip. Please let your child's crew leader know if there is a concern that makes your child nervous or hesitant. As an important school event, please put a priority on this trip by putting other activities on the back burner. Support your child's focus on this week by minimizing other obligations.

Chaperones: This type of trip requires a lot of adult chaperones. Please consider being a chaperone and put this on your calendar now! We need volunteers who can be "all in" for this adventure - camping for two nights, assisting with food prep, driving students, assisting on the ropes course and more. While we appreciate offers to drive students up to McCall but not stay, we really need volunteers who can stay and be part of the adventure with us. As previous chaperones will attest, it is a very rewarding, exciting, and sometimes emotional experience. We hope you will join us! To sign up, go to our sign up genius - <https://tinyurl.com/Fall2018-JHAdventure>

Food committee: This undertaking requires substantial support in the planning and organization of the food, cooking, and kitchen equipment. We are in need of a group of parents who will take the lead on our food committee. We will need a parent for each half of the week who will be in charge of the food and kitchen. The other parent chaperones will be asked to help support the kitchen while on adventure. In addition, if you cannot go on adventure but still want to help, there will be an opportunity to help the food committee with specific tasks that happen before we leave. Please email Kelly if you would like to be a lead on our food committee (kmcleod@ansercharterschool.org)

Trailers: We will have a lot of gear and will need at least one large utility trailer for each group. The trailer should have a cover and tie-downs. If you are a chaperone with a trailer you are willing to bring, please indicate that on the sign up. <https://tinyurl.com/Fall2018-JHAdventure>

Fee: To cover the costs of adventure, there is a charge of \$75 per student that will be collected at the time of registration. This will be the only fee collected at registration for JH. If this poses a financial burden for your family, please contact Heather Dennis by phone (208-426-9840) or email (hdennis@ansercharterschool.org).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the trip, please contact a JH crew leader. With our summer travels, we may not respond immediately, but will reply as soon as we can.

Staff emails:

kmcleod@ansercharterschool.org
dhiggins@ansercharterschool.org
hbanuelos@ansercharterschool.org

awirsching@ansercharterschool.org
jbu@ansercharterschool.org
ngeile@ansercharterschool.org

Sincerely,
The JH Team

Kelly McLeod, Dolly Higgins, Heather Banuelos, Abigail Wirsching, Julie Bu & Nicole Geile

Fall Adventure Packing checklist

- Daypack
- Water bottle
- Travel mug for hot drinks (non-breakable)
- Warm sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Warm coat**
- warm hat & gloves**
- Rain coat or shell
- Rain pants (if you have some)
- Long pants or sweats (required for ropes course equipment)
- t-shirt that can be tucked in (Really important on the ropes course)**
- Shorts
- Hiking shoes or sneakers
- Baseball cap or other hat with brim
- Sweatshirt or fleece
- Long underwear (optional)
- Warm pj's or sweats
- flashlight (headlamps encouraged)
- sunscreen
- extra t-shirts
- 2-3 pairs of socks
- book or deck of cards, games
- toiletry items
- chapstick
- towel
- sunglasses (optional)
- Frisbees, footballs, soccer balls for free time

If your family does not have any of the above items, please have your child speak with his/her crew leader.

What NOT to bring: Snacks or candy for in your tent, electronic games or music devices, cell phones, or pocket knives.