



October 7, 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for allowing your son to participate in the Senior Wilderness Retreat scheduled for October 27-29, 2021. We will leave around 11:00 am on Wednesday, the 27th and return at approximately 3pm on Friday, the 29th. Delays are always possible on the return trip, so please don't make any plans for your son before 5pm on Friday. It is preferred that your son not leave a car on campus during the retreat. If you have no other options, please have him see Mr. Scheler for permission to leave a car.

We are going to be camping in the Red River Gorge section of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The nearest town is Slade, KY. We will be camping in tents at a primitive campsite on Tunnel Ridge Road. We will be camped off of the Archaic, Fort Ancient, Paleo, or Tar Kiln parking areas (campsites are first-come, first-served, so we won't know which one until we arrive). Any U.S. Forest Service ranger will know where these areas are located.

A packing list for your son was included in this email. We will meet with them and go over this list in more detail. If there is anything on the list that he does not have, please let us know, as we may be able to provide some things. We don't intend for you to have to buy anything for this retreat.

Your son should come to school on Wednesday, the 27th in regular school dress. He should make sure his camping clothes are readily accessible, though, as he will need to change before leaving. Please make sure your son brings plenty of warm clothes. I would recommend a sleeping bag that is rated for at least 30 degrees or lower. If your son's sleeping bag is rated higher than that, or does not have a rating, I would recommend bringing a warm blanket, in addition to the sleeping bag. We almost always experience at least some rain on these retreats, so please make sure he brings some sort of rain gear. Because of the slim, but increasing risk of bears in the gorge, please make sure your son does not bring any other food with him. We will provide all food and ensure that it is safely stored.

Due to the current pandemic, we are taking extra precautions to mitigate the risk of transmitting or receiving the virus. Students will not be sharing tents and food service has been modified to be as safe as possible. Masks will be worn on the bus and as deemed necessary by the retreat leaders. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Your child will be accompanied on this retreat by Mr. Frank Hulsman, Mr. Matt Yarborough, Mr. Mark Metzger, Mr. Stephen Ashby, and myself. If you have an emergency and need to reach us, you can try the following numbers:

(630) 995-6269 (Mr. Murphy's cell) or (502) 544-0132 (Mr. Metzger's cell)

Cell service at the Gorge can be inconsistent. If we do not answer please make sure you leave a message and we will return your call ASAP. You can also try to reach a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service at this number:

(606) 663-8100 (Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center)

The St. X release form / waiver can be found on www.saintx.com/retreatinfo (scroll down to Wilderness) as well as a copy of this letter and the packing list. Please make sure you fill out the release form completely, especially including the requested medical information and consent. Please also make sure that any outstanding balance is paid by October 20. Mrs. Gail Ernstberger will send you a statement indicating the account balance in the next couple of days. If finances are an issue for you right now, let us know, as we can work out some arrangements to make sure your son is able to participate in this retreat.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. With this retreat taking place during the fall, it will present an awesome view of the beauty of God's creation as reflected in nature and the fall colors.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Murphy".

Mr. Stephen Murphy

Coordinator of Campus Ministry
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