



Dear Parents,

Thank you for allowing your son to participate in the Senior Wilderness Retreat scheduled for **October 18 - 20, 2023**. We will leave around 11:00 am on Wednesday, the 10/18 and return at approximately 3:00 pm on Friday, 10-20. However, delays are always possible on the return trip, so please do not make any plans for your son before 5:00 pm 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. Ronzel Smith 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 the Archaic, Fort Ancient, Paleo, or Tar Kiln parking areas (campsites are first-come, first-served, so we will not 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 is on www.saintx.com/retreatinfo under the Senior Wilderness Retreat (+) menu. We will meet with the group of students 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 do not intend for you to have to buy anything for this retreat.

Your son should come to school on Wednesday, 10/18 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° 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 usually 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 food with him.** We will provide all food and ensure that it is safely stored.

Mr. Josh Mullin, Mr. David Stack, Mr. Matt Yarborough, Mr. John Zickel, and I will accompany your child on this retreat. 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) 551-6244 (Mr. Mullin'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)

A permission form/waiver form are also on the www.saintx.com/retreatinfo web page under the Senior Wilderness Retreat menu. This is an electronic signature form that must be read and submitted by a parent or legal guardian. **Please make sure you fill out the release form completely, especially including the requested medical information and consent.** If you wish, a paper document is available and your son may pick it up from the Campus Ministry office. Please also make sure that you or your son have made full payment for the retreat. 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,

Mr. Stephen Murphy

Coordinator of Campus Ministry
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