

Dear Parents,

I am planning our 5th grade field trips for this year, and I am very excited to announce that I have four trips planned that will help enhance your child's school/educational experience. I believe hands-on experiences are one of the best ways for children to learn. It helps them to better understand what is taught and it creates long-lasting memories for years to come.

Field trip 1

Nature's Classroom

As you know, your child has been learning about plants and insects in science. The Nature's Classroom Atop Lookout Mountain in Mentone is a hands-on educational program with an emphasis on team building and experience-based learning in an outdoor setting. Your child will have a guided tour hike and class experience where he/she will be able to search for plants and insects that we have discussed in class.



Where: Mentone, AL

When: October 9, 2014

Leave: 7:00 and Arrive back at School 3:00

Field trip last around 5-6 hours

Cost: \$30 per child and adults are FREE

BRING A SACK LUNCH, DRINK, and SNACK

We will carpool. I will need another parent to attend and carpool please.

Chaperones can take this time to enjoy nature and relax in a rocking chair or walk with the class. Bring a book to read if you like.

MONEY DUE OCTOBER 1ST

Field trip 2

YMCA Camp Cosby

(Unfortunately, Camp Cosby will take the place of Space Camp this year.) I was told we needed 12 participants to be able to go or pay \$416.00 each. To make this work so you can still go to Space Camp, you will go to Camp Cosby with 6th grade this year and to Space Camp with next year's fifth grade class. You will get to know the sixth grade class this year and the fourth grade class next year, and the best part is that you will be stuck with me next year for Space Camp next year. :)

Extending the Classroom to the Outdoors

Camp Cosby's outdoor environmental education program is a wonderful way for students to learn about themselves, others, and the natural world around them.

With a balance of individual exploration and small group activities, outdoor environmental education provides a unique experience that helps students gain confidence and leadership abilities.

Camp Cosby's outdoor classroom provides residential programs offering hands-on experiential education in a wide variety of topics, including: forest ecology, wildlife ecology, plant ecology, water ecology, outdoor skills, team-building, and living history. With over 25 classes correlating to the Alabama course of study, teachers from the 4th-8th grades have a multitude of options to enhance what they have been studying in the classroom, as well as providing learning opportunities that are unavailable in the classroom.

Located in Alpine, Alabama (approximately 15 miles west of Talladega) with 137 acres and 2 miles of lakefront, Camp Cosby is an ideal location for schools to visit from throughout the state as well as Georgia and Tennessee.

It is a three day, two night program. Your child will need to be able to stay away from home for three days without you unless you plan on paying the same price as your child to attend. Once at YMCA Camp Cosby, it is very hard to check out and leave. IT IS A CAMP. Everyone depends on you, so if you sign up, you have a place. It is like you are part of a play at church. Everyone is counting on you to stay and be a part of Camp Cosby. You will be able to call home nightly, though, if you need to, but through long distance calling only, but I will be honest, it is a very packed day/night. There is not much time for calling.

Your child will stay in cabins with either all boys or all girls. The chaperones will stay with them, too. The bathroom and showers are in the cabins.

Where: YMCA Camp Cosby, Alpine, AL

When: April 15–17 (tentative dates)

Cost: \$145 (Same cost for parents) (non-refundable)

This includes three days/two nights lodging, all meals, snacks twice a day, plus an allowance for the purchase of Camp Cosby keepsakes toward the end of your stay. In addition, twelve hours of daytime classes, alpine tower and swing by choice or a low ropes course in place of three hours of daytime programming, and two evening programs. The curriculum is pre-determined for our grade level to ensure our trip has the greatest educational impact. It provides our students with a unique individual challenge of self-development and team-building experiences in the safest, most structured environment.

There will be a parent meeting in March where we will give you more information about the program, all paperwork will be filled out, a packing list and parent/question form will be given to you, and more.

THIS WILL BE A MANDATORY MEETING.

You will pay in 2 increments. The first half is due December 10th. \$72.50

The second increment is due February 11th. (\$72.50).

We will ride either in a van or bus. Unfortunately, chaperones will not be able to ride with us. The cost above includes gas.

Field Trip 3

The American Village in Montevallo, AL

The American Village tells the compelling stories of not only American's legacy of liberty, but of those in every generation who have suffered and sacrificed for that cause. It focuses on "The Declaration of Independence; *The United States Constitution; and *The Bill of Rights.

The American Village is a nationally-pioneering classroom and American history education center that engages and inspires 35,000-40,000 students annually. Students "step into history" and discover the power and drama of American's journey for independence, liberty, and self-government.

I have attended around 10 teacher's workshops and have taken my past classes (about 5 times) to The American Village and have never been disappointed. It is a living history educational center where people dress in colonial clothing and the children get to step back in time and be a part of their heritage and reenact past history events.

If you have attended a class field trip at The American Village, do not worry about it being the same. Every field trip to The American Village is set up to teach to each specific grade level and/or teach objectives taught in that grade level. We are attending the "Liberty" program, which is about the Revolutionary War. Your child has not seen this program at The American Village. It is mainly for 5th graders.

We attended last year when schools were testing and it was the best time to attend, so I am trying to do that again this year.

Where: The American Village in Montevallo, AL

When: May 5-13 (tentative)

Cost: \$10

Arrive there by 8:45 and leave at 12:00 to eat

Leave the school at 7:00



Wear comfortable clothing

I RESERVED FOR 5 PARENTS BUT MORE CAN ATTEND. I just need to know if you are interested in attending.

I would like for us to carpool if possible. You may check your child out after the program.

We will stop and eat after the program at Chick-fil-A about 4 miles away from The American Village, so your child will need lunch money if you do not attend as a chaperone.

(I only need this paper back. You will need to keep the additional papers for your records.)

PLEASE FILL OUT BELOW.

_____ Parent's Name _____ Child's Name

Please check below.

- _____ My child will be able to attend the Nature Classroom.
- _____ My child will be able to attend Camp Cosby.
- _____ My child will be able to attend The American Village.

If you did not check a field trip, please let me know why your child will not be able to attend this trip and if there is anything we can do to help.

As a chaperone, I would like to attend the following AND will pay the same cost
Chaperon's Name

- _____ the Nature Classroom _____
- _____ YMCA Camp Cosby _____
- _____ The American Village _____

I have additional persons that would like to attend the following (NOT INCLUDING THE CHAPERONE) and will pay the same cost

- _____ the Nature Classroom
- _____ Camp Cosby
- _____ The American Village

_____ I WILL DRIVE ON A FIELD TRIP AND HAVE OTHERS RIDE WITH ME.
IF SO, LIST THE FIELD TRIPS. (excluding Camp Cosby)

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION I NEED TO KNOW

MRS. SWAFFORD