

26, May 2010

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to be embarking on this camping/ canoeing adventure to Saco, Maine with your young adults (aka children). It is a trip that has been done in the past as part of the 8th grade curriculum, and we have hopes that it may be again someday. However, in the mean time, we are glad that Community Connections has been supportive in allowing us to offer this fun (and skills based) camp.

JB Hilferty and I (Leigh Garrity) have many years of experience between the two of us, working with children. We are both certified teachers employed at U32. We love what we do, which is why we are offering this trip in the summer! We both have extensive experience in adventure based learning, water safety, and first aid.

On Wednesday morning, we will leave for Conway, NH about 9:30am, where we will go to Saco Bound Outfitters (603-447-2177) to get our canoes and life jackets. We will canoe for the rest of the day, ending at our campground. At that point we will set up camp and cook dinner, etc. We expect to return to U-32 on Friday afternoon around 4 pm.

Emergencies numbers: JB's cell: (802) 522- 6870, Leigh's cell: (802) 272- 3681. There is no land line at the campground.

The Saco is a crystal clear river with unusually clear, sandy banks and bottoms. The water is very flat and flows quite slowly. There are many beautiful places to stop and swim. The stretch of river that we are paddling is very safe, even for the first time canoeist.

Some of the basics your child will need to have for the trip: plastic plate, bowl & utensils; a sleeping bag (with sleeping pad if desired); bathing suits; towel & wash cloth; rain coat; and water sandals/shoes that will stay on their feet (not flip flops). We will be sending home 2 other letters on the 1st day of camp, Tuesday, July 27th: 1. A broader list of what the kids need to bring 2. Trip guidelines which need to be reviewed and signed by you both.

Here's to an enjoyable adventure for us all!

Leigh Garrity and JB Hilferty

PS: We will be discouraging cell phone and Ipod use while we are away, as this is a nature trip. We want the kids to be "present" and observant of the wonders around them. Cell phones can be used to check in with parents at night if you feel that is necessary, but chatting with friends will not be allowed. Thanks!