

To: All Sixth Grade Parents  
From: MMS Sixth Grade Staff  
Concerning: Outdoor Environmental Education Program at Storer Camp  
Date: October 2014

For the past twenty-six years, Milan sixth graders have been taking part in an Outdoor Environmental Education Program at the YMCA Storer Camp facilities. Outdoor Environmental Education is the teaching of those things in the outdoors that cannot be done as effectively in a classroom setting. It is a unique experience for all who attend as it allows the eager curiosity of children to expand and grow. It is a time of learning and growing for all sixth graders! Outdoor Environmental Education is not just "camp", but an **educational experience** with important implications for the student both in the outdoors and back in the classroom. This program is designed by us to be an extension of our school program and is part of our science curriculum.

Along with the teaching staff at YMCA Storer Camps, we believe that environmental education involves more than just understanding environmental sciences and issues. We must also provide opportunities for people to learn effective communication skills, and to build the foundation of real cooperation. We are proud to offer another year of high quality programming to you and your child.

**Below is a list of the goals we hope to accomplish at the Outdoor Environmental Education Program:**

1. To enable students to understand and experience the relationship between himself and the natural environment.
2. To strengthen social relationships:
  - A. Between teachers and students
  - B. Between students
3. To give all students a sense of independence and self-identity.
4. To give all students a chance to succeed in a non-graded environment.
5. To encourage the student to become more aware of his/her senses.
6. To foster an attitude of inquiry in the student.
7. To encourage openness and active participation in outdoor activities on the part of the student.

This year's **Outdoors Environmental Education Program will be March 30-April 2, 2015.** (This is the week before Milan's spring break.) The full cost of four days at Storer Camp is \$280.00. This price includes room and board, transportation to and from Storer Camp, craft supplies, all programming costs, and horseback riding. Please fill out the attached form and **return it to your child's SOCIAL STUDIES teacher (Mrs. Lance) by Friday, October 24, 2014.** In February, staff from the YMCA Storer Camp will be at MMS to meet with the students, cabin leaders, and sixth grade parents. They will present a slide show about what a typical day looks like and answer any questions.

Please be aware that as we enter a contractual agreement with Storer Camp, we have to guarantee the number of students attending. What that means to you is **after Friday, December 19, 2014, if you suddenly decide your child will not attend, there is no refund.** This is a Storer Camp policy. We cannot change our contractual guaranteed number prior to camp. **There also will be no refund if your child is asked to leave camp due to behavior problems.** If you have any questions on either policy, please don't hesitate to call your child's sixth grade teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation. Any questions, please call us.

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1: Please indicate your choice of payment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ PAY **\$280.00** (FULL COST) AND **NOT PARTICIPATE** IN THE CAMP FUNDRAISER THIS COMING JANUARY/FEBRUARY

\_\_\_\_\_ PAY **\$230.00** (DISCOUNTED COST) AND **PARTICIPATE** IN THE CAMP FUNDRAISER THIS COMING JANUARY/FEBRUARY

(The Camp fundraiser will begin in the middle of January. Students are asked to participate and sell Cookie Dough products in sixth grade in order to get the discounted cost for camp.)

**Step 2: The amount indicated ABOVE can be paid in TWO or FOUR payments (Oct. / Dec. /Jan. /Feb.). Please indicate how you would like to pay.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **FOUR PAYMENTS:**

1<sup>st</sup> PAYMENT OF \$70.00 (full cost) OR \$57.50 (discounted cost)  
**DUE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014**

2<sup>nd</sup> PAYMENT OF \$70.00 (full cost) OR \$57.50 (discounted cost)  
**DUE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014**

3<sup>rd</sup> PAYMENT OF \$70.00 (full cost) OR \$57.50 (discounted cost)  
**DUE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015**

4<sup>TH</sup> PAYMENT OF \$70.00 (full cost) OR \$57.50 (discounted cost)  
**DUE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

\_\_\_\_\_ **TWO PAYMENTS:**

TWO PAYMENTS OF \$140.00 (full cost) OR \$115.00 (discounted cost)  
**DUE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014**  
**DUE: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

*Note: If special consideration is needed for payment please contact your child's teacher. We want everyone to attend the Outdoor Environmental Education Program, as it is a great educational experience for all. No child will be left out.*

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER (MRS. LANCE) BY OCTOBER 24, 2014.**

**PAYMENTS GO TO MRS. KOCHMANSKI AND CAN BE MADE OUT TO MILAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**