

Teacher Responsibilities During Program

Teacher Time

You will have three 40-minute periods with your class during the week, on the first, second and third days. You may do a check-in with your students to see how things are going in the cabins and field study classes, and if any issues need to be addressed. Academic and/or recreational activities are fine, including Pre/Post Lessons, journaling, and any activity or ritual you have in your classroom. You should bring pencils, paper, and any other supplies you need for this time. You may use the GBOS Field Journal during this time, but you will need to let the naturalists know ahead of time so that they can either let the students keep them, or give them to you directly. You will have indoor space in which to meet, if desired. Students should not return to or be close to their cabins during this time, as it is a break time for the cabin leaders. They will pick up their students at the end of teacher time, at a place you designate.

Elective Class

The students will sign up for a 40-minute elective class once during the week. You are strongly encouraged to offer one of these electives. The naturalists and Program Director will offer two or more electives. The electives should always have a learning component, but can be fun and on topics not otherwise covered in the GBOS curriculum. A list of topic ideas in is this handbook. If you have an elective in mind, please bring the supplies you'll need to offer it, or check with GBOS to see if we have the materials on hand. GBOS has a limited amount of craft supplies, books, and recreation equipment (basketball, soccer ball, volleyball, rubber ball), as well as some board games and cards, and our program sites have limited sports areas. You may bring additional equipment. You are welcome to help or lead your own activity in an area of interest. GBOS has materials for some craft activities on hand, but please inquire beforehand if you have a particular idea in mind.

Medications

You will assist your own students with their medications during their time at the program. Most assistance occurs at meals, but also at bedtime and other times as required. WCSD teachers must confer with your school nurse before program. You will not be responsible for first aid, since this is handled by the Program Director, or the naturalists when on trail. The health guidelines section provides more detail. You may also contact us ahead of time if you have specific concerns or questions.

Transportation

It may be necessary to transport students to the local medical clinic or hospital if they have medical needs that cannot be met on site but are not of an emergency or life-threatening nature. GBOS staff cannot transport students, so we ask that the teachers bring with them one personally owned vehicle for transporting students to medical care. The teacher would transport the student, accompanied by another teacher, cabin leader, student or GBOS staff. Please check with your district well ahead of your visit to see what requirements they have for transporting students under these circumstances. If the teachers cannot provide a vehicle or driver, the student may be transported by taxi or we may ask the parents to come and transport the student. Emergency or life-threatening situations will always be met by calling 9-1-1 and requesting emergency medical system (EMS) support.

Lights Out

You will assist the Program Director with lights out, starting at the end of the evening's activities and ending about one hour later, after all the students are settled and asleep. All teachers should cover this duty on the first night as your students settle in. Normally the naturalists and Program Director will cover the second and third nights, but may request your assistance.

Discipline

You will work collaboratively with the Program Director and other GBOS staff to carry out GBOS's discipline policy and Universal Respect system, including conferences with students, behavior contracts, and calls to home, when needed. Warnings are recorded on a discipline log, which you may review at any time. More information is in the Discipline Plan, included in this handbook.

Quiet/Reflection Cabin Time

Students will be given quiet time in their cabin one or more times during the week, depending on the schedule. During this time they will be on their own bunks and quiet: reading, writing, reflecting, or sleeping. If you wish this to be a reading time (D.E.A.R. Drop Everything And Read, etc.), please ask students to bring a book which they are currently reading, from school or for personal pleasure. This time does not usually need your supervision, but you can support this quiet or reading time by reminding the students.

Meals

In the dining hall we make an effort to have an adult at every table, in order to have supervision and role modeling for students, many of whom may have not had the experience of sitting down and eating a relaxed meal with others. Depending on the table arrangement and student numbers, teachers may need to be this adult, and teachers can assist cabin leaders with this responsibility.

Morning Meeting

A morning meeting is held each day just before the first class. Naturalists, cabin leaders, and teachers meet to talk about plans for the day, discipline problems, and any other concerns. The students are with the Program Director at this time. Teachers should be present at the naturalist/cabin leader meeting to answer questions, and to hear or express concerns.

Field Study Classes

Your participation in all field study classes is encouraged but not required. Your students will enjoy seeing you out there, learning along with them. Remember that you are a guest in the naturalist's "classroom," and provide support and feedback in a manner which enhances student respect for the naturalist. You will be exposed to a number of learning activities and techniques that you may use later with your students.

Fun

While the GBOS schedule is full, we hope you'll have some time to relax and to just enjoy your students as people while the staff and cabin leaders are responsible for them.