

# OVERNIGHT FIELDWORK EXCURSIONS

## **Purpose**

“The world is our classroom” is a reality at Entheos where the use of natural and community settings allow learning to extend beyond the confines of school walls. “We believe outdoor adventure helps participants learn teamwork, courage, craftsmanship, perseverance and compassion, while discovering they can accomplish more than they thought possible.” Entheos Academy board supports the development of students academically, and physically through safe hands-on field work, including overnight fieldwork excursions. All fieldwork will support the vision and purpose of the Entheos Academy charter and comply with Utah state education guidelines.

## **Policy**

Overnight fieldwork is subject to the same rules and protocols as other fieldwork, as well as additional protocols as outlined. If there is a conflict between the regular fieldwork protocol and overnight fieldwork protocol, the overnight protocol will take precedence.

Overnight trips must fall within the following guidelines:

### **Middle School Students**

Without special permission from the Entheos Board, overnight trips will adhere to the following guidelines:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - one trip not to exceed 2 nights per school year
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – one trip of 3-nights maximum per school year
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – two trips per school year, one of which is 3-nights, one of which is 4-nights

Each grade is not obligated for this many nights away from home, however additional nights will require Entheos Board approval.

### **Upper Elementary (4<sup>th</sup> –5<sup>th</sup>) Students**

Do not have overnight trips as a general rule. In unusual circumstances where there is a rare, clear, and compelling educational opportunity present, an overnight trip may be proposed during the year, by the teachers to the school director. Final approval from the board is required in such instances.

### **Lower Elementary (K – 3rd) Students**

May have day trips only. Distance from the school should be reasonable.

### **Basic Safety during Campouts and Overnight Fieldwork**

District Administration will develop safety protocols that shall be rigorously adhered to on all overnight excursions and fieldwork. Protocols will include

- Training shall be held for those going on camping trips, and there shall be strict enforcement of the rules.
- A 6:1 student to adult ratio shall be observed on all camping trips. In hotel/motel lodging

situations, there shall be two adults in each room. Each child will sleep in their own sleeping bag even when using hotel/motel accommodations.

- Opposite gender camps shall be clearly separated from one another. Each group will separate to their camps at dusk.
- Parents and students shall receive and provide signed consent to abide by the safety rules. Public school rules related to alcohol, tobacco, and drugs with regard to both adults and students apply in all aspects of the trip including while in transport and at all fieldwork locations. As part of this agreement parents accept the responsibility to transport their child home if a rule is broken.
- At least two adults will accompany groups on every activity.
- Middle School Night Watch Policy: At least two adults will walk through camp two times during the night for security and safety watch during sleeping hours. Adults can rotate throughout the night.
- Speak Up Be Safe training will be presented at least once a year prior to all campouts and overnight trips.
- Emergency response and reporting
- Student injury response and reporting
- high risk activity specific protocols, including but not limited to rock climbing, stream crossing, water activities, hiking, backpacking and all winter and ice activities.
- Vehicle and Transportation safety

### **No Touch Policy during Campouts and Overnight Fieldwork**

Romantic touching of any kind will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, increased teacher oversight on the excursion and being sent home at parent expense.

### **Campout Costs**

1. The School must stay within the budget allocated for the experience.
2. Students will be given enough time to know costs, and will be required to make a reasonable effort to provide for needs through fundraising, borrowing of equipment, etc.
3. The School will provide necessary funds and equipment if a student (and family) is not financially able to cover the costs.

### **Student Participation Requirements**

Overnight trips are intended to provide direct, rare, and compelling educational experiences. Consequently, the School hopes to have all students participate. However, in situations where parents prefer not to have their child participate in overnight trips, such participation is not required and students will not be penalized for failure to attend

The school will provide the opportunity for students to complete assignments of an equivalent nature

(to the extent possible) for those unable to attend the overnight experiences. Under circumstances of non-participation, the school is not responsible for any missed experiences that the students forgo for having elected not to attend.

### **Parent Participation**

All eligible parents/guardians are welcome on all campouts and overnight trips but are required to attend training prior to the trip to review rules and regulations. There shall be strict enforcement of rules on all camping and overnight trips.