

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to let you know that our class will attend Cal-Wood Conservation Education Center as an addition to your child's learning. Cal-Wood is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality education to area school groups since 1981. The dates of the program are October 1st through October 3rd (3 school days, 2 nights).

Cal-Wood is located 15 miles north-west of Boulder, Colorado near the small town of Jamestown (about a 35-minute drive from Boulder and one-hour from Denver). Their 1,040 acre outdoor learning center, nestled in the foothills, is a spectacular facility which has abundant wildlife, trails, and educational opportunities. Cal-Wood instructors provide the day and evening teaching while adult support from our school supervises the down-times and sleep-time in the cabins. Cal-Wood provides a chance for our class to learn important academic concepts in science, math, history, language & visual arts in a spectacular outdoor setting. Check out their web page at www.calwood.org. Needless to say, we are extremely excited.

We think it is VERY important for all of our students to attend. Due to a generous grant, the cost per student for the program is only \$84. This covers the instruction, transportation, meals, lodging, and accident insurance. We realize that the cost of this trip will be difficult for many of our families. Last year, we provided a job opportunity for students who wanted to help raise the funds for their Cal-Wood tuition. All of those students who applied were hired to help around the school. Those students were given a discount off of the total cost of their tuition. Now, it is time for parents to pay the remaining balance. Also, if you would like to contribute a little extra towards another students' tuition, it would be immensely appreciated. Cash payment is appreciated, or please, make checks payable to **Columbine PTA**. (DO NOT make checks out to Cal-Wood).

Also, we need some parents to spend the night with us. Cost for parents is \$65. Parents are also welcome during the day to join the learning groups, and to help supervise the children right before dinner (during the "down time").

Finally, a completed medical form must be returned to the school no later than September 15th. This form is **required** in order for your child to participate.

The facilities at Cal-Wood are comfortable, safe and rustic. Each cabin has a propane heater, electricity, sleeps eight, and houses boys and girls in separate units. The bathrooms and hot showers are located in the nearby Calvert Lodge. Calvert Lodge also holds the kitchen, dining hall (meals are nutritious and delicious), two large classrooms, a medical room, and a spectacular deck. Telephone use is for emergency purposes only, no news is good news.

The days are spent learning in the outdoors and groups go inside only in VERY bad weather. The weather at Cal-Wood (elevation 8,700 feet) can vary from warm, intense sun to cold, windy and wet (all in a few hours). Please follow **Personal Equipment List** closely to provide for the safest, most comfortable experience for your child.

Students bring their own sack lunch for the first day. Otherwise, please do not provide snacks for your children. Snacks in the cabins mean visitors such as mice or raccoons! There will be plenty of food; your child will not go hungry!! Also, students cannot bring electronic equipment: Game Boys, radios, i-pods, cell-phones, hairdryers, etc.

Cal-Wood has a proven safety record of no major emergencies since programming began in 1981. In the unlikely case of a medical emergency, students will be transported to Boulder Community Hospital by a teacher or adult support personnel. Their medical form will travel with them. Also, Jamestown Fire Department is only 8 minutes away, all Cal-Wood staff is trained in Wilderness First-Aid and CPR, and they carry radios and first-aid kits when in the field.

Important information:

Cal-Wood Main Office # (303) 449-0603, toll free # (888) 245-1086 (use for emergency purposes only).

Questions or concerns about the program need to be directed to the school.

Thanks,

The Columbine 5th Grade Team

(Please, return this portion with your child)

PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM

Student Name: _____

_____ **Yes, I am interested in being a chaperone on this field trip.**

Parent Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

_____ **No, I will not be able to stay as an overnight chaperone at Cal-Wood. However, I would like to be able to participate during the day. (Please note that meals & transportation are not provided for non-paying volunteers.)**

_____ **No, I will not be able to come along on the trip this year.**