



Dear Parents:

Your child's fifth grade class is preparing to visit the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC). Our facility is located on 10 acres along Nanjemoy Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. Thanks to a generous land-lease agreement with Mr. Calvert Posey of Nanjemoy, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has been able to incorporate environmental education into its curriculum at a beautiful site which contains many diverse habitats and plenty of opportunities to experience nature first hand. Our nature trails meander through a tidal marsh, upland woods, fields and river shoreline. The creek beds of submerged aquatic vegetation and open waters where students can watch osprey, bald eagles, great-blue herons and many species of waterfowl.

NCEEC offers students the opportunity to experience the richness of forest, coastal, meadow and wetland habitats and to explore their own connections of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. While at the Center, your child will be involved in "hands-on" and "minds-on" learning to develop a better awareness and understanding of the environment of which they are a part. Your child's class will begin work on a Memory Book before their trip to help them prepare for their experience and will use it while at the Center to record their observations during their field studies. Completion of the Memory Book back in the classroom will provide an opportunity to reflect upon their learning and share their experiences with the class. All of these activities were designed to build upon the skills necessary to succeed on the Maryland State Assessment and meet the objectives of the Charles County Essential Curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

During this overnight trip, students and chaperones will sleep on bunk beds in heated cabins. Each student will need to bring a bag lunch and drink for the first day. Please see the Memory Book regarding the "trash-free" lunch challenge when packing this meal. A hot dinner will be prepared by a local school's kitchen and delivered in time for the evening meal. The second day's breakfast and lunch will be provided for your child as well. Please make your child's teacher aware of any food allergies or restrictions as soon as possible so you can plan how to handle those needs.

Your child's class will visit NCEEC on \_\_\_\_\_. Students should arrive at school as usual on the day of their trip with their gear. They will then board a bus to travel to NCEEC. The students will return to school in time for their regular school dismissal the next day.

Please complete the enclosed permission slip and return it to school with the \$10. 00 trip fee by \_\_\_\_\_. On the back of this letter is a gear list to help your child pack for the trip.

Sincerely,

Paula Batzer  
Environmental Education Resource Teacher  
Coordinator, NCEEC, CCPS

## **WHAT TO BRING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER** (adjust according to weather)

1. Sleeping bag or two blankets
2. Two pairs of jeans or slacks
3. Heavy shirt
4. Light shirt
5. Warm jacket or sweater
6. Two pair of sneakers or hiking shoes (be prepared for them to get muddy)
7. Heavy socks
8. Light socks
9. One pair of pajamas
10. Underwear (2 pair)
11. Raincoat or poncho
12. Plastic bag for dirty clothes
13. Toothpaste and toothbrush
14. Soap
15. Deodorant
16. Hand towel & washcloth for evening and morning hygiene
17. Comb or brush
18. Hat & Gloves
19. Water bottle
20. Insect Repellent/Sunscreen

### **OPTIONAL - YOU MAY BRING:**

1. Small pillow
2. Camera
3. Check or money order for t-shirt purchase

### **DO NOT BRING:**

Nanjemoy Creek is a school site. Any items normally banned at school are also banned here. Other items to leave home are: flashlights, matches, CD or MP3 players, candy, extra food, electronic games or equipment, cell phones and money.

\*Chaperones may bring a flashlight for emergency use.\*

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## **Beautiful T-shirts available!**

Help support Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center by purchasing one of our full color T-shirts. T-shirts come in Youth sizes L & XL and Adult sizes M, L, & XL and cost \$13.00. No cash can be collected at the Center, but personal checks and money orders payable to CCPS are accepted. Be sure to specify the size of shirt on the memo line of your check or money order.

