Dear Parents:

The entire 6th grade will be going on an overnight Outdoor School trip. This trip will take place at Grove Christian Camp near Cottage Grove on **June 4 – June 6 for the 1st group** and June 6 – June 8 for the 2nd group. **Your child is in the first group.**

Every possible precaution is taken to ensure the safety of the children, but since the trip is away from the school there are risks involved. The district carries public liability insurance, but like private automobile insurance, it is effective only in the cases of proven negligence. Oregon’s court decisions in the past have tended to hold that a school district engaged in carrying out educational functions is not liable for accidental injury.

**Parental involvement in this program will be a key to its success.** We will need adults (at least 6 males and 6 females in each session) at camp to help supervise cabins and campfire at night activities, lessons, and meals during the day. If you are interested in helping in any way, please indicate on the form below. We look forward to this collaborative activity with our parents.

Thanks to a grant that our school was awarded, **there is no cost for the students, counselors, or parent volunteers.**

The information page on the back provides more details to keep for reference. Please sign the permission slip, and detach that page before returning it with your child. **Forms are returned to your child’s LA/SS teacher.**

Sincerely,

Brandi Starck, Principal

And the 6th grade ODS planning team: Troy Thorsby, Steve Knight, Megan Sheppard, Cliff Lyddane, Kelley Edwards, Jeanette Jacobson, Brett Sauer, and John Jongsma
What is the purpose of ODS?
- Camp focuses on making new connections, building teamwork, appreciating outdoor recreation, and providing experiences to grow in new ways.

When does ODS take place?
- ODS takes place the first full week of June.
- Students attend ODS in two groups; each group attends for 3 days and 2 nights.
- Your student's camp session is based upon their LA/SS block teacher. Students who have LA/SS in the morning will attend the first session of ODS, and students who have LA/SS in the afternoon will attend the 2nd session of ODS.

Where is ODS located?
- ODS is located in Cottage Grove at the Grove Christian Service camp.
- A map with directions to the camp is available on the TMS website and is available upon request.

Who provides the transportation?
- Students travel by school bus to ODS; parent volunteers may ride the bus or drive their own cars.
- If parents want to drive their child home from ODS, they may (after camp is cleaned and inspected) with prior arrangement and by signing the required forms.

What is the cost?
- There is no cost for students or for parent volunteers.

Do all 6th grade students get to participate?
- Our goal each year is for all of our 6th graders to attend ODS!
- Behavior contracts will be sent home in early March that explain behavior expectations prior to and during ODS.

What do students experience while at ODS?
- Team building activities take place on the first day of camp.
- Outdoor School lessons take place on the second day of camp. All lessons take place rain or shine!
- Some examples of lessons include: gold panning, archery, fly casting, GPS, outdoor cooking, aquatic insects, etc.
- Campfires will be held each night (rain or shine), and skits will be performed by staff and students!

How can parents be involved?
- We need parents to help supervise students in cabins at night and during lessons during the day.
- Parents who attend ODS will be placed with their child’s lesson group.
- Parents who attend are strongly encouraged to join in all activities; students do better when all adults are highly involved.

What do students need to bring?
- The student packing list will be sent home in early May. It is also available on the TMS website.
- There is no need to spend a bunch of money to prepare for ODS! Campers can do well borrowing their siblings’ and parents’ boots and jackets, etc.

What do students eat while at ODS?
- Food is provided by the camp staff; it is both delicious and plentiful!
- Students are not to bring any snacks, candy, etc. to camp.

What if my child has allergies or takes medications?
- If your child will need to take any medication (including over the counter), they must have the medication forms completed ahead of time. Please contact TMS Student Services for all of the details about this.
- Please be in contact with your child’s LA/SS teacher regarding any special needs.

What if I have more questions?
- Please contact your child’s LA/SS or Math/Science teacher or the front office staff.
Please sign & return this form to your child’s LA/SS teacher by Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

**ODS Permission Slip. Please ONLY turn in THIS page. Keep the first page for your reference!**

My approval is hereby given for _________________________ to attend the planned overnight Outdoor School Camp at Grove Christian Camp near Cottage Grove, OR on **Monday, June 4th – Wednesday, June 6th, 2018.** I understand that that there are elements of risk involved in taking children away from the school building and that public liability insurance carried by Springfield School District # 19 is intended to protect against negligence. It is also my understanding that the Oregon Court decisions have not held school districts liable for accidental injury when they are engaged in performance of an educational function.

Printed Parent Name(s):___________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian:    ____________________________________________________

Date:   _____________       Contact Phone Number:____________________________________

**Volunteer Information:** I would like to volunteer for Outdoor School (check all that apply)

_____Entire Camp Session    _____Nights Only    _____Days only    _____Teaching lessons

Name of adult volunteer: ___________________________       Relation to Student: ______________

I will fill out the required background check form. This can be picked up in the TMS front office or found at this site: [http://blog.springfield.k12.or.us/tms/outdoor-school/](http://blog.springfield.k12.or.us/tms/outdoor-school/)

**An ODS T-shirt** is provided at no additional cost for each camper. Please circle your **child’s** T-shirt size below.

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Name of this camper: __________________________________________________

Are you a parent volunteer for your child’s entire session? If so, a T-shirt will be ordered for you as well, at no cost to you. Please circle your **parent** T-shirt size below.

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Name of this parent volunteer: ____________________________________________

*We cannot guarantee your T-shirt order(s) will be placed if these forms are turned in late. Thank you for helping us get all the paperwork in on time!*