



# Teacher Packet

## Overview of the Stone Canyon Experience

Our team at Stone Canyon Outdoor EdVentures is composed of experienced and passionate individuals who strive to provide your students with the best possible immersive educational experience. Through our high-quality curriculum, extensive staff training, ongoing professional development, and willingness to accommodate and adapt to any need, we hope your students leave our facility as daring leaders and as a stronger team.

Our team at Stone Canyon works hard to provide a superior outdoor education experience for your students. Although our expectations for teachers during your visit are minimal, we do require your support in the following areas:

## Preparing For Your Trip

### 1) Registered Online Through Active Network (2 weeks prior to your trip)

- Students are registered through the Active Network. Registration is due 2 weeks prior to your trip - it is important for our health care, kitchen, and program staff to have students registered on time in order to make any accommodations to support your students during their visit to our center.

### 2) Creating Bunk Lists (1 week prior to your trip)

- Your students should be assigned to bunk groups prior to the trip. These lists can be completed via our Google Form that will be sent to your team prior to the trip. We have two main dormitories (Falcon Lodge and Timberline Lodge) for each gender group of students. We also have additional housing in our TLC building for overflow if needed. The Google Form contains a "how-to" helper to assist you in assigning your students to a bunk group

### 3) Creating Activity Group Lists (1 week prior to your trip)

- Students go about their daily/evening activities in activity groups. These groups are meant to be smaller to create an effective learning environment. Typically, activity groups are 12-15 students. These groups are created on Active in the same Google Form used to create bunk groups. There is also a "how-to" included to assign your students to activity groups.

### 4) Arranging Transportation

- Busing costs are included in the tuition for all DCSD schools (with the exception of DCSD charter schools). It is the school's responsibility to schedule their buses through Transportation. Please arrange to have your buses arrive at Stone Canyon between **10:15 - 10:30 am** on your arrival and departure day.

### 5) Arrival Procedure

- Please call our center at **303.387.0735** or 303.387.0721 (if no one answers the other line) when you get off the highway so our staff can greet you! Upon your arrival, your students will be brought to Thunderdome or another location for an orientation from our staff. The buses will continue on and be unloaded by the rest of our team. (This will include passing on student meds to our nurse in the TLC.) After the orientation, the students will travel with their instructors to retrieve their luggage and move into the bunks.
- We ask teachers to attend an orientation meeting upon arrival to Stone Canyon. The goal of this meeting is to review the weekly schedule, inquire about any pertinent information that may not have been included in the pre-trip forms, and answer any questions that you have. We need to be aware of any illnesses not listed, learning accommodations, or behavioral contracts. (*Critical situations, late arrivals, early departures, and any behavioral concerns should be reported prior to the trip.*)

## 6) Student Meds

- Usually student meds will be coordinated by the school nurse and sent with teachers on the morning of Day 1. Please check with your school nurse regarding any self carry meds (which will need a separate form).

### The Teacher's Role at Stone Canyon

One benefit for teachers is that our staff is truly "full-service", providing the majority of the daily supervision and where possible, much of the overnight supervision. As a visiting teacher, you have an opportunity to engage with your students outside the context of your classroom. We highly encourage you to visit activity groups and to participate in activities to the extent of your comfort level. We also welcome your feedback and input throughout the week when it comes to teaching techniques, student strategies, students' prior knowledge, etc. to aid our staff in providing a superior experience.

#### • Teacher Time

- There are two times during the day where we ask teachers to be with their respective homerooms. These are the only periods during the day where you are directly responsible for your students.
- Afternoon Teacher Time ~ 1:20-1:55 pm
  - This is a chance for students to have some free time on Day 1, and create/practice their cabin cheer with their high school lead volunteer on Day 2.
  - NOTE: There isn't any teacher planning necessary for the afternoon teacher time.
- Evening Teacher Time ~ 6:20 to 7:30 pm
  - If preferred, each teacher may use one of our indoor classroom spaces in the evening.
  - Please let us know in your pre trip notes whether you need any additional materials for the evening teacher time.
  - It is up to your team to decide how you'd like to spend this Teacher Time. Some ideas to choose from are: outdoor games, read-alouds, journaling, board games, skits, and guided reflection.

#### • Name Tags

- Student name tags are an important part of the Stone Canyon experience. They allow staff, teachers, and leaders to call students by name from the very beginning. This helps to make each student feel welcome and special. Please put bunk group and activity group names on the nametag.
- The nametags can be simple or elaborate; it's up to you and your students. They must be safe (**no sharp edges, pins, etc.**), legible, durable, and waterproof. Minimum size: 3"X2" rectangle or 2-1/2" rounds (irregular shapes are also acceptable).

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### Activity Experience

Choice, small class size, and world-class curriculum factor into providing your students with an authentic and effective learning experience. During the day students will rotate in activity groups of roughly 15 students per group. There will also be approximately 1-2 high school lead volunteers with each activity group who will be assisting. It is the intent that these activities will become part of bigger units of study that you have planned during the school year.

### SCIENCE

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Description</i>
Aerodynamics	Students will learn the basic principles of aerodynamics and Newton's laws of physics. Utilizing the engineering process and activity content, students will design and launch a rocket using a 20 oz. soda bottle.

Animal Survivor	Students are taught the importance and dynamics of food chains/webs and how species depend on one another for survival. Through a hands-on activity, students learn about the roles of herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores, as well as the availability of resources in a habitat.
Sustainability Superheroes	This lesson will introduce students to natural resources and sustainability by giving them the ability to envision the effects of resource use in hands-on activities. Students will use what they learn to create a futuristic household item and commercial that centers around sustainability.
Fire Ecology	This lesson will help students understand fire behavior, and the factors that influence a wildfire. Students leave with an understanding of fire mitigation and fire suppression, and will simulate different factors that affect wildfire behavior through our “matchstick forest” activity. Students will gain an understanding of fire mitigation strategies.
Forest Ecology	Through a guided hike around our 99-acre property, students will explore the various ecosystems that exist at Stone Canyon. Participants can expect to explore wildlife, symbiotic relationships, habitat indicators, and identify flora and fauna through hands-on activities and exploration.
Freshwater Biology	Is Plum Creek healthy? Utilizing water quality tests and by hunting for bio-indicator species, students will lead an investigation to determine the overall health of a natural source of water at Stone Canyon.

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Description</b>
Archery	One of our more popular activities, students learn the mechanics of archery, one of the oldest arts and means for survival. Students receive a lesson on safety, basic physics of a bow and arrow, and time to practice.
Art in Nature	This activity was inspired by the works of Andy Goldsworthy, who is known for creating incredible works using only what he can find in nature. Using his techniques, students will get in touch with their creative side and create their own paints and sculptures.
Outdoor Skills	Our team of outdoors enthusiasts will be passing on real-world survival techniques to your students! Students will learn the 10 Essentials, proper fire-building techniques, emergency shelter building, and other basic principles for exploring the great outdoors.
Orienteering	Students will be able to learn how to use a map and compass, read a topographical map, and will navigate an orienteering course with the skills they've acquired.

## LEADERSHIP

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Description</b>
Balloon Rescue	Using the series “Shark Tank” as a model, this twist on the Egg Drop Experiment will require your students to collaborate and hone their leadership skills to engineer, build, and market a device that will protect a water balloon from a 20 ft. drop.
High Ropes Course	One of our most popular activities, our ropes course provides your students with an opportunity for physical, mental, and social growth. Safely secured 30 feet in the air, students will get a chance to set personal goals to challenge themselves, as well as support their peers.
Teambuilding	We believe that there is always room to improve when it comes to the dynamics of any group or team! Our teambuilding curriculum can be tailored to the goals and desired outcomes you have for your students. Through engaging activities and purposeful discussion, we strive to create highly

	effective teams!
Zip-Line	Students will challenge themselves and push themselves out of their comfort zone while cruising down our 800 foot dual zip-line.
Zombie Ethics	Students are guided through a post-apocalyptic scenario by a narrator and must make their own decisions as to how they would navigate certain scenarios. Students then predict how their peers would answer those scenarios. We keep it light by placing the thought process and setting in a world that does not exist in order to keep it hypothetical and fictitious.

## EVENING ACTIVITIES

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Description</i>
Nature at Night/ Astronomy	Students will learn about the adaptations that help nocturnal animals survive and thrive, while enjoying the beautiful night sky! If the sky is clear and time allows, students may also delve into some constellations
Barn Dance	A fun, high-energy way to end the evening! We teach the students different line dances to popular songs, as well as having some “free” dances as well!
Camp Fire	Students will sing songs, hear stories, stargaze, and show off their bunk cheers for their peers! And a campfire wouldn't be complete without s'mores as well!

**Please select 7 activities for your students from our Outdoor Education, Science, and Leadership menu, and 2 evening activities for your trip. \*Note that we can only offer High Ropes OR Zip (not both) during your trip. If you have any questions, please contact us regarding your activity choices.**

### Meeting Student Needs

#### **Accommodating with Moderate/Severe Needs**

If a student has an educational assistant for the majority of his/her school day, arrangements should be made for the student to also have an educational assistant at Stone Canyon. This is the school's responsibility. In order to ensure that this student has a successful time, please do the following:

- Provide as much pertinent information as possible about the student's needs
- Consult with the Special Education teacher.
- Contact parents with a plan for accommodations, if appropriate.
- Consult with the school nurse, if appropriate.
- Communicate with the Program Manager and enter information on the pre-trip form
- Create a plan for students who might require some adaptations while at Stone Canyon, utilizing the SSN (Students with Special Needs) Form (included on page 3 of the pre-trip form)

It is also important to communicate any other students that have special needs that we should be aware of. It does not have to be a need that is written in an IEP. Often having more information will help us accommodate those students.

#### **Meals and Food Allergies**

For 3-day/2-night trips, we provide lunch on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 3, followed by a hefty snack before loading the buses. Vegetarian, vegan, dairy free and gluten free options are available with advance notice. The menu can usually accommodate some of the more common food allergies such as dairy and nut allergies. However, rare food allergies may require students to bring their own food for our chef to prepare.

**Please contact our Head Chef: Kim Wolfrum at [kjwolfrum@dcsdk12.org](mailto:kjwolfrum@dcsdk12.org) to discuss any food restrictions prior to attending camp.**

## **Homesickness**

Missing home and family is normal during time spent at Stone Canyon. Homesickness might be masked as a stomachache, headache, or other physical ailment. Homesickness can also manifest itself as being sullen or withdrawn and/or acting out. Each case is responded to on an individual basis. As a general rule, students will be unable to receive or place a call home while at Camp. Calling home makes the separation more difficult for both parent and child, and typically exacerbates emotions for students. Keeping the student involved, getting through short increments of time, and some extra TLC are usually enough to cure even the most homesick child.

## **Bedwetting**

Bedwetting is a common occurrence and one we treat with the utmost sensitivity and discretion. It is very helpful to know ahead of time if the possibility of bedwetting exists, so that we can check on a daily basis and have a plan in place with staff. Teachers may not know about a bedwetting problem since some parents are reluctant to bring up the subject. Teachers can help by casually mentioning the subject and encouraging parents and students to let you know if the possibility of bedwetting exists.

## **Discipline**

We are very intentional about our expectations for student conduct and behavior at Stone Canyon. We will take the time with each bunk group of students to discuss their goals for their trip, and the expectations they wish to hold each other to in order to make sure everyone can accomplish their respective goals. We will also explain our expectations for behavior and the discipline policy in the students' welcome speech.

## **The 3 R's:**

We expect students to respect three things at ALL times:

- 1) Others (Instructors, teachers, high school leads, peers) - *"Treat others as they want to be treated."*
- 2) Their environment (nature, living spaces, class spaces, all materials)
- 3) Themselves (make healthy choices with eating, hydration, self care; stay with their group; ask for help)

Although our staff are trained in behavior management techniques, these interventions are not always successful. We have a 3-strike policy for students who have difficulty making good choices consistently. The strike progression is as follows:

- **Strike 1-** Student fills out a strike form, explaining how he/she earned a strike and which of the "3 R's" they were not respecting. The student will meet with a Stone Canyon admin, and reaffirm the expectations, making a plan for better behavior for the remainder of the trip.
- **Strike 2-** The student will meet with the Program Manager and a teacher and follow the same steps as Strike 1. In addition, the student will also call home to inform their parents that they have earned their 2<sup>nd</sup> strike. This conversation will also include setting goals and making a plan to meet expectations for the remainder of the trip.
- **Strike 3-** Earning a third strike typically results in a student being sent home. This is dependent on the severity of the behavior.

Note that strikes are determined by the type of behavior we are seeing. Bullying, derogatory remarks, violence, are some examples that could automatically move a student to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. We will keep you informed of all disciplinary issues, and share documentation of all events and actions as needed.

## **Other Information**

### **Fees and Refunds**

Parents should pay their school. In the event that a child has paid their tuition but conditions prevent their attendance, a full refund minus \$30 administrative fee will be given. Partial refunds will be determined on a proportion of student time at the Stone Canyon (i.e. students who leave early). Students who are sent home due to discipline problems are NOT entitled to partial refunds.

### **Phone Communication**

There is no cell service at Stone Canyon. A landline can be used for emergency purposes (303-387-0720). We also have wireless on site.

## **Sleeping Quarters**

You will have your own sleeping quarters separate from the students. TLC has a number of private rooms with full size beds and bunkbeds. There is also a common area, fridge, microwave, and three bathrooms.

## **Teachers Should Bring:**

- √ Bedding - sleeping bag or blankets/pillow (There are full size beds in the TLC for teachers.)
- √ Pajamas or robe you don't mind being seen in
- √ Hiking shoes and comfy shoes to change into afterwards
- √ Shower shoes (optional)
- √ Toiletries, towel, washcloth, etc.
- √ Clothing for layering
- √ Camera
- √ Sunglasses, sunscreen, warm hat, etc.
- √ Water bottle
- √ Backpack
- √ Flashlight
- √ Travel Mug!

\* Reminder: If you bring any teacher snacks to have in the TLC/Infirmary in the evening, **they must be nut free!**

Please reach out with your questions and/or concerns. We are here to help and do what we can to make this outdoor education experience the best it can be for your students!

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