

# Nature's Classroom – Student Orientation

This Student Orientation is presented by Nature's Classroom Staff to students and chaperones in their cottages, soon after arrival at camp.

We are glad you are here! There is a lot to do at Nature's Classroom, but before we do anything, a few things need to be discussed. You will have a better time at camp if you remember these two simple rules:

## RESPECT & SAFETY

**RESPECT** is our #1 priority at DuBois Center; respect for yourself, for others and for this place. You are expected to be respectful all day - every day - during classes and free time, around camp and in your cottages.

**This means:**

- + No put-downs... of others or yourself.
- + Use appropriate language - keep it positive.
- + Listen to your chaperones & instructors.
- + Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- + Leave sticks & rocks on the ground.
- + Respect others by staying out of their stuff.
- + Respect others by only going into your own cottage.
- + Please do not rearrange beds or bunks.
- + Let everything that's alive LIVE.
- + Stay on the trails.
- + Put trash in the trash cans, not on the ground, and pick up litter.
- + Recycle: we have **ALUMINUM, PLASTIC & PAPER** recycling bins in the Dining Hall.
- + Please do not sit ON tables; they have been known to break. The one exception is picnic tables - these are sturdy enough to sit on, even on the top.
- + Please keep camp graffiti-free.
- + Conserve ENERGY! Remember to keep the windows and doors shut when the heat is on. There are thermostats in each room. The chaperones should be the only ones to adjust the temperatures in the cottages.
- + Conserve even more energy by turning off lights when they are not in use.
- + And please clean up after yourself.

**TO HAVE THE MOST FUN, SAFETY IS VERY IMPORTANT TOO.**

- ◆ **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS** given by **LEADERS & CHAPERONES**.
- ◆ **STAY WITH YOUR GROUP.** If you have to leave, ask your leader and go with a buddy and chaperone. Do not go near the lake without a leader - this includes the docks.

- ◆ **CHAPERONES** need to know where you are at all times.
- ◆ **RESPECT THE SIGNS.** Certain areas of camp, like the kitchen and maintenance buildings, are work areas and can be hazardous. The barn and the teams course can be hazardous without staff supervision. Please stay out of these areas and any areas marked off by ropes unless accompanied by a staff member.
- ◆ **WALK! WALK! WALK!** Especially on the bridges - they get slippery, and on gravel - 'cause it hurts! Save your running for grassy areas.
- ◆ **WEAR LOW-HEELED, CLOSE-TOED SHOES.** Wear sturdy shoes with closed toes whenever outside our cottages. This makes walking and hiking much safer. **If you brought sandals, flip flops, heels or flimsy shoes, wear them only in your cottage!**
- ◆ **DRINK LOTS OF WATER!** Carry your water bottle with you everywhere you go. Remember that only water belongs in water bottles, no sweet stuff. It attracts bugs and bees.
- ◆ **KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN** for ticks, snakes and poison ivy. Use your repellent for mosquitoes and ticks and check your body and hair regularly.  
If you find a tick, and you can't flick it away, be sure to tell an adult and have the health care provider on duty remove it.

## HERE ARE SOME OTHER HELPFUL REMINDERS:

- ◆ **NO FOOD IS ALLOWED IN THE COTTAGES!** Food attracts critters and bugs. This includes candy, gum, and any beverages other than water. If you have any food, give it to a leader who will hold it until the end of the week.
- ◆ **BE GREEN-MINDED.** Help us care for the Earth by doing your part. Make sure to turn off lights, fans and faucets when they aren't in use. And **RECYCLE!**
- ◆ **TAKE SHORT SHOWERS.** More people will have hot water this way.
- ◆ **MAIL:** If you have mail to send, put it in the mailbox in the dining room. If you receive mail, it will be distributed by your classroom teacher(s).
- ◆ **HOPEFULLY, YOU DID NOT BRING...** valuables, weapons, electronic devices (music players, laptops, tablets, games, phones), food or candy, firecrackers, matches/lighters, tobacco products, or any illegal substances.  
**IF YOU DID** - these are not okay to have or use. Please give them to a leader to hold until the end of this session.
- ◆ **RING THE BELL only when asked to do so.**
  - + Three to five rings means it's time for a meal.  
**Breakfast @ 8:00, Lunch @ 12:00, Dinner @ 5:30**
  - + Continuous ringing means some kind of emergency.

# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

If you hear the bell ringing continuously, **CHECK THE WEATHER.**

If the sky looks greenish, and there is not enough time to get to Oak Lodge, head to the nearest safe cover - which is typically an inside wall, as far away from windows as possible, or in a low, open area.

1<sup>st</sup> Choice Locations: Oak Lodge Basement

"Out of Time" Options:

**Cottages** - in center room, as close to the back wall as possible, covered with mattresses

**Rustic Side of Camp** - base of "grassy knoll" by the lake or against round bales at archery range

**Deer Run** - shower house, inside walls

If the weather is not threatening and you don't smell smoke:  
Meet at the **basketball court** and wait for instructions from staff.  
Gather with your cabin group, so attendance can be taken.

**FIRE:** Evacuate your building and meet on the **basketball court.**

**EARTHQUAKE:** Sit on the bottom bunk, under a mattress, with your back against the inside wall of the cottage. When the quake is over and it is safe to move, report to the basketball court.

**SEPARATION:** If you are separated from your group during the day, check the basketball court. Notify any Nature's Classroom instructor, classroom teacher or chaperone. If no one can be located, go to the dining hall where a kitchen staff member can help you.

**IF THERE IS A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY,**

**Don't delay;** your chaperone can use their cell phone to call 9-1-1.

There is also a phone at the Camp Office beside the front door. The office is located just inside the camp entrance, but before the gate. Chaperones may use this phone in case of an emergency. When using this phone, dial 9 for an outside line, then 9-1-1.