

To: Parents or guardians of minors attending a program at the Ebersole Environmental Education and Conference Center.

From: _____

During the dates of _____ to _____ your child will be attending a program at the Ebersole Environmental Education and Conference Center. This unique learning center is dedicated to helping people of all ages learn more about themselves and the natural world. Its primary function is to provide educational experiences in the out-of-doors that are not possible in the classroom setting. The experience of visiting the Ebersole Center and participating in all of the related activities is sure to become one of the highlights of your child's education.

The Center is located approximately 60 miles west of Lansing in a rural area midway between the town of Wayland, MI and the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. The 158-acre site-features a hardwood forest, private lake, prairie, and wetland areas, all accessible by a well-developed foot trail system. The facilities are clean and modern, and include two dormitories, a well-equipped classroom building, and a spacious main lodge with cafeteria, clinic, and office.

While at the Center, children are under the continuous supervision of qualified staff. Assisting the visiting staff are Ebersole Center planning specialists/ naturalists, handypersons, kitchen staff, secretary, health officer and director/ site coordinator. Working as a team, all staff members share a common goal. They want each child to have a safe and enjoyable learning experience.

The Center's health officer/ nurse who oversees the medical needs of the group staffs the clinic. The health officer is qualified to handle medical emergencies and administer non-prescription drugs. In addition, the health officer is able to dispense properly labeled prescription drugs that are sent to camp by the child's parents or guardians. **In order for any person under the age of 18 to attend camp they must have a properly completed and signed health form on file in the Center Office.** In the event of an emergency the injured will be transported to the nearest hospital for treatment. Requests for a preferred hospital may be made on the second page of the health form.

Parents are encouraged to write to their child while at the Center. The address is: Ebersole Center, 3400 Second St., Wayland, MI 49348. Please indicate the name of the group your child is with. Personal telephone calls to children **are discouraged**, but for information the Center Office number is: (517) 755-5000. **Please call during normal office hours, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

After normal business hours and only in an emergency please call (517) 755-5004.

Parents should be aware that the school district's behavior management policies are in effect while students are visiting the Ebersole Center. Should a child need to be sent home, parents will be asked to come and pick them up.

We look forward to having your child participate with us in this unique opportunity. Please assist your child by providing encouragement and support in preparing for his/her experience. A clothing/ equipment list is provided with this letter to help you begin gathering needed items. The health information forms and clothing/ equipment list are also available for download at <http://ebersole.lansingschools.net> . Click on the "forms" link.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST

Parents and students can use this as a checklist to be sure they pack everything they'll need for a visit to the Ebersole Center. We suggest all articles be labeled with the child's last name and first initial so they can be easily identified. Students assume full responsibility for anything brought to the Center.

Many activities will be held in the out-of-doors, **rain or shine**. Please equip your child or yourself to meet the appropriate seasonal needs. **THE ITEMS BELOW VARY ACCORDING TO SEASON.**

ESSENTIAL ITEMS:

Bedding:

sleeping bag or sheets and blankets
1 pillow and pillowcase

Toilet Articles:

towel
washcloth
comb or brush
soap in container
toothbrush and toothpaste

Clothing:

jacket
shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters
jeans or heavy pants
pajamas or robe
shorts (weather permitting)
bathing suit and towel (summer)
socks
underwear
slippers or shower shoes
two pairs appropriate outdoor footwear
raincoat or poncho (rain is no problem if you have the right gear, be prepared, stay dry)
boots (winter)
hat and scarf (winter)
warm mittens (winter)

CONVENIENCE ITEMS:

Toilet Articles:

Kleenex
Sunscreen
chap stick
medication if necessary
insect repellent that contains deet

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

camera and film
stationary and stamps
Pencils
small notebook
Sunglasses
money for souvenirs

DO NOT BRING:

electronic devices i.e. - ipods/ MP3 players/
gameboys/ electronic games/ cell phones
Knives
food (candy, gum, etc.)
Matches
Jewelry

Michigan weather is famous for how fast it can change. Be prepared for rain or cold weather. Children can have fun outside in any weather if they have warm clothing, boots, and a raincoat. Plan ahead and realize that the weather might change drastically even during a three day trip.

Ebersole Center does not have extra bedding, clothing, footwear, or outerwear. Please make sure you have not omitted any needed items from the Essential Items list.