

## ***River REACH Floating Classroom Program Important Information for Parents and Guardians***

***Dear Parents,***

***We are delighted that your student will be joining us for a River Research, Education, and Adventure Charter! In order to make their trip safe and enjoyable, please make sure you have reviewed the information below carefully and that you have completed the enclosed Permission Slip/Medical Waiver.***

### **Permission Slips and Medical Waivers**

In order to participate, all **student** and **adult** participants must submit the completed Permission Form and Medical Waiver. Teachers will collect waivers prior to leaving the school and present them, along with payment upon boarding. *If students do not have the waivers with them at school, they should not be permitted to leave with the rest of the students for the field trip. Participants who do not have their permission slip cannot be permitted to board.*

### **Emergency Policies**

Please note that for all emergencies, illnesses, injuries, or other incidents, it is the responsibility of the teacher to notify the school, parent(s), guardian(s), and/or physician(s) of the student(s) involved according to their school's protocols. FORE collects emergency contact information on our Permission Slips/Waivers so that teachers will have this information if necessary.

Selected FORE staff and boat crew are trained in American Red Cross CPR and First Aid procedures and are prepared to administer them to the extent of their training in the event of an emergency.

*FORE staff are not permitted to administer any medication of any kind to students.*

### **Cost**

The cost for this field trip may be contingent on the Free and Reduced Lunch percentage of the school. It will be communicated to you by the teacher.

### **Arrival and Departure**

Participants should arrive at 9:15 am to board the riverboat promptly at 9:30 am. Students will spend 3 hours on the riverboat (depending on the program). Once the boat arrives back at the dock, students will continue activities on the covered, top deck of the boat. Activities will end at 1:30 pm.

### **What to Wear**

Participants will be outside in the elements during the majority of the program. They should dress in comfortable layers of clothing that they don't mind getting wet or dirty, including:

- Securely tied, closed-toed, gym shoes or boots with good traction (*no sandals for flip flops*)
- Windbreakers, sweat shirts, jeans/shorts, and/or rain ponchos (*dresses and skirts are not recommended*)
- Jackets, coats, hats, and gloves for cold weather (*it always feels much colder and windier on the river*)  
*Remember, hoodies do not count as coats in cold weather!*
- Please tie long hair back for water chemistry experiments.

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## **What to Bring**

We ask that items brought aboard the riverboat be limited to what is listed below.

- A well-marked lunch that does not need refrigeration (a reusable lunch bag is encouraged!) *Lunch will be eaten on-board the riverboat.*
- Plenty of drinking water, as water on the boat is non-potable (reusable water bottles encouraged!)
- A pencil.
- Sunscreen
- A signed permission slip and medical waiver

*Please do not bring backpacks, I-Pods, laptops, or electronic games. Small purses are acceptable. Phones will need to be on-silent and put away.*

## **Safety Information**

A detailed safety talk will be given to students prior to boarding the riverboat. This information will also be reviewed with the students by the teacher.

- All passengers must follow the Captain's directions and orders, and the directions of FORE staff.
- Engine room, pilot house, and any other marked areas on the riverboat are restricted to staff only.
- Groups must always stay together. Students cannot leave their groups without first getting permission from their chaperone. Adult chaperones must stay with their group at all times.
- There is to be no sitting on, straddling, or standing on railings or other raised objects on the deck of the boat.
- There is to be no running or rough-housing at any time aboard the riverboat.
- Students must wash hands before eating and after handling river water, mud, fish, or macroinvertebrate samples. Hand sanitizer will also be provided.
- Eating, drinking, or chewing gum during the lab activities is not permitted.
- Goggles and gloves must be worn during water chemistry experiments. Hands must be kept away from the face and long hair must be tied back.
- Cell phones must be silenced and put away during activities.
- NO Spitting or throwing trash or other objects overboard.
- NO smoking.