

LETTER TO PARENTS

The field trip will leave school at _____ am on _____

and return to school at _____ pm on _____.

- Purpose** The purpose of the Outdoor Education Program at Taft is to teach an appreciation, understanding, and awareness of the natural community by studying and interacting with the natural world. Underlying the trip is the belief that learning is not restricted to the classroom, learning is also found in the world around us. Through the combination of related, multi-disciplinary activities and an interaction with the natural world, it is hoped that students will not only acquire new knowledge, but also will come to appreciate this philosophy.
- Instruction** A variety of activities and projects are prepared by school and Taft staff. The activities will take advantage of the natural surroundings of the area using the environment as a natural stimulus for learning. Activities will include the areas of reading and language arts, science, health, social studies and physical education.
- Staff** Each school is assigned a specialist to work with school staff to design a program that meets the student's needs. Classes are taught by Coordinators and Education Program Specialists from Northern Illinois University and school staff.
- Facility** Taft Campus is located just off of Highway 64 near Oregon, Illinois. The scenic campus is located next to the Rock River and adjacent to Lowden State Park. Students will sleep dormitory style in bunk beds with boys and girls housed in separate rooms or buildings. Meals are served family style in the dining hall.
- Supervision** School staff or adult chaperones will assume the responsibility for supervision and discipline. The ratio of adults to students is approximately 1 to 10.
- Health** Taft Campus employs a nurse who is on site from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM. She will package medications and dispense them at morning and noon meals. School personnel will dispense evening medications. All students are required to have a completed and signed health form before they can participate in the program. Taft Campus carries a basic accident and illness insurance policy on all participants. In addition, Taft staff are trained in First Aid and CPR.
- Accessibility** Taft Campus has handicapped accessible dorms and buildings. The school staff will need to make Taft aware of limitations so accommodations can be made.
- Telephones** Students will not have access to a telephone during their visit. Please do not send a cell phone with your child. In the event of an emergency, a message can be delivered to school staff.
- Security** There is a staff member on site in a security role throughout the school's visit as well as maintenance personnel available to take care of any emergencies in the evenings.
- Packing** Students will need to dress for the weather since we will be outside. Pack only old clothes and shoes. New clothes may be ruined by heavy outdoor use. Students need to bring a sleeping bag or bedroll. A pillow is provided. Refer to the packing list for specific items.