



Valhalla Wilderness Program (VWP) at W.E. Graham Community School
Slocan, BC

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Your child will embark upon an incredible journey of learning new physical and mental skills during their time with us, and it is important that you are aware of the extra requirements and demands that will be made on them. They will need extra help and support from you, as well as encouragement to face exciting new challenges. The decision to enter the program should be a family decision that is made with full awareness on everyone's part. What follows is some helpful information for your family to read and discuss that has been compiled from the experience of instructors of this program, past and present, as well as input from parents and students.

Physical and Mental Demands

There will be more homework than one may expect from a conventional education program. On some out trips, there will be physical, mental, and possibly even emotional demands that may be greater than those your child has ever faced before will. It is important that he/she is as well-nourished and rested as possible. Your child will likely need your help in packing for out trips. He/she will need to arrive ready to go on the morning of a trip, so packing should not be left to the last minute. Food planning will need to be reviewed a few days in advance to allow for any necessary shopping. Equipment lists will need to be consulted to ensure that important items are not forgotten. You will find attached a list of required personal gear for each type of trip in addition to a general gear list. Please use these lists to help prepare your child for their time with us, should they be accepted into the program.

Fundraising

All parents and students must participate in fundraising throughout the year. Fundraising is the only way to generate the needed income for costs related to equipment maintenance, rentals, purchases, accommodation on out trips, certain types of travel expenses, climbing lessons, and avalanche training. Tuition fees alone will not cover these expenses.

Parent Drivers

Many of our out trips require parent drivers. Parents will be asked to provide transportation for groups of students to/from the trailheads for many of our trips. **Parents will be required to provide the school with a copy of their vehicle insurance (minimum of \$1,000,000 liability is required) and a driver's abstract. Vehicles must be in sound condition.**

The most effective way of planning the logistics of fundraising and driving is for parents to form a support group to facilitate communication and planning of activities. This will allow individual families to have some input as to which fundraising events their talents are applied. Your whole family will need to be prepared to be supportive of the Wilderness Program student in many ways; the rewards will be proportionate to the input.