



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

## **WHERE IS CAMP HAMILTON?**

Camp Hamilton, located just outside of Monroe, WA is a 570 acre property owned by the Archdiocese of Seattle. Our Environmental Education program began with Camp Hamilton's opening in 1991. Our property includes 80-acre Lake Hannan, adjoining ponds and two 1,400foot Cascade foothills. All of our buildings (including cabins) are enclosed with heat and electricity except for a few outlying shelters used as dry space during inclement weather. There are four permanent cabin villages, a multipurpose building with auxiliary kitchen, a main lodge that includes our dining hall, and a heated chapel. Additionally, there is a shower house, beach/swimming area, campfire amphitheater and half-acre garden.

## **WHAT TYPES OF LESSONS WILL MY STUDENT LEARN WHILE AT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION?**

Our curriculum focuses on three areas of Pacific Northwest ecology: forest, water and wildlife. Students will spend the majority of their day in small groups, which we call Exploration groups, experiencing lessons. Each Exploration group is led by an Educator. Our Educators go through extensive training early in the spring. Our lessons are designed to be fun, educational, and give students experiences they can't normally have in the classroom. For example we teach a lesson about beavers while in a canoe looking directly at a beaver lodge!

## **WHERE WILL MY CHILD SLEEP WHILE AT CAMP HAMILTON?**

Your student will stay in a cabin with 8-10 other students from their own school. At least one adult chaperone from your school will be living in and supervising the cabin. All cabins provide comfortable sleeping areas and restroom facilities are located close to the cabins.

## **WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD BRING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION?**

The Suggested Packing Checklist is on the website, and teachers will send home a copy as well. Be sure to send clothes appropriate for all types of weather. Rain gear/boots are a must because classes go on rain or shine. Plenty of warm clothing should also be sent. Our camp is situated up in the foothills, at about 1000 feet above sea level, so it can be chilly well into May. Camp is a great place for old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. If your child happens to lose anything while at camp please contact your classroom teacher as soon as possible. Items are kept for 30 days after a school's departure and then donated to charity.

## **WHAT IF MY CHILD IS ON MEDICATION OR NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION?**

Each school is responsible for first aid and medication given to students. Each school will bring first aid supplies, a vehicle for emergencies, and at least one person to act as first-aid and medicine dispenser. In

case of emergencies a call to 911 will bring a quick response. In case of a medical emergency, injured or sick will be taken to Valley General in Monroe.

#### **WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?**

Please let your teachers know of any allergies or dietary restrictions at least four weeks before your student comes to Environmental Education. This will give us ample time to contact you to ensure your student has a healthy experience.

#### **I WANT TO VISIT MY CHILD AT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, IS THIS PERMISSIBLE?**

Visitors are not permitted during our program. If you are interested in seeing our program and are able to volunteer we suggest you come as a chaperone! Ask your child's teacher for more information regarding experiencing camp in this capacity. If you are interested in touring the Camp Hamilton facilities, please call Shaune Randles, Director of Camps and Guest Services at (425) 829-5644.

#### **CAN I SEND MAIL TO MY CHILD?**

Since students are only at camp for 2 or 3 nights, ensuring mail arrival is difficult. The best way to ensure your child will receive mail is to give it to your student's teacher before their departure.

#### **CAN I CALL MY CHILD? CAN MY CHILD CALL ME?**

The phone is for emergency use only. Usage by students is typically prohibited. Parents or guardians will be notified in the event of illness or injury requiring medical attention, if the child is experiencing excessive homesickness or is expressing continued disruptive behavior. If an emergency arises and camp needs to be contacted the office phone is (360) 863-1525. Messages for teachers and chaperones can be left with the camp office or on our answering machine. Messages will be delivered to the appropriate person as soon as possible.

#### **IS THERE A CAMP STORE? DOES MY CHILD NEED ANY MONEY?**

Camp Hamilton does not have a camp store, so please don't send money with your child. If you have purchased a t-shirt or sweatshirt through our pre-sale your child will receive their items at camp.

#### **DO YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Please contact your teacher, and if she/he is unable to answer the questions she/he can contact the Environmental Education Director.

**We look forward to meeting your student this spring at Environmental Education!**