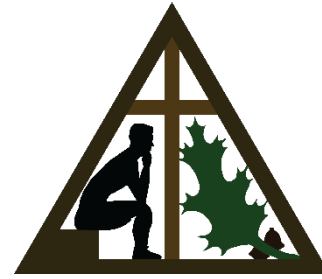


Camp Susque

School of Discovery

Field Trip Welcome Packet



Welcome to Camp Susque!

We are eager to host you and your students during your upcoming field trip. We hope that this packet will help answer many of your questions about your field trip. It includes a description of what your field trip day will look like, what you should wear and bring for the trip, and what is expected of teachers and chaperones during the trip.

If you have additional questions, please contact our School of Discovery Coordinator at fieldtrips@susque.org or by calling our office at 570-998-2151.

We can't wait to see you here!

The map below depicts the main areas of camp where the field trip events will take place.



What will my Camp Susque field trip day look like?

When you arrive on camp, a Susque staff member will greet you in the parking lot. You will be given information regarding where to unload and walking directions to the pavilion that will serve as the “home base” for the day’s events. Carts are available to help transport lunch items or other belongings if needed. As you walk to the pavilion, you will pass by the restrooms and may use this time for necessary stops.

When everyone is gathered at the pavilion, a Susque staff member will welcome the students and introduce Susque’s field trip instructors. Student groups and their accompanying teachers and chaperones will be directed to first activities then.

At the conclusion of every activity block, all student groups will return to the pavilion before being dismissed to the next activity. Sometimes things do get off schedule during the course of the day. We expect this, and we **plan to be flexible** with program length to ensure that you complete all activities and can still depart on time.

Lunch is non-program time; you may run this period as you see fit for your students. If you have requested a campfire and/or roasting sticks, these will be available for you at, or right next to the pavilion. Please make sure that students properly dispose of all trash and recycling in the appropriate containers (blue cans are for recyclables). The playground, basketball court, and sandbox are available for student recess use, at teacher discretion, over the lunch break.



Field trip instructors will bring student groups back to the pavilion at the end of the final activity. You may then organize students, gather belongings, make last-minute restroom runs, and prepare to depart.



Before you come...

What should students bring?



Students need to bring a **packed lunch** and **water bottle**. Students can easily refill bottles at a water spigot right at the pavilion that we will be using as a central location throughout the day.

What should students wear?

Students should dress appropriately to be outside all day and to get dirty (sneakers/boots, layers, jacket, and rain jacket).

If you have booked the climbing wall or ropes course, please have your students wear closed-toe shoes!

We will do our best to run all activities as planned despite weather, and will try to keep students active and warm if the weather is rainy or cold. Ponchos are available for students who do not have appropriate rainwear. In the event of severe weather, field trip activities will be moved to indoor locations, and content will be adjusted accordingly.

Encourage students to use sunscreen and bug spray!

What about ticks?

We want you, as teachers, to be informed of the risks of outdoor activities related to ticks.

To help prevent tick bites, use insect repellent. Wearing long sleeves and pants also reduces the risk of tick bites.

The longer a tick is attached, the greater the risk of it transmitting a disease. To help keep your students safe, we encourage you to discuss with students and/or parents how to check for ticks and what to watch for around a tick bite that might indicate an infection.



When students get home from school after the field trip, they should check their clothes and whole body for ticks. Small ticks may look like a freckle or a piece of dirt, and sometimes they will bite in areas around hairlines or secluded areas of the body such as armpits, groin, backs of knees, behind ears, or under watchbands. They may just feel like a small bump on the skin, and students will probably need the help of an adult to remove it.

*The Centers for Disease Control has additional information available on how to avoid, detect, remove, and treat tick bites. See https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html for more!



While you're here...

How can teachers and chaperones make the most of your field trip?

Although Camp Susque staff will be leading students through the day's activities, we depend on the involvement of all teachers and chaperones to ensure a high quality program. **Camp Susque staff are not responsible for student behavior during the field trip.** An adult from your group must accompany students at all times and be available to handle students' personal needs or discipline issues that arise.

Please pay attention to the students and instructors.

Please respect the directions given by the Camp Susque staff, and please limit conversation while students are receiving instruction. If you have a concern about a situation, please address a staff member directly. Pay attention to your students, and be proactive to limit undesirable behavior.

We need you to go "all in."

It is our job in our field trip programs to provide an atmosphere where students, teachers, and chaperones can grow personally and in their relationships with one another.

In many of our field trip activities, we will be asking students to step out of their comfort zones and try new things. We are also asking that of you! We may sing, play games, go hiking and get muddy. Please be prepared to participate alongside your students.

Your participation, and encouragement of participation, can have a huge impact on the students' experience. They will be taking their behavioral cues from you. If you express disinterest, they will be bored. If you communicate worry, they will be fearful. **If you are enthusiastic, they will be excited!** (And you will have a more enjoyable trip!)

The best field trips are had when teachers are invested in their students from start to finish. Students are safer, feel supported, and have more fun when you are willing to go all in!

