

ROLE OF THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

The classroom teacher is important to the success of the resident outdoor education experience. Cooperation and assistance by all adults working with children are needed to provide the environment through which the children can grow socially, academically, and emotionally.

In School

1. Review ranch rules and discuss expected behavior with students
2. Review good manners—we love to hear “please” & “thank you”
3. Develop a clothing and equipment list appropriate for the season
4. Cut out and decorate name badges
5. Explain the use of the journal they will keep while at the ranch
6. Let children know any expectations you have for them
7. Divide students into instructional groups; children should know their group number and the name of the teacher in charge (if applicable)

At White Pines Ranch

1. On Plan C, one teacher per instructional group is required; one adult per instructional group is recommended on Plan B
2. Accompany students to and from meeting areas and to dorms, when sent by WPR staff
3. Check to see that all students from a group are present
4. Make sure that students are properly dressed for the weather
5. Assist with maintaining order and discipline in the dorms, in the dining room, on activities, etc.

At Mealtimes

1. Teachers and adult supervisors are expected to sit WITH CHILDREN in the dining room. Manners and behavior are significantly better when adults interact with children positively during meal times.
2. Assist, but allow children to take responsibility for clean-up of tables
3. Supervise children in dorms before and after meals

Between 4-5:30 PM

This is time set aside for teachers to offer activities that are not part of the scheduled program. Recreational activities are usually offered. School staff should plan both outdoor and indoor activities (in case of bad weather). Children should not be in dorms at this time. Equipment for activities offered should be brought out by teachers.

In the Evening

1. Supervise journal writing after supper with assistance of WPR staff
2. Assist with group organization for night activities
3. Accompany children on activities and assist whenever possible

At Night

1. Once children are sent to the dorms, they may not be out of dorms
2. Children should not be left alone in the dorms
3. Become familiar with emergency exits and the telephone system
4. Let children know your expectations/rules for showers, lights out, etc.

Morning Procedures

1. Assist with bed making and make sure areas around beds are neat
2. Insist children keep bathrooms tidy and clean
3. Children may be outdoors in boundary area before 8 am if adults supervise
4. At Departure: beds should be changed; WPR staff will give instructions
5. All packing should be done before the first activity; baggage and all personal belongings should be taken out of dorms

It is our hope that your experience will be happy, safe, and rewarding. Working together is one way to accomplish this goal. Thank you for your cooperation.

