



ENTHEOS ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

6205 OVERNIGHT FIELDWORK EXCURSIONS

Purpose

“The world is our classroom” is a reality at Entheos, where the use of natural and community settings allows learning to extend beyond the confines of school walls. “We believe outdoor adventure helps participants learn teamwork, courage, craftsmanship, perseverance, and compassion while discovering they can accomplish more than they thought possible.” The Entheos Academy Board supports students’ academic and physical development through safe hands-on fieldwork, including overnight fieldwork excursions. All fieldwork will support the vision and purpose of the Entheos Academy charter and comply with Utah State Education guidelines.

Policy

Overnight fieldwork is subject to the same rules and protocols as other fieldwork, as well as additional protocols as outlined. If there is a conflict between the regular fieldwork and overnight fieldwork protocols, the overnight protocol will take precedence.

Overnight trips must fall within the following guidelines:

I. Middle School Students

Without special permission from the Entheos Board, overnight trips will adhere to the following guidelines:

- 6th Grade - one trip not to exceed 2 nights per school year
- 7th Grade – one trip of 3-nights maximum per school year
- 8th Grade – two trips per school year, one of which is 3-nights maximum, one of which is 4-nights maximum.

Each grade is not obligated to take this many trips or this many nights away from home; however, additional nights will require Entheos Board approval.

II. Upper Elementary (4th –5th) Students

As a general rule, upper elementary (4th and 5th grade students) do not have overnight trips. In unusual circumstances where there is a rare, clear, and compelling educational opportunity present, an overnight trip may be proposed during the year, by the teachers to the school director. Final approval from the board is required in such instances.

III. Lower Elementary (K – 3rd) Students

May have day trips only. Distance from the school should be reasonable.

IV. Basic Safety during Campouts and Overnight Fieldwork

District Administration will develop safety protocols that shall be rigorously adhered to on all overnight excursions and fieldwork. Protocols will include

- A. The Adventure Coordinator will be trained by the board or by a Board designated person.
- B. The Adventure Coordinator will conduct training for those going on camping trips, and the rules will be strictly enforced.
- C. A 6:1 student to adult ratio shall be observed on all camping trips. At least two adults will accompany groups on every activity. An adult will never be alone with an individual student, with the exception of a parent and their child.
- D. Siblings or staff members' children who are not students in the participating grade will not be allowed on overnight fieldwork. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances may be made at the director's discretion. In such cases, a separate caregiver must be present for the duration of the trip.
- E. If sharing a bed, each child will sleep in their own separate bedding or sleeping bag, even in hotel or motel accommodations. Adults will never share a tent or hotel room with a student, with the exception of a parent and their child.
- F. Opposite gender camps shall be clearly separated. To the extent possible, adult tents will be positioned between the boys and girls camps and no adult tents will be located within either of the student tent areas.
- G. Parents and students will receive and return to Entheos a signed agreement to abide by the safety rules. Public school rules related to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and weapons for both adults and students apply in all aspects of the trip, including while in transport and at all fieldwork locations. As part of this agreement, parents accept the responsibility to transport their child home if a rule is broken.
- H. Overnight Watch Policy: At least two adults will be awake and stationed outside in a central area of the camp throughout the night for security and safety., They will periodically patrol the camp to check for any issues.. Adults will rotate in two-hour shifts throughout the night.
- I. Speak Up Be Safe training will be presented at least once a year prior to all campouts and overnight trips.
- J. Emergency response and reporting protocols will be followed.
- K. Student injury response and reporting protocols will be followed.
- L. High risk activity specific protocols, including but not limited to rock climbing, stream crossing, water activities, hiking, backpacking, and all winter and ice activities will be

followed.

- M. Vehicle and Transportation safety protocols will be followed.
- N. Students, chaperones, and staff participating in overnight trips are required to travel with the school on the bus at all times (unless using a vehicle to help transport gear, or driving a vehicle to be used for emergency situations). Students cannot be transported separately by parents or guardians. Exceptions may be made by the school administration. Examples: students with disabilities or significant medical needs.
- O. The Adventure Coordinator is also expected to travel with the students on the bus.

V. No Touch Policy During Campouts and Overnight Fieldwork

Romantic touching of any kind will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, increased teacher oversight on the excursion and being sent home at parent expense.

VI. Campout Costs

1. The School must stay within the budget allocated for the experience. The School will provide necessary equipment if a student (and family) cannot do so.

VII. Student Participation Requirements

Overnight trips are intended to provide direct, rare, and compelling educational experiences. Consequently, the School hopes to have all students participate. However, in situations where parents prefer not to have their child participate in overnight trips, such participation is not required, and students will not be penalized for failure to attend.

The school will provide the opportunity for students to complete assignments of an equivalent nature (to the extent possible) for those unable to attend the overnight experiences. Under circumstances of non-participation, the school is not responsible for any missed experiences that the students forgo for having elected not to attend.

VII. Parent Participation

All eligible parents/guardians are welcome on all campouts and overnight trips but are required to attend training prior to the trip to review rules and regulations. There shall be strict enforcement of rules on all camping and overnight trips. The Entheos Academy background check policy will apply to all parent/guardian volunteers. All overnight fieldwork volunteers will be required to pass a full BCI/Rapback background check. Entheos will bear the cost of the background check for volunteers.

Entheos reserves the right to refuse the participation of any person causing disruption to the learning experience at any time.

References:

[Emergency Protocols Summarized](#)

[Adventure Program Risk Management Plan](#)

[SOAP notes: Missing Persons Report](#)

[High Risk Activity Consent Forms](#)