



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Mountain School is a nationally recognized environmental education and field science program offered by North Cascades Institute in partnership with North Cascades National Park. Your child's class will be participating in Mountain School as part of their school science curriculum. This opportunity provides students with a safe and positive outdoor educational experience that allows them to develop social, academic, and physical skills. Educators who specialize in teaching young people in the outdoors will lead your child on hikes, activities, and exploration.

Mountain School is held at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, 68 miles east of I-5 on State Route 20 in North Cascades National Park. Students, chaperones, and teachers sleep in lodge rooms, spend their days exploring and participating in educational activities, and learn collaborative living skills during the 3-day, 2-night program.

Your child's class will be attending Mountain School from _____ to _____.

Enclosed with this letter you will find:

- Participant Information and Release Form
- COVID Waiver
- Packing List
- Mountain School Informational Handout

Please return the completed Participant Information and Release Form to your child's teacher by _____.

Be sure to read and sign the back of the form.

Spring and Fall weather in the North Cascades can be unpredictable. While we hope for sunny and warm days, it is crucial to be prepared for cold, wet, and windy weather. Please carefully look over the Mountain School packing list well in advance to make sure your child will be adequately prepared for Mountain School. If your child is missing something on the list, Mountain School has a large gear room with additional supplies. We are happy to loan students anything they need while in the program.

In rare instances State Route 20 can close between the Environmental Learning Center and the town of Newhalem due to rock, snow, or mudslides. In this rare event, a road closure may delay your child's return home. Learning Center staff are well equipped for this possibility with plenty of extra food and staff prepared to care for the needs of your child. This has happened only twice during the Mountain School season in over 30 years of programming.

Support from parents is essential in making this a successful and positive educational experience for everyone involved with Mountain School. Parents/guardians are welcome to volunteer as chaperones on this trip! We request that all teachers and chaperones participate in trail activities and assist with supervision of students throughout the duration of the Mountain School program. Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in accompanying your child's class as a chaperone or if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to sharing this unique field experience with your child! For more information, please visit the Mountain School section of our website at <https://ncascades.org/signup/schools/mountain-school>

Sincerely,

Mountain School Staff