



Environmental Education & Conference Center

Visiting Teachers



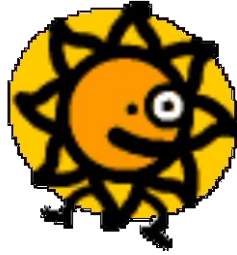
Your Survival Guide to Sly Park!

Sly Park Environmental Education Center 5600 Sly Park Road Pollock Pines, CA 95726 (916) 228-2485 www.scoe.net/slypark	Sacramento County Office of Education P.O. Box 269003 Sacramento, CA 95826 (916) 228-2500
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Student Schedule

Arrival Day

- Move into cabins
- Eat lunch
- 1:30 Teaching Session/
Chaperone
Orientation
- 4:15 Fire Drill
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 Class Meeting
- 6:30 Whole-camp
Activity
- 7:30 Gym, night hike
or activity
- 8:30 Bedtime snack,
get ready for bed
- 9:30 Lights out!!



Daily Schedule

- 7:00 Wake up
- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:00 Cabin cleanup/get
ready for day
- 8:45 Teaching Session
- 11:45 Recreation Time
- 12:15 Lunch
- 12:45 Rest Time
- 1:30 Teaching Session
- 4:30 Recreation Time
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 Class Meeting
- 6:30 Campfire program
- 7:30 Gym, night hike or
activity
- 8:30 Bedtime snack, get
ready for bed.
*telescopes on
Wed. & Thurs.
nights, weather
permitting.
- 9:30 Lights out!



Departure Day

- 7:00 Wake Up
- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:00 Cabin Cleanup
- 8:30 Cabin Inspection
- 8:45 Slide Show
- 9:30 Last teaching
Session
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:00 Departure

The Environmental Education Program

The Sly Park Environmental Education Center is operated by the Sacramento County Office of Education. The campus is 50 miles east of Sacramento, 6 miles south of Highway 50 on Sly Park Road, in the Eldorado National Forest.

Students and their teachers participating in the weekday program leave school on Monday morning and return Friday afternoon. The curriculum extends the educational experiences of elementary age children by providing an experiential hands-on program in environmental education with three goals on mind:

*Appreciation of the natural environment
Interrelationships in the natural world
Socially and Environmentally responsible behavior*



The academic program is based on the California Science Framework for grades five & six, plus the expertise of the teaching staff at Sly Park. All learning activities are lead by teacher or staff at Sly Park. Curricular areas (math, science, social sciences, language arts, visual arts, physical education) are addressed thematically, focused on our three goals stated above. Developing and using these skills is emphasized throughout the program. We invite students, teachers and their parents to visit Sly Park's website for information about the program, photos, weather news and teaching resource material: www.scoe.net/slypark.

There are usually several schools attending Sly Park at the same time, which provides immeasurable opportunities for students to learn about getting along with each other and to value perspectives different than their own. This social growth is an invaluable part of the program. Visiting Teachers should pair each student with a partner (one group of three if needed) prior to coming to Sly Park. Student pairing are crucial. Be certain to choose partners to help minimize possible behavior issues. Staple the partners' health forms together before you arrive.

The teaching groups are arranged on a random basis upon arrival at Sly Park. The groups are balanced by boy/girl ratio and school mix. Each student will be with his/her partner. **If you are aware of any students who should not be in the same group for behavior reasons, let the Sly Park staff know immediately upon arrival so we can make sure the student is assigned to the appropriate cabin and teaching group.**

There are two major teaching sessions each day, the first in the morning (8:45-11:45) and the second in the afternoon (1:30-4:30). During these sessions, the Sly Park teachers will facilitate all learning activities. In the evening there is a half hour class meeting (where visiting teachers meet with their own students), a campfire program; and a recreation period. Lights-out for students is 9:30pm.



Chaperones, Sickness, Behavior Policy

Students with health concerns and/or medication must have this information listed on their emergency form. **Students on long-term medications should not change or discontinue their medications while at Sly Park.** Check each card for appropriate signatures. All student medication will be kept in the Dining Hall and will be dispensed and logged by the Visiting Teachers. There are two exceptions: inhaler and bee-sting kits, both of which must be kept in the student's possession (a fanny pack works great) while he/she is at Sly Park. It is your responsibility as a Visiting Teacher to keep track of medications and make sure they are dispensed to your students.

Please inform the Sly Park staff in advance of any students with special needs. Encourage parents to call the Sly Park Director with any questions about special health concerns. Children with health concerns (diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc.) attend Sly Park every week.

If children become ill while at Sly Park, we move them to "sick bay" in the school office. Parents are informed, and together we decide if the child should go home, or rest and recover at Sly Park. **There is no refund if a child goes home due to "homesickness" or behavior problems.**

Chaperones will be living in the cabins with the students. As a Visiting Teacher, you will be selecting your chaperones and bringing them with you to Sly Park. You will need one male chaperone for every 12 boys attending and one female chaperone for every 12 girls attending. High School students can be substituted for no more than half of the adults of each sex, and should be good role models in 11th or 12th grade, who get along well with children, and have a record of responsibility at their high school. Parents also make excellent chaperones. Adults must be fingerprinted in accordance with district policy. Please choose your chaperones carefully; we need to trust their judgment. Chaperones and cabin leaders stay free of charge, (provided they are within the required ration). They receive an orientation when they arrive at Sly Park and are under the guidance and supervision of the Sly Park director throughout the week. These volunteers are a valuable part of the program and work very hard at Sly Park. The Sly Park staff and visiting teachers are their backup support!

Sly Park is a great setting for building responsibility, trust and skills for getting along with others. We believe children are capable of making correct decisions and allow them to do so. We also expect them to take responsibility for their actions. When they arrive, students will be informed of Sly Park's behavior expectations and consequences of inappropriate behavior. All students will be held accountable for their behavior. We also believe that children are still children and their decision-making capacities are limited from lack of experience and maturity. There is plenty of room to grow in this area while at Sly Park. The general Sly Park discipline plan is 3-step: 1) warning, 2) time out, and 3) send a child home. Decisions regarding discipline are made jointly by student's teacher and Sly Park Director.





Accommodations:

There are eight student cabins, each housing approximately 28 children. The heated cabins have bathroom facilities with sinks, toilets and private showers. The student cabins are connected to the visiting teachers' cabin by an intercom. Two of the cabins are handicap accessible and are equipped with appropriate fixtures. If any of your students have special needs, let us know prior to your arrival so we can make sure the student is assigned to a fully accessible cabin.

The teachers' cabin is adjacent to the administration building. Most rooms are double occupancy. There is a small kitchenette with a refrigerator and microwave oven. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow and toiletries.

Sly Park is located at an elevation of 3500 feet. During the fall and late spring the days are warm and the evenings cool. From October to May, inclement weather can occur, sometime resulting in some snow. During the summer months, it is warm although it is usually 10-15 degrees cooler than Sacramento. Of course, in the mountains, weather can change! Most of the activities at Sly Park occur outdoors so bring appropriate clothing. You will need comfortable walking shoes. Follow the clothing list for the students and you will be well prepared!

Your Responsibilities while at Sly Park:

During the day, Visiting Teachers are encouraged to go on any of the hikes with any of the groups. The Sly Park teachers welcome your presence. If you need to leave campus for a short period of time during the week, that is acceptable, as long as you have cleared this beforehand with the Sly Park Director. At night, the supervision of the students is the responsibility of the Visiting Teachers and the Chaperones, and you must remain on campus.

Your duties will include:

1. Staff orientation meeting at 1:15 PM on your arrival day, and a daily short staff meeting at 8:50 AM with the chaperones and Director.
2. Daily half hour class meeting your students (after dinner, 6:00-6:30 PM) to check in with them and see how they're doing.
3. Dispense medication and assist students who are sick or have behavior problems.

Other duties you will share/rotate with other Visiting Teachers are:

1. Supervise outdoor basketball courts for half hour before lunch and/or dinner.
2. Assist at the climbing wall as a "belayer" (4- and 5-day program only).
3. Help supervise the students at the campfire program.
4. Supervise students for one hour of evening recreation in the gym, classroom or arts and crafts.
5. Supervise cabin area during "night duty" from 8:30pm until students are asleep.



Logistics:

Your school must send to Sly Park an Attendance agreement and deposit with a “final number” of students who will be attending. The school will be invoiced for no less than 90% of this number, and may not bring more than 110% of this number unless space is available. It is very important that you be as accurate as possible, so be sure to talk this over with your principal so that together you can decide on the most accurate number.

The Sacramento County Office of Education requires that you bring at least one teacher from your school for every 34 students attending. Parents may not be sent in their place. The teachers need to be on campus during the time the students are here. It is not acceptable for a teacher to go home at night or leave during the week, leaving other teachers who have their own students to cover for them. If you can't be here, your school must provide a substitute. There is no charge for the teachers to stay at Sly Park.

You will need to make your own transportation arrangements. Plan to arrive at 10:30 am. (Participants in the 3-day program will need sack lunches for arrival day.) Departure is 12:00 noon. If you are attending Oct-May, Please bring snow chains for your personal vehicle and have your chaperones do the same. If the weather is questionable, please call Sly Park the morning of your departure for travel information. Know exactly how many students actually arrive at Sly Park.

Feel free to call us to find out what other schools will be attending with you, it's great to set up a pen-pal activity to get students corresponding with each other before they meet.

Sly Park is a public school and is subject to the same laws as your own school. **Alcohol and tobacco, by law, are not permitted on campus.**

On your departure day you will be asked to complete an evaluation of the Sly Park program and a Final Check Out slip for billing. Give us as much information as you can on the evaluation and as accurate information as possible for billing. We discuss your feedback, want to meet your needs, and hear your ideas.

If you have any questions, please call us at (916) 228-2485. We want to do our best for you and your students. Please also read the Chaperone Handbook and the Parent Handbook so that you are familiar with what information they are getting as well. Thank you! We look forward to your visit.

Sly Park Environmental Education Center

Important Information About Visiting

In order to maintain the safety and security of your children, visitors are **not allowed** at the Sly Park Environmental Education Center while program is in session.

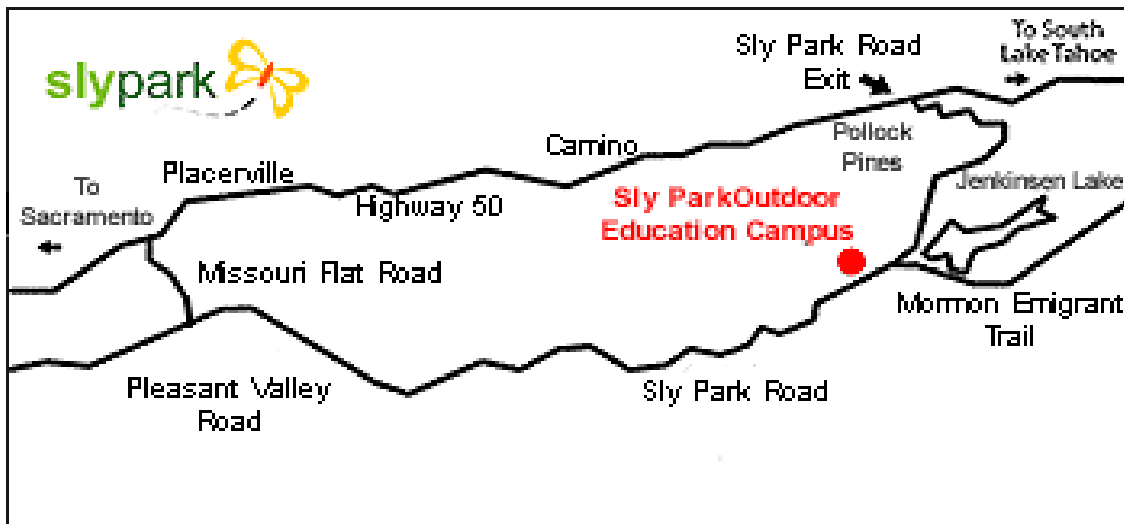
Mail can be sent to students while at Sly Park, just use the address on the front page and send “attention: student name”. Email messages will not be delivered due to cost and waste in printing. Phone messages need to go through their regular school teachers.

If you are dropping off or picking up a student, please check in at the Main Office before heading up the campus driveway.

Our school site is not at the campgrounds for Jenkinson Lake, we are approximately 2 miles below the lake on Sly Park Road.

The Sly Park Environmental Education Center facility is also available for weekend and summer conferences and retreats. Contact us for reservations.

Location



From Sacramento:

- Take US 50 East. 56 mi.
- Take Sly Park Rd. Exit, exit 60. 0.2 mi.
- Turn Right onto Sly Park Rd. 6.2 mi.
- Pass Lake Jenkinson on Left 2.0 mi.
- End at 5600 Sly Park Rd., Pollock Pines, Ca.
- Look for School Crossing Signs and large crosswalk area near the USFS Fire Station.
- Estimated Time: 1 hour 10 minutes Estimated Distance: 64 miles

Sly Park Environmental Education Center



**Environmental
Education
& Conference
Center**

- 1A Sly Park Office
- 1B Visiting Staff Housing
- 2A Classroom
- 2B Native American Museum
- 3A Maintenance Shop
- 3B Planetarium
- 3C Arts & Crafts
- 3D Movie / Conference Room
- 4 Education Bldg / Classrooms
- 4A Animal Room
- 5 Dining Hall
- 6 Incense Cedar Cabin
- 7 Black Oak Cabin
- 8 Douglas Fir Cabin
- 9 Manzanita Cabin
- 10 Fox Cabin
- 11 Rattlesnake Cabin
- 12 Porcupine Cabin
- 13 Raccoon Cabin
- 14 Gym
- 14A Ping Pong Room
- 15 Observatory
- 16 Storage
- 17 Generator

Campus Map

5600 Sly Park Road
 Pollock Pines, CA 95726
 (916) 228-2485
 (530) 644-2071

www.scoe.net/slypark

