

May, 2003

Dear Parents of Students finishing 4th, 5th and 6th Grades,

It is that season again! The Hiking Season! Yes, we have many other seasons in Minnesota — Flu Season and Mosquito Season among them. And we always act surprised when they return, even though we really ought to know better.



Right up there in popularity with hay fever is the spring and fall recurrence of the Hiking Season, when the meandering march of the chatty children is led by Mary Anderson and Ross Olson (and some of their keepers) in an apparent attempt to imitate "The Never-Ending Story."

At the beginning and end of summer we take the 4th, 5th and 6th graders from Junior Church, Adventure Clubs and Stockade on a hike somewhere near one of the many nearby hinterlands that intersect with water. (Those with analytical minds will recognize this description as sounding a lot like "mud.")

When: Saturday, June 7, 9:00 am (sharp) — 6:00 pm (more or less)

Where: Meet at the garage across from First Free Church (5150 Chicago). We will go by van to Crosby Lake Park (across the Mississippi from Pike Island and Fort Snelling)

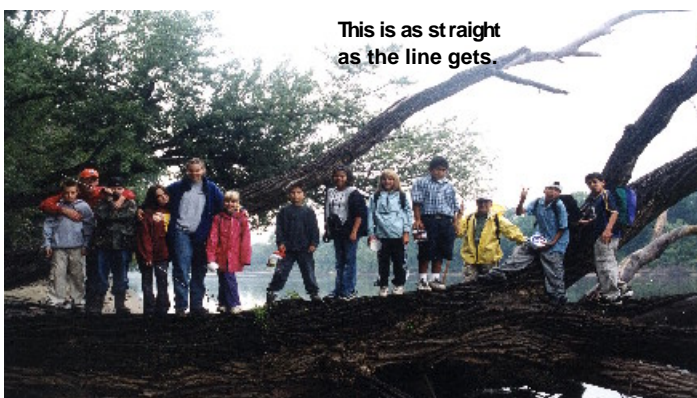
Bring: Clothing suited to the weather — 1) long pants are preferable because we often encounter ferocious plants such as nettles, 2) shoes suited for mud, 3) backpacks to help carry the treats and other supplies, 4) sunscreen and bug repellent are a good idea (and we will also bring some for those who need.)

Cost: A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated but can be waived for hardship. This will cover the cost of lunch, liquids and two to three snacks, as well as pictures that will be distributed the following week.

At The End Of the Day: We will bring the kids back home, or to some other designated drop off spot.

Reminder: You are required by law to take your kids back. You are NOT required to accept all the fauna and flora that may accompany them. Check them for ticks at bath time and scrub well in case of poison ivy. And remind your intrepid explorer before the hike of the sorts of arthropod, amphibian, piscatorial and reptilian pets you plan to allow entry into your house.

If you receive this letter in the mail, we probably have your phone number (and we know where you live!) We will call you to confirm who is going. But if your child brought this letter home or you found it in the windshield of your car (and your child wants to come) you had better call us to reserve a spot.



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