

Dear Chaperones,

We are excited you will be joining us on the upcoming 5th grade field trip to the Russian River. You are an important part of making this field trip a success. Below is some important information about what to expect.

Location and Transportation: Westside Water Education Center is located at **9703 Wohler Road** (near Forestville, on the North end of Wohler Bridge). We are asking one parent from each class to drive. Please check in with the teacher for further instructions. The teacher will be dividing the class into two groups. One Water Agency educator will be with each group. Throughout the day all the groups will travel on the bus to collector well 6, hike the trail along the river, and visit our fish viewing gallery.

About the program: This program offers an exploration into the Russian River Watershed and Sonoma Water's water supply and distribution system. Students receive a one-hour classroom lesson, where they will explore where their drinking water comes from and conduct a series of water quality tests. On the field trip, students will walk along the banks of the Russian River and tour the system that cleans, collects, and distributes water to over 600,000 people every day. Students will have the opportunity to perform hands-on water quality tests and use microscopes to observe aquatic macroinvertebrates. Emphasis is placed on students practicing science by making observations, asking questions, and considering the impacts of humans on the natural world.

Chaperone Expectations:

- Please put your cell phone away and avoid excessive chatting with the other chaperones.
- Participate in the activities and engage. Encourage students to ask questions when expected and help prompt appropriate behavior and responses. Feel free to also ask questions and share, but be mindful not to take over.
- The Sonoma Water educator will be the trail leader. A chaperone should remain in the back to ensure that all students remain with the group and are safe. Assist students with small group activities without doing the activity for them.
- You may notice that the Water Agency educator asks a lot of questions. This is a teaching technique that we employ to help students think for themselves. Please avoid answering these questions.
- Keep an eye out for safety issues and inform our educator of any concerns.
- Please refer discipline issues to the teacher or the Sonoma Water educator.
- Enjoy yourself and this time with your child and his/her classmates. Follow up with more discussion at home and share interesting facts or particularly fun parts of the trip. Encourage your child to examine their water use and model using water wisely!

What to bring:

- Water bottle, snack, lunch, and daypack
- We ask the students to wear long pants
- Optional: Hat, sunscreen, or rain jacket if needed (hikes will take place rain or shine)

Thank you for volunteering your time!

Sincerely,

Water Education Staff



Clean. Reliable. Essential. Every Day.