

# Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.) for Parents and Students



## Where is NorthBay Adventure Camp located?

NorthBay Adventure Camp is located in North East, Maryland in Cecil County. It takes approximately 1 hour and 36 minutes to get to North Bay by school bus. The trip from Lockerman Middle School to NorthBay is a total of 68.8 miles.

## How will I be traveling to NorthBay?

We will be traveling to NorthBay Adventure Camp by way of Caroline County school buses. All parent chaperones are expected to ride the bus along with their child's teachers. If you have concerns about riding the bus, please address this with Lockerman Middle School's administrative team, or by contacting Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway or Mrs. Wetterau, trip planners and coordinators.

## How long is the trip? What are the drop off/pickup procedures on the day of the trip, and the day we return from the trip?

The trip consists of five days and four nights and is completely **FREE** to all parent chaperones, students, and teachers (the county pays for the bill.) We will arrive on Monday afternoon, and return to Lockerman Middle School close to the end of the normal school day on Friday (sometime between 1:30 and 2:00 PM.)

Parents can drop off their students in the cafeteria starting at 7:00 AM. Students will go to their regular homeroom classes at the starting bell (7:30 AM) and remain there until the buses arrive. During this time, teachers will take attendance and (typically,) show a movie. Student and parent chaperone luggage can be left in the cafeteria, where it will be tagged with a colored ribbon, making it easier to find by last name at NorthBay.

The buses will usually arrive around 9:00 AM. Students will be allowed to walk down to the cafeteria and meet their parent chaperones when Mr. Shepler, Mr. Petroske, Mrs. Benson or Mrs. Handte make the announcement that the buses have arrived.

In the cafeteria, students will find out who is in their cabin group, and will meet their parent chaperone. Students are asked to sit with their cabin group. Mrs. Wetterau, Mrs. Conaway and Miss DeVore will announce which groups are to board which numbered bus. We typically leave a little after 9:00 AM depending on bus arrival times.

You will not need a packed lunch for the bus ride - your lunch will be provided to you after checking in at NorthBay and unpacking your suitcase in your cabin.

## Great! What should I pack in order to be prepared for my adventure at NorthBay?

This trip will occur in January, so it will be very cold outside. You will need to pack the following:

- A thick, warm and reliable outdoor coat (\*think layers\* once again, it is COLD and tends to be gusty/windy! Water repellant or arctic-style coats would be great in case it snows or rains!)
- Gloves or mittens (multiple pairs in case one pair gets wet or dirty.)
- Earmuffs, headbands (for snowy weather) and scarves.
- Beanies and other warm hats for cold weather.
- Hand warmers or "hot hands" are encouraged - sometimes it does snow at NorthBay!
- Sweatshirts, long-sleeved shirts, fleece pullovers (try to bring enough for the five days, plus an extra pair or two in case of an unplanned slip in the mud.)
- Socks (bring a few extra pairs in case you get a hole in one!)
- Athletic shoes, steel-toed boots, or snow/outdoor boots that you don't mind getting wet or dirty (no brand-new shoes!) Bringing more than one pair of boots/shoes is recommended in case one set gets waterlogged or muddy.
- Jeans, sweatpants, athletic pants (think warm! Many students have told me they purchased or brought thermal jeans for this week to stay warm!)
- Plenty of underwear (once again, bring extra just in case!)
- A flashlight (you will need it for night hikes.)
- Your cellphone (more information can be found below concerning cell phones.)
- A small backpack to carry your NorthBay notebook, pencil, and water (the notebook will be provided to you when you get to NorthBay.)
- I would recommend bringing a refillable water thermos or large water bottle to carry in your small backpack in case you get thirsty from walking around outside.

(You can still experience dehydration even though it is not warm and humid outside if you aren't drinking enough water!)

- **Make sure that Nurse Good or Nurse Willey have received your medications for the trip, and drop it off with them at the LMS Nurse's office. (There will be more information about how to drop the medication off with the nurse at the bottom of this FAQ.) Make sure to give the nurses your medications regardless of whether it is "for health emergencies only." This includes epipens, diabetic supplies, or asthma medications/nebulizer treatment solutions.**
- Bathroom supplies - toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, conditioner, soap or body wash, feminine hygiene products, and enough washcloths and bath towels for the five-day, four-night trip. (These will not be provided by NorthBay.)
- Disposable camera to document your experience with friends. Electronic cameras are to be left at home We don't want to risk a student accidentally dropping it into a puddle, down a hill, or possibly losing it altogether.
- Chapstick (wind-burned, split, or chapped lips can be a pain!)
- Bedding - pillows, blankets, and bed sheets. In the past, some students have opted to bring sleeping bags instead of sleeping in the bunk beds. This is totally up to you, but keep in mind that whatever you pack you must be comfortable with carrying to your cabin, and some of you may have a longer hike than others (especially for the ladies!)
- NorthBay will provide all meals for teachers, parent chaperones, and students at Blackbeard's Cafeteria. (Students with specific and medically identified dietary needs or severe food allergies will be identified by Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway and Mrs. Wetterau and given further instructions.)
- **Any spending money must be placed in a Ziploc bag with the child's first and last name written in permanent marker. These ziploc bags must be put in your child's luggage, and will be transferred to a safe inside of the cabin by their parent chaperone(s) once we arrive at NorthBay.**

**These items must be placed in a large luggage and tagged with your child's first and last name. Remember: the more you can organize and fit into one luggage, the less your child will have to carry or worry about remembering!**

## **Is there anything I can't bring with me to NorthBay?**

There are a few items that, per NorthBay policies, are not allowed on the NorthBay field trip. These items include:

- Tablets (including Nooks, or Kindles.)
- Ipads
- Ipods and headphones

- Laptops
- Phablets (phone-tablet combos)
- DVD players
- Hand-held game systems (Nintendo DS, 3DS, etc.)

## Am I allowed to bring my cellphone on the trip?

**YES, you are allowed to bring a cellphone on your trip to NorthBay.**

However, there are certain rules you must follow concerning NorthBay and Lockerman Middle School's cellphone usage policies.

1. All cell phones must be placed in a Ziploc bag with your first and last name written in permanent marker on the label.
2. Your cell phone must be off, and placed in your suitcase and in the Ziploc bag upon arriving to Lockerman on the morning of the trip per Lockerman's cell phone policy.
3. Upon arriving at NorthBay, your parent chaperone will lock student phones in a secure safe. **You will not be permitted to use your phone during the daytime activities as NorthBay.** NorthBay encourages a full emersion experience within nature, and this cannot be achieved when electronics are present.
4. There will be certain times at NorthBay where you will be permitted to use a cell phone - usually in the evening after "NorthBay Live!," a live stage show put on by NorthBay. At this time, your chaperone will unlock the secure safe located in your cabin, and you will be given your cell phone allowed to call home. Please keep in mind that you will more than likely have to use data at NorthBay during these calling periods, as the connection is very weak (we are in the woods!)
5. Students with a poor or broken connection, those feeling homesick, or students that wish to leave their cell phone at home are permitted to use the outgoing landline at the NorthBay office to call home. Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway and Mrs. Wetterau will also allow you to call home using their cell phones if you do not wish to call via the NorthBay office.
6. **Consequences of carrying a phone: students that are found to have cell phones with them during the daytime NorthBay activities will be sent to the NorthBay office by the teacher in their group and then sent home by Miss DeVore, Mrs. Wetterau, Mrs. Conaway or any administrator. Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway, or Mrs. Wetterau will call the parent and make arrangements for them to come pick up their child later that day. There will be no warnings given!**
7. **Unlike students, parents make keep their cell phones with them so that they can stay in contact with their child's teachers as needed during the day and late in the evening while on the trip.**

## How many other students will be in my cabin? Are boys and girls allowed in the same cabin?

There are up to **9 students** in a cabin. There will be at least one parent chaperone in your cabin with you. Cabins are either all-girl or all-boy. **Boys are not permitted in the girl's cabins, and girls are not permitted in the boy's cabins.** The boy's cabins and the girl's cabins are on separate sides of the camp, and you will only see your male or female friends during mealtime (boys and girls eat at different sides of the cafeteria,) in passing, or during the "Northbay Live!" show. Colonel Richardson Middle, School will also have their groups of sixth grade students staying in neighboring cabins, as cabins are separated by middle school. You may see some of these friends sitting among you in the cafeteria during mealtime.

## How do I get to choose who is in my cabin? When will I know who is in my cabin?

You will choose ten of your closest friends that you would like to share a cabin with. You will print neatly at the top of the notecard (which Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway or Mrs. Wetterau will give to you,) your **first and last name**, and number 1 to ten on your notecard. You will then name the ten friends that you would like to room with at NorthBay. If you can't think of ten friends, that's okay - however, please know that your science teacher will place you with enough students to fill the cabin (9 students total.) **Please write down your friends' first and last names. Do your best with the spelling - Mrs. Wetterau, Mrs. Conaway and Miss DeVore are able to decipher most attempted spellings, and will come and find you if we aren't sure who you were referring to.** You will be given plenty of time during class to think of who you wish to have in your cabin. Once we have collected your card, you are no longer able to make any changes to your cabin. You will get as many friends in your cabin as we can place, however, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed with all of the friends you've chosen as we need to make sure that every student has at the very least two or three good friends in their cabin. **Put a STAR by, or CIRCLE the names of any close friends that you really want in your cabin (do not circle or star all of the people on your notecard, or you will be disappointed!)** Due to the complexity of planning such a large trip and the many scenarios that sometimes take place in the weeks up to the trip, you will not know who is in your cabin until the day of the trip.

**Those parents who have graciously decided to volunteer as a parent chaperone on the trip will find out if they've been selected as a parent chaperone a few weeks before the trip via personal call/phone contact by Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway or Mrs. Wetterau.**

## **How do I prepare my medication, and how should it be dropped off at the school?**

All medications should be left in their original orange/brown pill bottles with all original prescription labels, including the student's name, address, dosage, and the time of day the medicine is needing to be administered. These bottles will then be placed in a large gallon Ziploc bag with the student's first and last name written in permanent marker. **Medicines may not be placed in a Ziploc bag without the original prescription bottle!** Medicines without the original prescription bottle will not be accepted. Over-the-counter medications for allergies and pain will be offered to students whose parents have indicated that they can take them in the checklist on the **health information sheet** that was sent home. In addition, the **medication form must be signed by your physician and turned in to Miss DeVore, Mrs. Conaway or Mrs. Wetterau. Medications may be dropped off in the Ziploc bag in the days before the trip, or on the day of the trip.** These medicines will be driven up to NorthBay Adventure Camp, and administered to students by the qualified nursing staff at NorthBay. Students may not carry their own medication. Exceptions will be made for inhalers needed for asthma, or insulin pumps. **ONLY PARENTS ARE PERMITTED TO DROP STUDENT MEDICATION OFF WITH THE NURSE.**

## **Will there be any "free time" at North Bay?**

Please remember that you will still be in "school" at NorthBay, but it won't be quite like the traditional school day because the majority of your learning will occur outside. You are expected to put forth your best efforts and display your best behavior at NorthBay: keep in mind that you are a direct example of not only Lockerman Middle, but also Caroline County Public Schools. You will have some free time to buy souvenir or snack items in the gift shop, and time built into your schedule to engage in the adventure aspects in your group, such as the ropes course, the giant swing, the zipline, or the rock wall(s). You will play games with your cabin mates, and have lots of fun! At the end of the night whether you're a parent chaperone, a student or a teacher, you will be tired! "Quiet time" begins at or a little before 11:00 PM. At this time you are expected to be sleeping.

## What happens if I act up at North Bay?

To put it simply, you will be sent home. There will not be any second chances given, so your best behaviors are expected at all times - not only towards your teachers, but towards your parent chaperone, the NorthBay staff, and the other students in your cabin. This trip is not only a unique educational experience, but it is also a privilege. Let's have a great trip, and not even think about this one!

## I don't want to go to NorthBay, or I've decided I no longer want to go to NorthBay. What will I be doing instead?

You will be attending school just as you normally would during the school week. **(This is not a week off for those who do not attend the trip!)** Your daily schedule may be a little different if your teacher is attending the trip (you will have a different teacher doing a science lesson with you, and science may occur at a different time during the day than it normally does,) however you will still have all of your normal classes for the same amount of time. We hope you will decide to go on this trip, as it truly is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. However, we most certainly will understand if you are unable to attend. If you are on crutches due to an accident or sports injury, you will not be permitted to go on the trip - this is because NorthBay has very uneven walking and hiking terrain (think lots of wooded trails and walking up and downhill,) and to prevent you from possible further injury.

## What if it snows when we are at NorthBay, or the day before?

If it snows the day before we leave for NorthBay, we will be forced to delay the trip and abide by CCPS closures. If it snows the week that we are supposed to attend NorthBay, the BOE will usually try to reschedule the trip. All decisions for rescheduling the trip are made at the board level. Look for updates to come directly from the board, and for a phone call to be made from LMS regarding further instructions.

**It has snowed a few inches many times when we were at NorthBay, causing CCPS school closures. Please know that we will still have outdoor learning activities occurring at NorthBay unless the temperatures become dangerously low, in which case NorthBay staff would move students to heated indoor learning facilities. If we are experiencing significant snowfall, NorthBay can make the call to send us home early from the camp.**

