



September 4, 2018

Dear Parents,

In November, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratorium students are planning an extended Field School opportunity to the Great Smoky Mountains Institute, Tremont. Located in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tremont offers 20 or more miles of trails intersecting diverse communities of forest types, streams, geologic formations.

With its mission to connect people with nature, field experiences at Tremont will foster the 21st century thinking skills of

1. Understanding complexity - of ecosystems, of organisms, and issues inherent in Biodiversity.
2. Understanding the history of and challenges facing America's public lands - including the complex factors in maintaining National Parks.

Objectives:

1. Students will examine the individual elements of a variety of ecosystems, improve data collection skills, hypothesis testing, recording skills and data analysis to better understand complex systems.
2. Students will enhance their understanding of some of the issues facing our public lands, and
3. Students will apply Future Problem Solving Skills to develop Action Plans for some aspect of protecting, promoting, improving or advancing our Public Lands



### **When is the trip?**

- **Depart** from Wydown: Sunday, November 25th 11:00 PM (Yes! PM!)
- **Return** to Wydown: Wednesday, November 28th , @8:30 PM

### **Where will we be staying?**

- Comfortable dormitory housing for the group is provided. Boys and girls are housed on separate floors or separate sides of the dorms.
- Family Style meals are served in the dining hall.

### **How will we travel?**

- We will travel by chartered bus
- We will sleep on the bus on Sunday night. (Bus packing list is coming shortly before the trip.)

### **How much will it cost?**

- The cost for the trip is approximately \$399.00.
- This amount is all-inclusive **except** \$ for breakfast on Monday, and \$ for dinner on Wednesday during our bus travel.

### **What do I need to do now? There are only 30 student slots available!**

- Send the Tremont Commitment form and **non-refundable deposit** to Ms. Sermos. Checks are made payable to WYDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
- Text Ms. Sermos (314-306-4393) or email at [sandrasermos@claytonschoools.net](mailto:sandrasermos@claytonschoools.net) if you have questions or **want to volunteer to participate.**
- Look for health forms, packing lists and reminders that are coming.
- Check *Google Classroom* for announcements and copies of forms.
- Go to the Tremont website: <http://www.gsmit.org/>
  - [Dorms and Facilities](#)
  - [Nature Inspires](#)