

General Information

Bivouac 2021

The Bivouac program has two primary goals: one is to help students develop a sense of confidence in their own ability to cope with unexpected and challenging situations; the other is to cultivate in students an awareness of the interdependence of all members of a community. In addition, the program is designed to utilize the physical resources of the Bivouac site to help students become more familiar with the natural environment and their effect on it.

The Bivouac program is an integral and required part of the Grade Nine curriculum. During this eleven-day stay in the woods of southern New Hampshire, students are divided into small squads. They do all their own work, including building and maintaining their squad area, gathering and chopping wood, and cooking their meals over open fires. Students take courses in basic and low-impact camping, orienteering, and group dynamics. They also participate in a daylong hiking trip, visits to local sheep and agricultural farms, ropes course activities, and an orientation to the Upper School. An optional solo program is offered.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

The Equipment List provides detailed information and advice on what to pack. Please read this document carefully and contact Bivouac Director David Strodel if you have any questions.

One important consideration to keep in mind while packing is that space is limited on the buses and in the tents. Therefore students are only allowed to bring one large duffel bag, one sleeping bag, and one small backpack. A second important consideration is that students should be prepared for temperatures that range from warm and summer-like to freezing.

FINANCES

There is no charge for the Bivouac program. However, families will be responsible for any medical expenses incurred by their child during Bivouac. This would include the cost of prescription medication or hospital/clinic visits.

FOOD AND DIET

Food provided on the program is nutritious and well balanced. The School's nutritionist and chef have reviewed the menu provided at Bivouac. Arrangements must be made ahead of time for students with specific needs relating to their diet. As described earlier, information regarding dietary issues or allergies should be indicated on Magnus Health Tracker Form found in your Veracross Parent Portal. This information will be reviewed by the Upper School Nurse and communicated to the Bivouac Nurse as well as to those overseeing the food and menu at Bivouac.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

The Bivouac program has a full-time Registered Nurse who is trained in First Aid/CPR. The facilities of nearby Urgent Care, Monadnock Community Hospital or Keene Clinic are used if needed. We assume that all students carry health insurance and recommend that they carry some form of accident insurance. In general, parents/guardians are only contacted for non-emergency visits to the Bivouac Infirmary at the discretion of the Bivouac Nurse. All visits to Urgent Care or Emergency Room facilities will be reported as soon as possible to parents/guardians.

All medications taken by students (including non-prescription) will be dispensed through the Bivouac Infirmary. The exception is inhalers and Epi-pens as these should be carried by the student. All medications must be listed on the Medication Administration Care Plan on Magnus Health Tracker Form. It is important that parents/guardians update this information if there are any changes over the summer. Prior to the departure for Bivouac, all medication needs to be handed by a parent/guardian directly to the Upper School Nurse. Medications must be in the original bottle/package and stored in a Ziploc bag labeled with the student's name. Please call to set up a time with the Upper School Nurse to hand over medications during the week prior to Labor Day. Upon arrival at Bivouac, students who receive medication will meet with the Bivouac Nurse to review the medication plan and arrange a schedule for the dispensation of those medications.

All students are required to have a tetanus toxoid vaccination (Tdap). Vaccinations are good for nearly ten years, but since the immunity gradually wears off, we require that students receive a tetanus vaccine within the last seven years. Students not vaccinated against tetanus within the last seven years may not participate in the program.

BB&N monitors reports from New Hampshire government agencies regarding Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. We do provide insect spray to students at appropriate times and teach students the importance of wearing clothing (lightweight long-sleeved shirts and long pants) that will decrease their risks of being bitten. Certain aspects of the program will be altered during times of high risk to minimize exposure to biting insects. Likewise, we alert students to the presence of deer ticks and the importance of checking for bites.

Feminine hygiene supplies are available through the Bivouac Nurse. We recommend that parents/guardians with daughters who have not experienced their first menstrual cycle discuss the matter with their child prior to Bivouac.

For reasons of health and hygiene, it is vital that students' clothing and equipment be maintained in sanitary condition. To ensure the maintenance of healthy living conditions, the staff reserves the right to inspect the living quarters, clothing, and equipment of the students as necessary.

PROHIBITED ITEMS & SUBSTANCES

Letters to students on the program (aka "snail mail") are encouraged at the address below, however care packages with non-essential items are not. Moreover, packages sent to students at Bivouac must not include food. The Bivouac staff will hold any packages containing food items until the end of the program.

The possession and/or use of cell phones, iPods, or other electronic devices at Bivouac is forbidden. Students' luggage will be inspected upon arrival at the Bivouac site in order to ensure compliance with these rules. Cameras are encouraged as long as they are not part of a cell phone or other electronic device.

Since Bivouac is a BB&N program, the School's restrictions regarding tobacco or vaping products, alcohol, and drugs apply to all students. Any student found possessing or using any of these substances will be sent home immediately and will be subject to further disciplinary action by the School.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Students wishing to attend religious services in New Hampshire during the Bivouac program should note this on the part of the Consent Form relating to religious observances including Yom Kippur or church services. You may also contact David Strodel, Grade Nine Dean and Bivouac Director during the summer. Every effort will be made to accommodate these requests.

TRANSPORTATION DETAILS

Buses depart from and return to the BB&N Upper School. More details regarding the departure and return information will be sent in late August.

Depart: Wednesday, September 8

All students should arrive at Upper School Parking Lot by 7:30 a.m. to load their luggage for departure. More information about the departure process will come to you in mid to late August and early September.

Return: Friday, September 17

Buses will return to the Upper School Parking Lot between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESS AT BIVOUAC

C/O BB&N BIVOUAC
28 Marienfield Rd
Harrisville, NH 03450

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency during normal school hours (7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.), please call the Upper School main phone number. In case of an emergency outside of normal school hours (7:30 p.m. – 7:30 a.m. or during the weekend), please call the School's security phone number. By calling either of these numbers, messages or requests for a return phone call can be communicated to David Strodel, Bivouac Director.

Upper School main number: 617-547-6100

BB&N security: 617-593-5582