

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.

A limited number of good quality sleeping bags, rainsuits, duffel bags and rain boots will be made available first to our students receiving financial aid and then to the larger student population to help defray the cost of the program. Please look for further information on these in a separate email or reach out to Bivouac Director, David Strodel, at dstrodel@bbns.org.

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 in your student's Magnus Health Tracker accessed through 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.

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. Students found to have a tick bite will be taken to a nearby Urgent Care facility for evaluation. 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.

MEDICAL FORMS AND VACCINATIONS

Please note that in addition to the [required vaccinations for school entry](#), BB&N will require students participating in Bivouac to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (two full doses plus any age-eligible boosters). Documentation for all vaccinations must be provided in the Magnus Health Tracker Form accessed from your Veracross Parent Portal in a timely manner for the BB&N Nurse's review and approval. All students must also have a current school physical form in order to participate in Bivouac. School physical forms are provided from your child's physician's office and expire 12 months from the date of the form's listed appointment. If your student's physical form has or will expire before the start of Bivouac please make arrangements accordingly to provide an updated physical form in your child's Magnus Health Tracker. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

Please note the following additional requirements:

- All students must have all their Magnus Health forms completed in order to attend Bivouac (i.e. emergency contacts, insurance, allergies, full immunization record, physical form, etc.)
- An electronic signature document will be sent mid-August from Magnus Health to require confirmation that all information in your student's Magnus Health is accurate and up to date and that the information regarding your child needing or not needing medication(s) during Bivouac is accurate and up to date.
- Any student requiring any medication(s), both over the counter and/or prescription, will have additional forms to complete which require a physician's signature.
- All medications, regardless of their nature, will require their own individual physician's medication order form with the exception of emergency medications such as EpiPens, inhalers, insulin, etc. Medication(s) must be provided to the Upper School nurse during the time frames designated on two days during the last week of August. This will be communicated in detail mid-August to those who have indicated their child will bring medication.
- Any student requiring emergency medication such as an EpiPen, inhaler, etc. must have two of their rescue medication(s) in order to attend Bivouac. The medication cannot be expired. Students requiring emergency medication must also have a current action plan in their Magnus Health.

For any questions regarding your student's Bivouac Health Forms please email HealthForms@bbns.org.

Emergency medications: Students requiring emergency medications must bring **two** of their medication(s). One will be carried by the student on their person at all times and the other safely stored in the Bivouac Nurse's office. Any student requiring emergency medications must have a current Action Plan in their Magnus Health which must include a physician's medication order. Emergency Medications do not need to be handed to the Upper School Nurse for collection prior to Bivouac. Students will bring **two** of their emergency medication(s) directly to the bus on the day of Bivouac's departure. Students will then show the Upper School Nurse both doses of their medications and the expiration dates. Emergency medication(s) cannot be expired. For any exceptions to your child bringing two of their emergency medications you must submit this request in writing to the Upper School Nurse. All medication(s) must be in their original pharmacy bottle/package or manufacturer's packaging and placed into a single Ziploc bag labeled with the student's full name. You must give the exact amount of medication needed for the duration of Bivouac. Extra medication doses will not be accepted. Leftover medication(s) upon the completion of Bivouac will be properly disposed of by the Upper School Nurse. 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 administering of those medications. The Bivouac Nurse's office will have Advil, Tylenol, Benadryl, Tums, Hydrocortisone Cream, Bacitracin Ointment, and hand sanitizer available for your student based on the consent provided in Magnus Health by a parent/guardian under the Over-the-Counter Medication Consent completed by a parent/guardian. These medications are the same medications a parent/guardian will consent to being administered during the school year. In addition to the listed medications while attending Bivouac, a parent may consent to the Bivouac Nurse administering IcyHot/BioFreeze, burn cream, Zytrec, and Pepto Bismol. Parents/guardians do not need to supply the medications listed above as long as they have provided consent for their administration in their child's Magnus Health.

All students are required to have a complete school vaccination record including full vaccination for COVID-19 (two doses plus any age-eligible boosters). Required school entry vaccinations can be found [here](#). Please note tetanus toxoid vaccination (Tdap) is 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 in compliance with their school entry required vaccines including COVID-19 and who have not received a tetanus vaccine within the last seven years may not participate in the program.

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/iPads, 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 occurring during the program 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: Tuesday, September 6

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 16

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