



**Blissfield Middle School**  
**Eighth Grade Outdoor Camp Experience**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/8thgradecamp/>

Dear Eighth Grade Students and Parents,

In this booklet you will find information about the outdoor education experience that Blissfield Middle School offers to all Eighth Grade Students on **May 21-23, 2025**. We hope that it answers questions that you might have concerning the following areas:

1. Philosophy
2. Program
3. Housing
4. Health and First Aid
5. Clothing
6. Food and Cooking
7. Eligibility
8. Financial Issues

If you have any questions after reading this booklet please feel free to contact Mrs. Gray or Ms. Denkins at (517) 486-4420.

To reserve a spot for your son or daughter, please return the enclosed registration form and a \$50 deposit by Friday, October 25, 2024 (fall parent / teacher conferences) to the office. The deposit may be submitted in the form of cash, check, or credit card via Infinite Campus. Students who are not able to pay the deposit by October 25, 2024 due to financial hardship will need to make special arrangements with Mrs. Denkins prior to October 25, 2024.

The total cost of this experience is \$175.

Balance is due on Friday, March 20, 2025 (spring parent / teacher conferences).

We will have a fundraising opportunity this fall.

We hope your son or daughter joins us for a great concluding experience at Blissfield Middle School!

Sincerely,

Outdoor Education Committee  
Blissfield Middle School

## **“Reliving Our Roots...An 1800’s Experience”**

### **Philosophy and Objectives**

“Outdoor education is not a separate discipline like science or math. Rather it is a learning “climate” that offers young people the chance to identify and resolve real-life problems, to acquire skills with which to enjoy a lifetime of creative living, to develop a concern about man and his natural environment, and to get back in touch with those aspects of living where our roots were once firm and deep.”

~ *Smith, Carleson, Masters and Davidson, Outdoor Education*

Besides this very appropriate philosophy, we have the following objectives for our program, “Reliving our Roots – an 1800’s Experience”, all dovetail with our overall curriculum and mission statement.

### **Historical Appreciation**

An objective of this experience is to let the students relive, as much as practical, three days in the early 1800’s in order to reinforce the things they learned about early Michigan in history class. In 1837, when Michigan became a state, cooking over open-fires, and canoe transportation, and less than modern conditions were necessities rather than recreation. Students experience these as well as learn about homesteading, surveying and pioneer crafts. All of these activities provide a perfect way to conclude your student’s experience at Blissfield Middle School.

### **Outdoor Appreciation and Skills**

Another objective is for students to have a deeper appreciation for their environment and a better knowledge of skills needed in the out-of-doors. Building no-scar fires and proper disposal of garbage are taught, but perhaps the greatest gift we give the students is the opportunity to be outdoors where they may witness Canadian geese and goslings, deer that inhabit the wild areas of camp or even hear the strange thumping or beating of the courting partridge.

### **Social Skills and Individual Growth**

All of our activities promote social and individual growth. We participate in an obstacle/cooperation course that demonstrates the need for working together to complete rather difficult physical challenges. Group cooking, dish washing and other chores build cohesiveness among campers. A dance party and candlelight ceremony are highlights of the final night together. Many individuals find they are able to do things at camp that they felt they were unable to do. Quiet moments around campfires give insights about others we have never seen or talked to in the years we have been together. Camp is an unforgettable experience that every 8th grader should be encouraged to participate in.

## Program

“Reliving our Roots – an 1800’s experience” begins right after getting off the bus. We all have a long hike, carrying everything we take, to three different “communities” or living areas. There the “citizens” are introduced to their “family” for the week. These co-ed groups of 5-6 students and adults live and work together for the three days within the three different villages. Cooking, cleaning, an obstacle course and competitions are done together. We soon find out that pulling together makes life much easier. On several occasions, we get the entire group together so students will get to see friends even if separated by communities.

The following is a list of activities planned for the campers. You can see we are very busy and little time is available for idleness.

### Town Meetings:

These get-togethers are designed to iron out problems.

### Canoe Paddling:

With life jackets a must, and close adult supervision, even non-or poor swimmers can participate.

### COPE Low Ropes:

This is an obstacle course designed for group cooperation and development that is climaxed by “The Wall”, a real challenge that CAN be met by all if we work together.

### Tower Climb:

Climb a 30 foot Tower! You can choose from the easy side, the hard side or the insane difficult side. Then you get to repel back down.

### Archery:

Test your skill on a real archery range with certified instructors. Safety is a key!

### Mountain Biking:

Take the wildest ride up and down hills. You may even find yourself in a deep mud hole.

### Group Campfire:

Here is a chance to hear some of the wildest stories and learn some of the neatest songs going.

### Night Hike:

We learn the sounds of the night and the ease of mobility if we become adjusted to the light; perhaps something may “spark” our interests on this dark adventure.

### Games Galore:

“Zingers”, relay races, volleyball, human foosball and gaga ball are among the many competitive activities we participate in.

*All will sleep well when we return home!*

## Housing

College-aged students will assist Middle School staff as town leaders. Outhouses (with running water) add that realistic 1800's touch.

## Medical Information

Please complete the medical information portion of the registration form which asks you to give any medical conditions or issues we should be aware of as well as parent/guardian insurance information. Please complete the registration form and submit it with the \$50 deposit.

## Food and Cooking

As mentioned earlier, the students cook as small groups, with Blissfield providing all food. With the help of the cafeteria and bulk buying, we are able to provide good food in ample amounts for low costs. **If you have any dietary concerns we should know about, please inform us prior to departure. We may have diabetic and food-allergic campers and fussy eaters come with us and LOVE it. Menus are available upon request.**

## Clothing and Equipment

Here is a suggested clothing and necessity list. Please note that rain gear is a **must**, as are **changes of shoes and socks**, as we go rain or shine. Also, note that cell phones, CD players/mp3 players, radios, hair dryers (no electricity) and extra food are not allowed.

### Clothing (All clothing to be marked with student's name)

- Bring old but clean clothes
- One sweat suit or pajamas
- One pair of tennis shoes
- One pair of water shoes – to be used for canoeing (please no flip-flops, must remain attached)
- Four pair of socks (minimum)
- Underwear
- Shorts (as appropriate for forecasted weather)
- Two or three pair of pants
- Two or three shirts
- One sweatshirt or sweater (wool shirt / sweater recommended)
- Warm jacket or down vest
- Raincoat or poncho

### Bedding

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow

### Toiletries

Small container of liquid soap (can be used for both soap and shampoo)  
Towel and washcloth  
Comb / Brush  
Tissues  
Tooth paste / brush

### Equipment

Flashlight  
Sunglasses?  
Pencil and small notebook  
Inexpensive or disposable camera  
Mosquito repellent  
At least 2 large plastic garbage bags

### **DO NOT BRING\***

Knives / Weapons	Money	Radios	CD/mp3 players
Matches	Squirt Guns	Food or Pop	Cell Phones

***\*Please Note: If above items are brought, they will be confiscated and returned to the student upon arriving back to the school.***

### **Eighth Grade Eligibility**

All eighth grade middle school students are eligible and encouraged to participate in our camping experience. Occasionally, a few students inquire about guidelines that could specifically eliminate someone from this unique experience.

The entire teaching staff works very hard to promote the camp as a culmination of three years of middle school life. Activities promote comradeship and a different view of student-teacher relationships. It is for this reason that all students are encouraged to participate.

If students desire to not take part, or show by their behavior that they are not trustworthy, the following system was developed and *implemented in the second semester* of the eighth grade. The camp staff reserves the right to exclude any student who they feel will be a detriment to the success of camp.

### **Disqualification System**

Students who accumulate four (4) or more disqualification points prior to the date of our experience will be excluded from participating. Listed below is the disqualifying point's scale. Please note that no single incident can disqualify students from enjoying our year-end experience. Other options may be pursued for students who the camp staff and administration feel may be at risk for jeopardizing the success of the camp. Students may not attend camp for more than one year. Listed below is the disqualifying points scale:

Fighting/Personal Injury	3 Points
Drug/Smoking/Vaping/Alcohol	3 Points
Destruction of Property	3 Points
Serious Unacceptable Behavior	3 Points
Out-of-School Suspension	3 Points
In-School Restriction	2 Points
Destruction of school property	2 Points
Bus Suspension	2 Points
Stealing	2 Points
Skipping School	2 Points
Inappropriate Behavior in School	1 Point
Detention	1 Point
Bus Misconduct	1 Point
Cafeteria Misbehavior	1 Point
Dress Code Violation	1 Point

### **Financial Information**

The cost of this experience is \$175. A \$50 deposit is due on October 25, 2024 with the final balance is due on March 20, 2025.

Funds raised by fundraisers will NOT be part of any refund. The only reason a refund (excluding deposit) will be granted is if a student is excluded due to behavior or a substantial health or family emergency takes place.

Please complete the attached Registration Form and return it to the middle school office at your by October 25, 2024.





**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Registration Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This registration form and the \$50 deposit are due to Blissfield Middle School by October 25, 2024. Please make checks payable to: ***Blissfield Middle School***.

Please indicate any health conditions your student has that we should be aware of:

_____ Bed Wetting	_____ Diabetes	_____ Allergies
_____ Special Diet	_____ Asthma	_____ Special Medications
_____ Heart Condition	_____ A.E.D.	_____ C.P.A.P.
_____ Other (Please Explain Below)		

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the event of an emergency, please contact the following (in priority order):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Insurance Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

***Parent Permission Statement:***

I hereby give permission for my student named above to attend the outdoor education experience on **May 21-23, 2025** with Blissfield Middle School. I also give permission for my student to travel by school bus to and from the camp on the aforementioned days.

I understand that if it would be necessary for my student to return home early from camp due to disciplinary reasons, no money will be refunded.

I hereby give permission for the school authority to provide proper medical services if any medical emergency arises regarding my student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Name*                      *Parent/Guardian Signature*                      *Date*