



Field Education

PARENT/GUARDIAN PACKET



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome and greetings from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. We're excited that your child will be joining us at the Jackson Campus of Teton Science Schools for a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience. Since 1976, Teton Science Schools has been engaging learners of all ages in transformative place-based education. Whether investigating the local plants and animals of Grand Teton National Park or exploring the geothermal history of Yellowstone, Field Education participants develop a deeper connection to place, learn what it means to be a scientist, and return home more prepared to be leaders within their communities. The contents of this packet will serve as a road map to understanding what life at Teton Science Schools is like and how to prepare ahead of your visit.

Teton Science Schools began with the grand vision of a Jackson Hole high school teacher over 50 years ago. That legacy continues today with your child's travels to TSS. We're grateful for your support of place-based learning and can't wait to see you in the Tetons.

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Teton Science Schools inspires curiosity, engagement and leadership through transformative place-based education.

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Pillars of Field Education

Field Education at Teton Science Schools practices place-based education. We approach place through the lens of the ecological, cultural, and economic perspectives of a community. All our programs are learner-driven and incorporate inquiry, exploration, and play. The following three pillars define each Field Education program: connection to place, field science practices, and leadership in community. Every program includes elements of each pillar.

CONNECTION TO PLACE

What: Inspire curiosity, wonder, and understanding of our world.

How: Explore social, economic, and ecological systems through interdisciplinary observation, inquiry, expression, and reflection.

Why: Motivate an awareness of, appreciation of, and stewardship for local and global places.

FIELD SCIENCE PRACTICES

What: Understand natural systems and processes; undertake inquiry-based field research.

How: Apply the scientific process in conducting field research and critically examine social and ecological issues from multiple perspectives.

Why: Build scientific literacy.

LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

What: Engage in the development of community.

How: Develop social and emotional skills through immersion in authentic leadership roles.

Why: Gain a greater sense of self, work collaboratively with others, and take initiative to change your world for the better.

Educational Approach

We believe in learner-centered practices implemented by educators who are life-long learners in content and craft. Our place-based approach connects learners and landscapes to increase engagement and positive impact.





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Staying at Teton Science Schools

DINING

Your group will enjoy delicious, healthy meals in our dining lodge, courtesy of our caring and hardworking kitchen staff. Upon entering the dining lodge, everyone is required to wash their hands before finding a seat. Students must wait to be dismissed before going through the serving line; chaperones may serve themselves as soon as the serving line is open. TSS typically provides breakfast and dinner in the dining lodge, while lunches are eaten in the field. Participants pack their lunches in the dining lodge, immediately following breakfast.

Our kitchen staff is happy to accommodate special dietary needs, provided they are made aware of them before your group arrives. Be sure to communicate with your program host about any food allergies or dietary restrictions prior to your arrival on campus.

HANDS-TO-WORK

Teton Science Schools does not have a cleaning staff. Instead, we practice a philosophy of "Hands-to-Work." All of our staff and guests pitch in to maintain, clean and prepare the beautiful facilities for the next community of learners. As part of our community, you will be living and learning on a campus that was prepared for you by prior groups and you will be asked to help prepare the facilities for the next group. In the dining lodge, field groups will be assigned Meal Steward responsibilities, which include washing dishes, cleaning tables, and sweeping floors at the end of the meal. Some field groups will also be assigned the duty of cleaning lunch containers at the end of the field day. Participants are also responsible for cleaning their own rooms and shared spaces around campus before they depart and will be supervised and assisted by TSS staff.

INCLUSIVITY PRACTICES

Our community values inclusion as part of our daily intentional culture. We welcome, learn from, value, and amplify voices, perspectives, and identities that have been marginalized, and we act on what we learn. For instance, we consider it important to offer opportunities for our staff, including trans and gender non-conforming individuals, to share their gender pronouns in settings where they are introducing themselves. This practice is designed to reduce the discomfort that one may experience when referred to with an inaccurate pronoun.

SHARED CAMPUS

During your stay at the TSS Campus, you may be sharing residence lodges and the dining lodge with other schools, youth groups, adult education programs, conferences, or other guests of Teton Science Schools. Your group will have the opportunity to meet and spend time together during meals and community time. Chaperones will be expected to supervise your group in the shared lodge, dining lodge, and outdoor spaces to assure that all guests have a comfortable shared space. In order to respect all of our guests, quiet hours are enforced in the lodges from 9:00pm until 7:00am. Lights-out will be determined by you and your program host.

PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS: WHAT TO EXPECT

To help you be prepared for the activities you and your students will participate in, please plan for active learning. For the most satisfying experience, please note that this program requires the following:

- Ability to walk without assistance at altitudes between 6,000 – 9,000 feet.
- Ability to climb sets of stairs without assistance. There are stairs in our residence lodges, but an elevator is available for luggage transport.
- Ability to hike at least two miles over uneven terrain.
- Ability to keep pace with an active group of travelers and to be on time for all scheduled activities, some with early morning departures. Group leaders can work with their program host to develop accommodations for students and chaperones with physical limitations during the pre-trip planning process.

Teton Science Schools' style of teaching is place-based and experience-oriented. Our indoor classroom time will be spent exploring through discussions, activities and lectures, covering a wide variety of topics. Our outdoor classroom time will be spent investigating many areas of Jackson Hole, in vehicles and on foot.



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Staying at Teton Science Schools

EXPECTATIONS & PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

At Teton Science Schools, we require that all participants show respect to self, others and the environment; share equally in group responsibilities; perform equally to their academic ability; possess no weapons of any kind; abstain from using alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco in any form; exhibit no violent behavior, chronic misbehavior, or actions that result in an unsafe situation; abstain from intimate or exclusive relationships; and use digital cameras appropriately and respectfully. Failure to maintain these standards will result in dismissal from Teton Science Schools' programming and forfeiture of tuition.

For the safety of all participants we require that all students under the age of 18 are always in eyeshot and earshot of an adult. The following activities are not allowed due to high inherent risk.

These include but are not limited to the following:

- Swimming
- Throwing snowballs, sticks, rocks or other objects at people
- Playing games in the roadways or parking lots
- Running on campus trails
- Accessing the Challenge Course without a trained TSS staff member

MAIL AT TETON SCIENCE SCHOOLS

Parents often send letters or postcards to their children at TSS that arrive after the school has departed. If parents wish to send mail to their students while they are at TSS, encourage them to give the letter or postcard to you ahead of time, which you can then dispense during the trip.



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Clothing & Equipment

Our activities and classes are taught outdoors, in *all* weather conditions. Layering of clothes—shirt, fleece top, windbreaker or jacket—will keep you comfortable as warm air is trapped between each layer and acts as an insulator. Layering allows you to adjust to changes in physical activity and temperature by adding and removing layers. Synthetic materials such as Polartec™ fleece that do not retain water and help wick moisture away from your skin are a better choice than cotton or jeans. After a day in the outdoors, you may wish to have casual clothes and comfortable shoes to change into for dinners and socializing at the campus. Prior to arriving on campus, please wash and dry all clothing and bedding on high.

At the minimum, your child should pack the following for their stay with us:

- ☐ Comfortable clothing layers for a variety of weather conditions
- ☐ Two refillable water bottles (very important at high altitudes)
- ☐ A sun hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and lip balm
- ☐ Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots for course times. Sandals are fine for indoor campus shoes, however only close-toed shoes will be permitted for outdoor use.
- ☐ Waterproof coat and pants
- ☐ Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, etc.)
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Full size flat sheet with accompanying pillowcase, a pillow will be provided by TSS
- ☐ Sleeping bag or comforter

If your child is coming between **JUNE & AUGUST** you may also want to bring:

- ☐ Sandals or water shoes for water activities
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Windproof jacket
- ☐ Insect repellent

If your child is coming between **SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER** or **APRIL & MAY** you will also need to bring:

- ☐ Heavy coat
- ☐ Fleece layers
- ☐ Winter hat & gloves

If your child is coming between **NOVEMBER & MARCH** you will also need to bring:

- ☐ Cold weather hiking boots
- ☐ Winter hat & waterproof gloves/ mittens
- ☐ Snow pants
- ☐ Winter coat

For further information on Jackson Hole weather, please visit www.mountainweather.com



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Clothing & Equipment

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Weapons of any kind. This includes guns, knives (including pocket knives), mace, etc.
- Alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Food, drinks, gum, or candy. Any food in lodges attracts unwanted small animals.
- All participants will be provided a pillow upon arrival and should not bring their own.
- Any electronics (including: radios, mp3 players, electronic games, laptops, iPad/Kindle, and cell phones) and non-prescription medications.

TSS-PROVIDED GEAR:

TSS will lend some daily gear to your child when they arrive on campus: a backpack, a foam sit-pad, and a water bottle. The backpack and sit-pad are returned at the end of your visit, while the students will get to take their water bottle home with them. TSS will also provide backpacks and foam sit-pads to adult chaperones who want them. For schools visiting in the winter, TSS also loans out gaiters, snowshoes, and/or cross country ski gear for students and adult chaperones.

TSS has a small amount of personal gear available to lend to students who may have left items at home. The collection of loanable personal gear includes winter boots, snow pants, waterproof jackets and pants, additional water bottles, fleece tops, hats, gloves, and sunglasses. Any gear loaned to participants will be collected and washed at the end of the program.

Typical Field Day Schedule

Timeframe	Event
6:30 AM	Wake-up
7:20 AM	Meal Stewards report to Dining Lodge with Chaperone
7:30 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast Pack lunch Adult meeting Dining Lodge clean-up
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Gift Shop Prep for Field Day Tidy up the Residence Lodge
9:00 AM	Meet in field groups
~12:00 PM	Lunch in the field
4:00 PM	Return from field, lunch clean-up
4:15 – 5:30 PM	Community time: relax, shower, recreational activities, reflective activities, other projects
5:20 PM	Meal Stewards report to Dining Lodge with Chaperone
5:30 – 6:15 PM	Dinner Dining Lodge clean-up
6:15 – 7:00 PM	Community time
~7:00 PM	Evening program (Start time is dependent on season and age group)
~9:00 PM	Return to Residence Lodge and prep for lights out
~9:45 PM	Lights out
9:00 PM – 7:00 AM	Quiet hours



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Gift Shop

Based on your school's arrangements, your child may have the opportunity to visit our campus gift shop. Below are some of our most popular items and a price list. Please note prices are subject to change.



Headbands	\$25.00
Beanies	\$25.00
Track & Scat Bandanas	\$8.25
Nalgene Water Bottles	\$12.50
T-Shirts	\$20.00
Hats	\$18.50-30.00
Stickers	\$1.50
Patches	\$4.00
Ceramic Mug	\$10.00



Staying at the Jackson Campus



Your child will be staying at our Jackson Campus located about five miles from the town of Jackson, WY. Perfectly poised to benefit from Jackson Hole's unique setting and community, the nearly 900 acre Jackson Campus is comprised of creeks, ponds, aspen, conifer, grassland and sage habitats. The facility is designed for education, using Teton Science Schools' expertise and skills accumulated in 50 years of outdoor environmental education.



RESIDENCE LODGES

During your child's visit to Teton Science Schools, they will stay in one of our two lodges. Both lodges have three floors with participants staying on the 1st and 2nd floors; the 3rd floor is reserved for TSS staff housing.

First floor rooms have three bunk beds with a full-sized or twin bed, reading lamp, alarm clock, shelf, and shared baths.

Second floor rooms have a full-size bed, one or two twin bunk beds, and a private bath with toilet, sink and shower. Second floor rooms also contain a shelf, chair, small table, reading lamps and alarm clock.

Our lodge rooms are simple and comfortable without the distractions of televisions or phones. The rooms do not come stocked with toiletries, so please pack those for your child.

Our beds are outfitted with pillows, but they do not come with linens. Most schools elect to bring their own linens to campus. If your group chooses this option, each participant must bring a towel, a pillowcase, a full size flat sheet, and a sleeping bag or comforter. Prior to arrival, please wash and dry all clothes and bedding on high.

All lodge residents may take advantage of the comfortable, central meeting room located on the first floor of the lodge. This room has a couch, a table and chairs and is also stocked with board games and cards.

For more information and pictures of our lodges, visit tetonscience.org/about/host-an-event/



Staying at the Kelly Campus



The Kelly Campus is the original home of Teton Science Schools. Situated along the eastern edge of Grand Teton National Park and within a mile of the Bridger Teton National Forest, this wildlife corridor is comprised of aspen, conifer, grassland, sage, and riparian habitats. Formerly Elbow Ranch, the historic dude ranch, was restored and redesigned for educational purposes. It includes the Murie Museum, a wonderful collection of world-renowned specimens, and features one of the best views of the Teton Range.



RESIDENCE LODGES

Accommodations include a variety of historic log cabins. Porcupine and Eagle's Rest, our large lodges, are dormitory-style. Crystal Creek, Sheep Mountain, and Spur Ridge are smaller and more flexible units.

Porcupine and Eagle's Rest lodges sleep eleven on each side, separated by a central hallway and door. There is a central chaperone room with three twin beds and an alarm clock. Each side of the lodge has a shared bathroom.

Sheep Mountain, a duplex log cabin, has two twin beds and one twin bunk bed on each side. The two rooms are adjoined by a door and a shared bathroom.

Crystal Creek and Spur Ridge have a full-sized bed, one twin bunk bed, and a private bath with a toilet, sink, and shower. These rooms contain a chair, lamp, and an alarm clock.

Our lodge rooms are simple and comfortable without the distractions of televisions or phones. The rooms do not come stocked with toiletries, so please bring these with you.

Our beds are outfitted with pillows, but they do not come with linens. Most schools elect to bring their own linens to campus. If your group chooses this option, each participant must bring a towel, a pillowcase, a full-size flat sheet, and a sleeping bag or comforter. If you choose to have TSS provide linens, there is an extra charge of \$20 per participant.

For more information and pictures of our lodges, visit tetonscience.org/about/host-an-event/



Staying at the Murie Ranch



Located about fourteen miles from the town of Jackson, WY, you will be staying at the Murie Ranch, a National Historic Landmark District in Grand Teton National Park. The Murie Ranch was home to the famed Muries. Mardy and Olaus Murie spearheaded conservation efforts and biological studies in Jackson Hole, serving as leaders in a field that continues to grow in importance today. The Murie Ranch is located at the intersection of sage, forest, and riparian habitat, providing the perfect setting for appreciating the natural beauty of the area, exploring, and reflecting on the need for these places..



RESIDENCE LODGES

During your stay at Teton Science Schools, you will stay in a historic cabin. Our cabins are simple and comfortable without the distractions of televisions or phones. The campus has limited wireless access for computers. Our cabins do not have hairdryers, irons or toiletry items, so please take care to pack these necessities as you see fit. There are limited laundry facilities available on campus with a requested donation of \$5 per load.

Cabins offer rustic accommodations, most of which utilize a central bathhouse. The bathhouse has two showers, two sinks and three toilets per side. A few cabins have private bathrooms. Cabins have one to eight beds in each, the latter of which has bunk beds. Cabins have electricity, including heat and lights. We provide all bedding and bath linens.



For more information and pictures of our lodges, visit tetonscience.org/about/host-an-event/

Appendix 1: Other Programs at Teton Science Schools



SUMMER SCIENCE ADVENTURES

School may be out for summer, but not at Teton Science Schools! We offer a variety of programs for students grades 1st-12th throughout the summer. These include:

- Nature Day Camp for 1st-9th grade students
- Backcountry Groups to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks for middle school students
- Intensive month-long courses in field ecology for high school students

Visit www.tetonscience.org/summercamps for more information



CONFERENCE & SPECIAL EVENTS

The Jackson Campus offers flexible meeting, dining and lodging space for intimate groups or large conferences up to 300 people. The setting is ideal for community events, professional retreats and workshops, conferences, board meetings, family reunions and weddings.

Visit www.tetonscience.org/about/host-an-event for more information

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