



## PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

[www.eagle-bluff.org](http://www.eagle-bluff.org)

### **What is Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center?**

Eagle Bluff is a residential environmental learning center. Eagle Bluff is not a camp, but rather an accredited, special function school with a staff of licensed teachers and highly trained naturalists. The program in which your students are participating is part of their school curriculum with academic content as well as life skills. Our mission is to foster environmental awareness and promote respect and personal responsibility.

### **What will my child “do” at Eagle Bluff?**

Students are immersed in hands-on experiential activities. Day classes are three-hours in length and are chosen by your child’s teachers from three categories: *Science Education*, *Adventure Education*, and *History and Culture Education*. Our *Science* topics include Birds, Insects, Wildlife Ecology, Animal Signs, Trees and Keys, Fungus Among Us, Geology, Stream Lab, and more. *Adventure* classes include Group Challenges, Tree Tops High Ropes, Rock Climbing as well as Canoeing, Winter Survival, Orienteering, Archery, Root River Hike, Snowshoeing. *History and Culture* classes include Pioneer Life and Oneota Native American Life. Your student will also participate in conservation programs such as the Eagle Eye and FoodWISE programs. Both of these programs place emphasis on conserving resources such as water, energy, and food. Your students will be challenged to earn awards based on their conservation efforts. The Eagle Bluff experience is also designed to foster a sense of community and understanding through students’ interactions with peers and teachers.

### **What kind of facilities can your child expect to use?**

About 75% of your child’s experience will occur out-of-doors. Balancing that, we have indoor classrooms and activity areas, a large auditorium, nutritious food in our Dining Hall, and comfortable dorm rooms. Good nutrition and a comfortable night’s rest are critical to good learning. Each individual dorm room houses eight students and has its own cubby storage, double sink, bathroom, shower, and nightlight.

### **Student Safety:**

Student safety is our utmost concern. All staff undergo extensive background checks and they as well as students are expected to follow a basic Code of Conduct that includes respect for themselves, each other, equipment, and Eagle Bluff itself. School rules apply. Severe disciplinary problems or violations of anything for which your school has a zero tolerance policy will result in the student being sent home.

**Supervision:** Students are expected to be supervised at all times. All Eagle Bluff staff members wear name tags and all teachers and chaperones have identifying buttons or school identification. Students are told that individuals wearing name tags or our special guest buttons are the adults who can provide them with help, information, and assistance.

**Keypad Door Lock:** The dormitory is now fitted with one keypad door lock on the lower door between the Dormitory and the Dining Hall. All doors will be locked from 10pm to 6am with the only access during those hours through the keypad door. Each school will be given their own keypad access code before their arrival at Eagle Bluff and it is their responsibility to distribute it to the appropriate persons as they see fit.

**First Aid:** All Eagle Bluff staff are trained, at a minimum, in CPR/AED/First Aid and many are First Responders or EMT’s. We are also located within a 10 minutes response time from the local ambulance and 20 minutes by Mayo Clinic helicopter.

**Medical Release Forms and Special Needs:** Please make sure that you have signed, completed, and turned in your child’s *Medical Release Form* before their trip to Eagle Bluff. Also, please make your child’s group aware of any special dietary, physical, behavioral or medical needs. We encourage you to contact Eagle Bluff directly with any questions you have about how special needs will be accommodated.

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### Contacting Your Child:

Your child will be participating in a full schedule of programming while at Eagle Bluff and as a result, time will not be taken to contact or be contacted by parents or guardians except on a case by case basis. Ways to contact your child include:

**Postal Service:** If you would like to send something to your student it can be sent to the following address: Mail and non-emergency messages will be delivered early evening.

**Your student's name**  
**Group/School name**  
**28097 Goodview Drive,**  
**Lanesboro, MN 55949**

**Email:** Email your child at [naturalists@eagle-bluff.org](mailto:naturalists@eagle-bluff.org) with child's **name** and **group/school** in the subject line. Due to resources involved in printing and checking emails, please be respectful of this privilege in regard to the number of emails sent to your child.

**Phone messages.** Telephones are answered from 8:00a.m.- 4:30p.m. From 4:30-9:00 p.m., you may reach our voicemail system. Voicemail is monitored regularly and messages will be delivered by 9:00p.m. During the night, messages can be left on the answering machine and will be delivered first thing in the morning. **Students and chaperones should only receive calls that are of importance. 507-467-2437**

If an **emergency** situation arises and you must contact a student or an adult during the night, call: **(507) 467-2437**. The Voicemail system will prompt you to enter an extension, getting you in touch with an on-site, emergency contact. Please only use this extension in case of emergency. The appropriate extension number will be provided to you by the Voicemail system.

**What should my child bring?** Find the complete list on our website at: [www.eagle-bluff.org/packinglist.html](http://www.eagle-bluff.org/packinglist.html) Your child will be provided a checklist of clothing and other items to bring with them to Eagle Bluff. Your help in clothes selection and packing to ensure your child will possess the appropriate for outdoor weather is appreciated. **Food and beverages are not allowed in any dorm rooms.** This policy helps with cleaning and maintenance. Please check your child's belongings to make sure there is no food included. Snacks may be provided by the school. We also ask that you **do not send any electronics** with your child such as an iPod, Walkman, personal video games, or cell phones. These items often get lost and can be a distraction.

### What should I do if I want to be a chaperone?

Chaperones are an incredibly important part of your child's experience. Please work with your child's teachers if you can help in this area. Chaperones help make sure students are supervised and safe at all times. They lead evening activities and assist with student safety during such classes as Tree Tops High Ropes and Rock Climbing. Your child's teachers have a great deal of information about Chaperone responsibilities. In addition, please feel free to contact Eagle Bluff anytime, by phone or via our website. *For detailed expectations for the Tree Tops High Ropes Course, Rock Climbing, and KP see page 16 or request the information from your group leader.*

### The Minnesota Educational Tax Credit and Deduction:

Minnesota offers an educational tax credit and deduction for families whose children participate in out-of-school enrichment programs. Eagle Bluff qualifies as one of these programs. The qualifications and restrictions follow:

- Only the cost of instruction qualifies for a deduction. Room, board, and transportation do not qualify for the credit. Instruction costs for the 2010-2011 academic year are:
  - 5-days: \$89.30
  - 4-days: \$71.44
  - 3-days: \$51.70
- In order to apply for a credit or deduction, families must have evidence that they have paid the amount indicated, such as a cancelled check. Funds that have been raised by children do not qualify for a credit or deduction.
- A dollar for dollar tax credit can be given for families with incomes less than \$33,500. For families with incomes above this level, they may take an itemized deduction, not dollar for dollar.
- If you have questions, please call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 651-296-3781 or refer to their website: [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) under "Tax Info," "Individual Income Tax," "Publication," then "K-12 Educational Subtraction and Credit."