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Samueli Academy

FIELD TRIPS & CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

The Samueli Academy (the “Charter School”) Board of Trustees recognizes and supports the concept of connecting our students with the broader community, both locally and globally, by providing field trips, cultural and art experiences, community service opportunities, and environmental education to fulfill the Charter School’s mission and philosophy. These activities help to promote tolerance, understanding, and acceptance of others, and enrich the educational experiences of the students, as well as meet the Charter School’s goal of creating passionate life-long learners. When a student is alert, observant, curious, reflective and respectful, learning and growth can occur anywhere, at any time, and, as educators, we must facilitate this dynamic process. There is no boundary to learning.

The safety and security of our students is a primary priority when planning or participating in field trips or excursions. These activities will be carried out in an appropriate manner to maximize and ensure student safety and to minimize the Charter School’s legal liability and financial cost.

The teaching team will continue to research and provide enriching learning opportunities to share with their students both within the classroom and out in the broader community.

Definition

A field trip or excursion is defined as students leaving Charter School grounds.

Monitoring Field Trips and Excursions

The teaching team is encouraged to plan, promote, and produce appropriate, effective, exciting and valuable educational field trips and excursions to expand student knowledge base and growth.

The Head of School shall ensure that the field trips and excursions have an adequate number of adults attending and are monitored and are continually evaluated, thereby, ensuring that the activities promote the philosophy, goals and objectives of the Charter School’s educational program.

A first aid kit shall be in the possession of the sponsoring teacher or accompanying the Charter School employee at all times during the student field trip or excursion.

Field Trip and Excursion Planning and Approval

The Head of School will ensure that the following items will be adhered to for all Charter School field trips and excursions:

- 1.) The proposed field trip or excursion relates to the Charter School’s educational objectives
- 2.) The correct ratio of adult to students is met for supervision of the activity
- 3.) A means of transportation to and from the activity is provided
- 4.) Adequate restroom facilities, food and water will be available during the activity

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The following forms are required for all Charter School-sponsored field trips and are available in The Den:

- Field Trip Activity Request Form (form available in the The Den)
- Activities Request Form (form available in the The Den)
- Transportation Request - if bus is needed
- Parent Consent Forms/Permission Slips (APPENDIX M) (if needed)

Overnight field trips and excursions require both the above procedure and Board approval. Overnight field trips also require a minimum of 1 male and 1 female chaperone, which would include the staff advisor.

Even though we have a policy of inclusion, there may be a situation when the Head of School must use his or her discretion to exclude a student from a field trip or excursion when that student's presence and participation would pose a safety or disciplinary risk. In order to participate in school-sponsored field trips, students are required to maintain passing grades in classes that meet during the scheduled field trip.

The Head of School shall not approve any activity that he/she considers to be inherently dangerous to students.

Permission Slips

In an effort to be efficient and environmentally sensitive, parents/guardians will have the option of signing one permission slip form at the beginning of each year authorizing their child(ren) to attend any field trip that is planned during the school year. Parents/guardians may instead, elect to receive and sign individual permission slips for each field trip or excursion throughout the year. Parents will be given advance notice of each field trip or excursion.

Notwithstanding any other portion of this policy, all overnight and out-of-state field trips require an individual permission slip.

The permission slip will include a waiver of all claims against the Charter School, its employees, and the State of California for injury, accident, illness or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip or excursion. Items that will be included on the permission slip are:

- 1.) An emergency phone number for the student
- 2.) Any medications the student is required to take with the time and dosage required
- 3.) Any food and/or medications the student is allergic to
- 4.) Any other medical information necessary to ensure the student's safety

A copy of a completed and signed permission slip will be kept on the Charter School site by the Head of School and one copy will be given to the teacher to take on the field trip or excursion. These forms will be regularly updated to keep all information current.

Accident Insurance

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The Charter School provides student accident insurance which covers medical expenses arising from student injuries on campus or while participating in a Charter School-sponsored off campus activity. The family's health insurance is primary, but if there is no health insurance, the Charter School's Student Accident Insurance becomes primary. Information and applications for student accident insurance are available from the Head of School.

Supervision of Field Trips and Excursions

The teacher who coordinated the field trip will be present to supervise the field trip or excursion. The Head of School will be designated as the emergency contact for the group on the field trip or excursion. Any injuries or unusual incidents occurring during the field trip or excursion will be documented in writing by the coordinating teacher and given to the Charter School's Head of School.

Charter School employees or volunteers shall not consume alcohol or use controlled substances (except for medications taken under a physician's orders) while accompanying and supervising students on a field trip or excursion.

Students are under the jurisdiction of the Board at all times during the field trip or excursion and Charter School rules are to be adhered to at all times. Horseplay, practical jokes, harassment, taunting, rough play, aggressive or violent behavior, profanity, viewing of pornographic material, and use of alcohol and/or controlled substances during the field trip or excursion are strictly prohibited.

Parent or Guardian Participation in Field Trips and Excursions

As field trips and excursions are an integral part of the Charter School learning experience, parents are encouraged to participate in an assisting role with students. The Head of School or the coordinating teacher will provide parents and guardians with specific supervisory guidelines prior to any Charter School group trip involving students. Topics to be included are: safety regulations, emergency responses, and responsibilities of the parent volunteers and language or behavior requirements of all attendees.

A parent or guardian will be assigned to a specific group of students to supervise and will be responsible for these students at all times during the field trip or excursion. Under no circumstances will a parent or guardian consume alcohol or use controlled substances (except for medications taken under a physician's orders) during a field trip or excursion. The parent or guardian will notify the coordinating teacher, in advance of the field trip or excursion, should he/she be under a physician's orders and using medications.

All parents or guardians volunteering to chaperone field trips and excursions are required to sign a waiver of all claims against the Charter School, its employees, and the State of California for injury, accident, illness or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip or excursion.

Prior to an initial volunteer assignment, volunteers must submit a certificate showing that, within the past sixty (60) days, the volunteer submitted to a Tuberculosis ("TB") risk assessment and, if TB risk factors were identified, was examined and found to be free of infectious TB. If no risk

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factors are identified, an examination is not required. Volunteers who do not have any risk factors for exposure to TB or who test negative for TB shall thereafter be required to take a TB test every (4) four years. The cost of this TB clearance will be paid by the volunteer.

Volunteers who will volunteer on field trips or excursions, overnight or outside of the direct supervision of a credentialed employee shall be (1) fingerprinted and (2) receive background clearance prior to volunteering outside the direct supervision of a credentialed employee. The cost of this fingerprinting and background clearance will be paid by the Charter School.

Transportation

At all times during the field trip or excursion, teachers, staff and parents will use the safest mode of transportation and the safest and most direct routes of travel. If travel is by van, the legal occupancy limit must not be exceeded, all speed notices must be strictly adhered to and students are to be seated with individual seatbelts at all times.

The Charter School shall take reasonable precautions to ensure that all employees and volunteers who transport students are responsible and capable operators of the vehicles to be used and ensure compliance with the Charter School's Student Transportation Policy and Driver Requirements.

Employee or volunteer drivers who offer to provide transportation for a field trip or excursion must provide a copy of the following:

- Proof of liability insurance for their vehicle with a minimum of \$100K/\$300K coverage,
- A copy of their Driver's License and Car Registration,
- A written statement acknowledging that their insurance carrier is the primary agent responsible for insurance during the field trip or excursion,
- A criminal background check conducted by the California Department of Justice ("DOJ"). Employees or volunteers whose DOJ report reveals a Driving Under the Influence conviction shall not be permitted to transport students or operate any vehicle on Charter School business for ten (10) years from the date of the conviction. Any employee or volunteer convicted of a felony shall not be permitted to transport Charter School students on Charter School business.
- A Department of Motor Vehicles record. Employees or volunteers with driving records with two (2) points or more shall not be permitted to transport students or operate any vehicle for Charter School field trips and excursions.

Each of these items will be provided to the Head of School or coordinating teacher prior to driving on a field trip or excursion.

Under no circumstances shall students transport other students.

Transportation by air may only be provided by the following: (a) aircraft owned and operated by the state or federal government; (b) chartered or regularly scheduled aircraft operated exclusively by an air carrier or foreign air carrier engaged in air transportation while there is in force a certificate or permit issued by the Civil Aeronautics Board of the United States, or its successor,

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authorizing such air carrier to engage in such transportation; or (c) chartered or regularly scheduled aircraft of a passenger air carrier that is authorized to engage in transportation by air in the State of California by the Public Utilities Commission.

Rules for Parent/Volunteer Drivers on Day Field Trips

For the volunteer's safety and that of all the students in his/her car, the following rules apply:

1. All Charter School rules apply to students in the volunteer's car. Volunteer drivers are free to appropriately manage student behavior as necessary to maintain safety.
2. All California driving laws must be followed including child restraint laws: no texting or distracted driving, hands-free phone use only.
3. No movies may be shown in vehicles.
4. No side trips allowed, including gasoline stops. Please be sure to have enough gas before leaving on the trip.
5. Maps and directions from the teacher should be reviewed prior to leaving.
6. No purchases for students should be made on the field trip including food or treats for students in the car.
7. Call the Charter School office immediately if there is a problem.

Defraying Expenses of Field Trips and Excursions

The Charter School may charge a fee for field trips and excursions pursuant to section 35330 of the Education Code. However, the Charter School will endeavor to keep the costs of any field trips affordable for all students' families. In addition, parents or guardians of students may help defray the field trip and excursion costs through voluntary donations. In no event will a student be prevented from participating in the field trip or excursion due to lack of sufficient funds. In accordance with Education Code section 35330(b), the Charter School will coordinate the efforts of community service groups (including parents or guardians of other students) to supply funds for students in need.

The Charter School complies with AB 1575. Complaints regarding noncompliance with AB 1575 may be filed with the Compliance Officer under the Uniform Complaint Procedures.

No expenses of pupils participating in a field trip or excursion to another state, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country authorized shall be paid with Charter School funds.

Voluntary Participation

The coordinating teacher will provide alternative educational activities to those students who choose not to attend a specific field trip or excursion. Parents will have advance notice of any upcoming field trip or excursion and have the option to withdraw their permission for their child to attend that field trip or excursion.