

Echo Lake Fall Camping Trip

Annie and Matt's Advisements



Echo Lake Park, at 10,600 ft, represents the subalpine ecosystem, with surrounding forests of Englemann Spruce, Subalpine Fir, and Limber Pine. The 24-acre lake is popular for fishing and reflects wonderful views of Mt. Evans. The fen (wetland) at the east end of the lake provides important wildlife habitat. Echo Lake Park is 47 miles west of Denver. Activities in the area include hiking in the Mount Evans Wilderness, fishing, scenic driving and wildlife viewing. Nearby Idaho Springs, a former mining town, makes for a nice outing. History buffs will appreciate the Argo Gold Mine and Mill Museum.

This fall trip will journey to Echo Lake near Idaho Springs, CO. Students and staff will camp together in the campground and will engage in exciting activities, such as hiking in the Mount Evans wilderness area, exploring the local history of Idaho Springs and surrounding area, and working together to build advisement communities.

The primary purpose of our fall trip is to strengthen our new community and to build responsibility for one another through a residential experience: setting up and maintaining camp, cooking for and cleaning up after each other, and deepening our sense of identity as a student body and community.

Our plan is to leave around 10:00am on Tuesday, August 21 and return by the end of the school day on Thursday, August 23 (in time for students who ride the bus). Students should plan to arrive at school on Tuesday, August 21 at 8:00am, as usual. We will be cooking our own meals at our campsite and camping in Echo Lake Park, a Denver Mountain Park. Echo Lake is about an hour away from Denver, and we will be travelling in two 12-passenger vans and staff vehicles.

Tentative Itinerary

Tuesday, August 20

- 8:00 Arrive at school and pack the vans
- 9:30 Leave DMHS for Echo Lake
- 11:30 Group Hike
 - Around Echo Lake (15 min., ¼ mi.)
- 12:00 Picnic Lunch at lake
- 2:00 Set up camp
- 3:30 Silent Reflection
- 4:00 Team building game/hang out
- 5:00 Dinner prep
- 6:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Campfire!
- 10:00 Lights out

Wednesday, August 21

- 7:00 Wake up!
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Hike → Warrior Mtn (½ mile); → Chief Mtn (1 ½ mile)
OR drive up Mt Evans
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Seminar
- 2:00 Hot Springs Visit
- 4:30 Silent Reflection
- 5:00 Make dinner
- 6:00 Dinner and team-building games
- 8:00 S'mores and campfire games
- 10:00 Lights Out

Thursday, August 22

- 7:00 Wake up!
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Silent Reflection
- 10:00 Capture the Flag/Fox in the Field
- 11:00 Pack up camp
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 Leave

Important Details

Cost: The cost of this trip is \$125 per person. However, it is really important to us that 100% of our students attend. Therefore, if full price is beyond your family's means at this time, please contribute whatever amount will work for your family. Payments should be made to DMHS and given to Carol by **August 20**.

What To Bring: Please review the packing list located with the trip forms.

What Not To Bring: The key purpose of this trip is building our community. Therefore, please **do not** send students with any electronic games, MP3 players, or phones. We want to ensure that our students are present and communicating with their peers and with the adults on the trip.

Communication: Staff will have cell phones so that you can easily contact your child while he or she is on trip. Staff will be checking their phones every day for messages, in case they do not have cell phone reception at the campsite. Staff phone numbers are:

Annie: 508.826.8149

In addition, in case there is any problem with cell phone reception, the main number for Echo Lake Lodge (hours 8am - 8pm), which is located next to Echo Lake campground, is **303.567.2138**. Additionally, the main number for Denver Mountain Parks is **720.865.0900**.

Trip Forms: The parent/guardian consent form along with other required DPS trip forms is included with this packet. **Please fill out and return by Monday, August 19th.**

DMHS Trip Policy: Taking extended day trips is a core part of our Montessori adolescent program. It is during these trips that our students learn problem solving, adaptability, key social skills and independence. However, in order to insure the safety of all our students during an overnight trip, there are certain ground rules that must be followed in order to participate or remain on a trip. Students while on trip are still held to the same behavior standards as outlined in the DMHS Family and Student Handbook. If a student's behavior rises to the level that it is no longer emotionally or physically safe for that student to be on trip, then the student will be removed from the trip and returned home.