

We are pleased to be able to offer a “Day in the Forest” for 4<sup>th</sup> (and upon request 5<sup>th</sup>) grade classes again this year. We have partial funding from *Talk About Trees* and the Forest Foundation, Which helps to keep the cost down. There is a minimal price per student to cover the cost of our site and staffing. Plus, we have a great way to help you earn this minimal fee. The Shady Creek Outdoor School Foundation has an exciting fundraiser to help students of any school raise money. Students can sell benefit drawing tickets through the Shady Creek Foundation. For more information please call Daria Ali at (530) 933-0907.

As in past years, your class will get a chance to hike into a beautiful and diverse mixed conifer and hardwood forest. They will participate in a number of activities designed to increase their observation skills as well as their understanding of trees and a forest ecosystem. We believe that bringing students to a forest and immersing them in nature is an exciting opportunity to inspire them to care more about nature as well as to care about themselves. The students will have the opportunity to explore the forest in controlled and fun group activities as well as learn about different aspects of the forest by playing directed games. Follow-up materials for your classroom will be provided.

Many students who have participated in this program over the past three or four years had never before been to a forest or seen large trees. Some children told me they hadn’t seen trees before except in orchard rows. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders were awed by the magnitude of the forest and the quiet. Teachers were pleased as they watched their students sitting quietly in the forest. Most had never been away from the sounds of civilization. Your students will have an opportunity to experience the beauty of natural sounds in a wilderness setting.

Your class will also get a chance to visit our birds of prey and meet hawks, falcons, eagles, and owls. They will be able to observe these beautiful birds from just inches away. We will provide you with follow-up materials to extend student learning.

The curriculum for the “Day in the Forest” program aligns closely to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade standards of life science as well as investigation and experimentation. Classes will be taught by the Shady Creek Naturalists Staff.

Please fill out the attached sheet and fax it to us as soon as possible; we will then call to confirm a date. This is a very popular program and reservations will be made on a first come first serve basis. We have opened up this program to all schools in the Shady Creek Outdoor School service area. We look forward to seeing you and your class at Shady Creek!