

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND W. ALTON JONES CAMPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

PLANNING YOUR DAY TRIP

You and your class will soon embark on a unique educational expedition to URI's 2,300-acre outdoor classroom. Because there is so much to do and see, and because there is only a limited amount of time to spend, your assistance in several areas will help streamline your program and insure that the students will benefit as much as they can from this educational outdoor experience.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Selecting a program: If you have not yet selected a program, please request further information on program offerings. Feel free to call if you have questions.

Setting the tone: Please stress to your students that they will be visiting an outdoor classroom. Our Field Teachers are trained educators. Although the teaching at Alton Jones occurs primarily outdoors, the Field Teachers strive for the same respect from their students as is required in the classroom. The presence of a learning attitude (versus recreational) upon arrival will greatly increase the educational experience for your students. The more students are prepared, the more they will gain from the experience.

What to bring: It is extremely important that students dress for the weather, because most of the learning takes place outside and our programs run rain, snow or shine. Please stress to your students and chaperones that they will need raincoats with hoods if there is any chance of rain at all, and sturdy, slip-resistant walking shoes. Wool hats, mittens, warm waterproof boots and layers of clothing that they can shed or add are essential in colder weather. In September, May and June, sun hats, sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.

What NOT to bring: Please tell your students not to bring candy, gum, food, knives, money, umbrellas, radios, walkmans, baseball bats or electronic games.

Grouping students:

- ten to twelve students per group
- gender ratio as even as possible
- separate pairs/groups of students that may distract each other
- integrate special needs students with others if possible
- mix students from different classrooms
- make copies of field group lists for Alton Jones staff
- choose a name, number or letter for each group and label on field group lists

Arrange for chaperones: We recommend one teacher or adult chaperone per field group (approximately 10-12 students) to assist the Field Teacher if issues arise. Chaperones are encouraged but not required to go with student groups in the field. We suggest that parent chaperones go with a group other than that which their own child is in since we have found that children are often distracted when their parents are present. If a chaperone does not wish to accompany a group, they may stay back at the main lodge. An information sheet ("Chaperone Responsibilities for Day Groups") is included. Please provide a copy to each adult accompanying your group.

Medical/Permission Forms: You must bring a signed W. Alton Jones Campus Permission slip from each student's legal guardian. **PLEASE USE THE MOST CURRENT W. ALTON JONES CAMPUS PERMISSION SLIP.** If you have old forms, please discard them. We cannot accept students without a signed permission slip. Since these slips include a waiver of liability, they must be left at the W. Alton Jones Campus. URI provides limited insurance coverage for all students up to \$3,500.00 per injury. The parent/guardian is responsible for costs beyond this limit.

Tick Information Sheet: Please distribute the information sheet "Ticks and Your Child" to parents to answer their questions about ticks prior to your field trip to Alton Jones.

Communicate Changes: Please call one month before your trip to confirm the number of students, arrival and departure times, and to inform us of any special medical or dietary needs. Remember that we must charge your school for the number of spaces reserved if we are not notified of changes within two weeks of your arrival (except in the case of illness or emergency).

DURING YOUR W. ALTON JONES PROGRAM

Upon your arrival: Please inform our Environmental Education Center representative of any special medical needs and the exact count of students and adults. **Our programs can commence rain, snow or shine, but call our office immediately if winter travel conditions are hazardous.** Student safety is of utmost importance. If possible, we will reschedule.

Field Studies: We encourage you to observe the field sessions so that you may better understand your students' experience and provide a meaningful follow-up in the classroom. Please be available to assist with group control if asked by the Field Teachers. If there is not one adult chaperone per field group, one chaperone (usually the person in charge) must stay at the main lodge during field sessions to help handle unexpected medical or discipline problems.

Medical Needs: We do not have a nurse on duty for one-day programs unless your school has opted to pay an extra fee. Our staff will administer first aid and CPR if needed, but visiting school personnel are responsible for handling all on-going medical needs, administering medications, making medical decisions and contacting parents. We strongly recommend that you have a school nurse on call during the program.

Recreation Time: We ask that visiting teachers and chaperones provide supervision for this 30-minute period after each meal. Volleyball and other sports equipment are available. Baseball bats and tackling are not permitted. Please keep a close watch on student activity during this time to help prevent injuries.

Discipline: Our Field Teachers will handle basic discipline for the program, but we invite you to assist when you feel it is necessary. If ongoing discipline problems arise, they will be referred to you. Please be sure to advise us of any possible discipline problems upon arrival.

Payment: Please let us send you a bill once your trip is over. This will free you from having to get a check ready before your visit. Please pay with one check; our office does not have the capacity to process multiple checks from individual parents.

***Thank You for Your Participation.
We Are Looking Forward to Working with You and Your Students.***

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DAY GROUPS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT! Your help will really make a difference for the students visiting the W. Alton Jones Campus. We realize it is not easy to take time out to chaperone a field trip. We appreciate your time and effort.

The primary goal of the W. Alton Jones Campus programs is to provide a high quality educational experience for students. Students will learn about the environment, sharpen their outdoor skills or strengthen their relationships with their schoolmates. Our Field Teachers will plan and execute the educational programming throughout the day. In addition, they will supervise tables at lunch. Your role is important. We need your help in the following ways:

Create a Positive Learning Atmosphere. Encourage students to be positive, optimistic and treat everyone with respect.

Help Preserve Our Property. Do not damage, pick or collect living things, and do not litter. Students learn best by example.

Support Our Field Teachers. Please refer to the campus as an outdoor school with field teachers. This helps the students realize that the experience is not simply a recreational vacation away from school, but rather a unique learning experience.

Supervise Recreation Time. Recreation time is free-play outside after meals. It gives students time to unwind and socialize before the next lesson and it gives Field Teachers time to prepare and gather materials. Please supervise students in the recreation field outside the main lodge. Volleyball and other game fields and equipment are available. We encourage you to organize cooperative games. Please help keep activities under control. Since Recreation time is unstructured, it is when students are most prone to being injured.

Assist with Supervision During Lessons. We invite you to accompany field groups. This is not required and if you prefer you may stay back at the main lodge. However your positive involvement can add a spark to the students' experience. The W. Alton Jones Campus Field Teachers will handle basic discipline during field sessions, but please be ready to assist with group control or emergencies if they ask for your help. Please Note: If there is not one chaperone or schoolteacher per field group, one must stay at the main lodge to handle medical/discipline problems that may arise. We go out rain, snow or shine, so come prepared.

Use Designated Areas If You Smoke. There is no smoking allowed in any of the buildings or while you are accompanying a field group. If you smoke, please use a receptacle for the cigarette butts and smoke in the parking lot outside of the main lodge out of sight of the students.

*Thank You for Putting In the Extra Time and Effort
To Help Make This Program Possible.*

TICK INFORMATION

Blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), which can carry Lyme Disease as well as the less common Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis, are prevalent in Rhode Island. Disease carrying ticks have been found in 43 states. Caution is appropriate for anyone spending time in the outdoors. Tick population levels vary from year to year and place to place. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about ticks.

What is the likelihood of my child getting a tick-borne disease at Alton Jones? It is unlikely that your child will get a tick-borne disease from attending a program at the URI W. Alton Jones Campus. We work diligently to minimize risks and provide maximum protection for each child who attends our programs. We feel it is important to keep parents informed so that if a child displays symptoms, a prompt diagnosis can be made and proper treatment can be given.

What measures are taken to prevent tick bites? While the risk of getting a tick-borne illness at W. Alton Jones is low, we take a proactive approach. We teach children to be aware of ticks and methods of tick-bite prevention. We talk to them about ticks at their first orientation meeting. We teach them how to check themselves for ticks and frequently remind them to do so. We work to keep our trails trimmed back and we make every effort to avoid areas known to have high numbers of ticks. The W. Alton Jones Campus is participating in on-going, long-term tick research.

What if a tick bites my child? In the event that an embedded tick is found on a child, a trained staff member will promptly remove the tick. It is possible for an infected tick to be embedded for up to 48 hours before transmitting a disease. Prompt tick removal will reduce the likelihood of disease transmission. We call the parents of any child who is bitten by a tick since some pediatricians will prescribe antibiotics as a preventative measure. Other pediatricians prefer to wait to see if symptoms occur.

Can the tick be tested? If your child is bitten, you may request to have the tick saved for you to send out to be tested for Lyme Disease. One company that tests ticks is Imugen, 220 Norwood Park South, Norwood, MA 02062 (phone: 781-255-0770). Mail the tick in a crush proof container (such as a zip-lock bag surrounded by bubble wrap or a film canister) with a check for \$45 and information on where and how you want the report sent (phone, fax or mail). Do not store the tick in alcohol or any other liquid. Results take two weeks. A tick that tests positive for Lyme Disease does not mean that your child has Lyme Disease. It simply gives you more information.

What are the symptoms of tick-borne diseases? We encourage all parents and children to become familiar with the symptoms since it is possible for a tick bite to go undetected. If any symptoms occur, contact your doctor about possible exposure to tick-borne diseases. Please note that many of these symptoms are flu-like while tick-borne diseases are most likely to occur outside of the normal flu season. **Lyme Disease:** Early symptoms generally appear within a week and include an expanding (often but not always bulls-eye shaped) skin rash that can be, but is not always, near the bite site. The rash occurs in 60% to 80% of all cases and appears 3 days to 1 month after the bite. Also watch for chills, fever, headache, stiff neck, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, dizziness and aching joints and muscles. Another possible symptom is swelling and pain in the joints, especially the knees. These symptoms may not seem serious enough to warrant initial concern. Lyme Disease is the most common tick-borne disease and is treatable with antibiotics. **Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis:** Symptoms include fever, headache, malaise, chills, sweating, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting. Symptoms may be severe and it is sometimes initially misdiagnosed as meningitis. This disease is rare but has been increasing in recent years. It is treatable with tetracycline derivative drugs (used with caution since some drugs will permanently stain children's teeth). **Babesiosis:** Symptoms are generally mild and may require no treatment but can be severe in some cases. Symptoms occur within 1 to 4 weeks of a tick bite and include a gradual onset of malaise, loss of appetite, and fatigue followed within a week or so by fever, drenching sweats, shaking chills, nausea, vomiting, headache, muscle pain, weakness, and depression. This disease is extremely rare particularly in children, however people with impaired immune systems or who have had their spleen removed are at greater risk.

What can parents do to help prevent tick bites? Certain insect repellents can be sprayed on clothing and skin to help prevent tick bites. Be sure that the label says it is effective against ticks. Repellents need to contain less than 10% of the chemical DEET since any greater amount may be hazardous to children. Light colored clothing can help children locate ticks. Keeping ticks off children and removing them before they bite or transmit the disease are the keys to disease prevention.

You can assist us in tick bite prevention by helping your son or daughter thoroughly check themselves for ticks as soon as they return home. Remove any embedded ticks with tweezers. Launder dirty clothing promptly and dry at high temperatures. Know the symptoms of tick-borne diseases.

Please call 401-397-3304 ext. 6043 if you have further questions or if your child contracts a tick-borne disease and you believe it was from attending a program at Alton Jones (we try to keep track of cases). We welcome your comments.

FIELD GROUPS

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HOW TO REACH US

The W. Alton Jones Campus is located in West Greenwich, 30 miles south of Providence, 55 miles from Boston, 50 miles from Worcester, 60 miles from Hartford, and 170 miles from New York City.

FROM THE NORTH/PROVIDENCE, BOSTON: Take I-95 South to RI Exit 5B to Route 102 North. Follow Route 102 for approximately 2.5 miles. Turn left onto Browns Corner Road. *Follow Browns Corner Road (paved road) straight to the W. Alton Jones Campus. Continue past the "Office and Information" building and follow signs to the Environmental Education Center.*

FROM THE SOUTH/NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, WESTERLY: Take I-95 North to RI Exit 5B to Route 102 North. Follow Route 102 for approximately 2.5 miles. Follow directions above.

FROM THE NEWPORT AREA: Follow Route 138 West over the Newport and Jamestown Bridges to Route 1 North to Route 4 North. Take the exit for Exeter/Route 102 North. Follow Route 102 North for approximately 8 miles to where it crosses Route 3. Continue on Route 102 North 2.5 miles past I-95 and turn left onto Browns Corner Road. Follow directions above.

FROM WORCESTER/CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS: Take I-290 South, to I-395 South into Connecticut, to Route 6 East into Rhode Island, to Route 94 South, to Route 102 South. After the Route 117 intersection, continue 4.5 miles on route 102 South and turn right onto Browns Corner Road. Follow directions above.

FROM HARTFORD/CENTRAL CONNECTICUT: Take Route 2 East, to I-395 North. Take Exit 85 to Route 138 East. Route 165 joins Route 138 in Voluntown. Continue left on Route 165 when Route 138 veers off. Where Route 165 ends, turn left onto Route 3. Just after a traffic light, turn left onto Route 102 North. Travel 3 miles and turn left onto Browns Corner Road. Follow directions above.

