



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your school is preparing for a time of outdoor education provided by Calvin Crest Conferences. The administration, teachers, and the Calvin Crest staff want your child to have a safe, fun, and educational experience while attending Calvin Crest. Outdoor education includes learning about the outdoors, social growth, and personal maturing. There are at least five hours of class time each full day of participation and additional learning is integrated throughout the program.

Calvin Crest is located approximately one hour north of Fresno and Madera (20 minutes north of Oakhurst), east of Highway 41 at 5,000 feet elevation. There are housing, dining, and recreational facilities on site. Each cabin is heated and equipped with bunk beds and mattresses. Bathrooms have private restroom and shower stalls and plenty of sinks. There are approximately 25 Calvin Crest staff living on site.

The charge for the outdoor education sessions will vary among schools. The school will notify you of the exact amount prior to the time your child will be participating in the program. Please note that the student's family insurance plan is the primary source of coverage for an accident that occurs while the student is attending the program at Calvin Crest.

As this is a week for the students, we do not encourage parent visits and discourage phone calls as hearing a parent's voice can bring on feelings of homesickness. It is primarily for this reason that we do not allow students to have cell phones at camp. If you choose to write to your child, please note that it takes 3-4 days for mail to reach Calvin Crest, and mail that arrives on Friday does not come before students depart. Letters mailed Saturday and Monday will most likely reach your student while (s)he is at Calvin Crest. We recommend asking the post office about delivery time for any mail you send. Should mail come after your child leaves Calvin Crest, we will do our best to return to sender.

Please address mail to your students this way: Calvin Crest Conferences
(Your student's name), (School name)
45800 Calvin Crest Road
Oakhurst, CA 93644

Calvin Crest has a small store where candy, sodas, t-shirts, and other items can be purchased. If your child's school decides to have the store open, we suggest looking at our website to see current prices. Care packages are also available through the camp store. Please see the website for more information.

Oakhurst is equipped with 12-hour/day medical services. In the event your child becomes ill or is injured and needs medical attention, we will make every effort to contact you as soon as possible. If there is an emergency at home and you need to visit or call your child, please notify Calvin Crest (559.772.4040) and the school. We will do what we can to make the necessary arrangements to meet the need of the situation.

The weather at Calvin Crest is often unpredictable, including rain and snow. Nights and mornings are always chilly. Therefore, if possible, it is important that your child have sufficient warm clothing and good shoes. Please follow the guidelines on the enclosed equipment/clothing list. We do have a supply of rubber boots and a limited number of jackets available for student use at no cost. Rain ponchos are for sale at our cost in our store. Please watch weather forecasts on television and check the weather link on our website (www.calvincrest.com) for current forecasts.

We look forward to serving you and your children. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your school or the staff at Calvin Crest: (559) 772-4040 or outdoor.school@calvincrest.com.

Sincerely,

Christina Melahn
Outdoor School Director

CALVIN CREST CONFERENCES

CALVIN CREST OUTDOOR SCHOOL

SUGGESTED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST

The weather at Calvin Crest is often unpredictable, ranging from warm, sunny days to very cold, wet evenings. During some weeks of Outdoor Education we are certain to have rain and snow. Since we spend time outdoors on these days regardless of weather, it is very important for students to be well prepared for a variety of weather conditions.

WHAT TO BRING TO CALVIN CREST:

- Sleeping bag (or sheets and 2 blankets) and pillow
- Shoes (at least 2 pairs of comfortable, closed-toe shoes – tennis shoes are fine, boots are great for cold, wet weather)
- Socks (thick and warm in winter; minimum of 5 pairs, more are desirable and recommended)
- Warm clothing (nights are often chilly, days can be cold)
- Sturdy pants (minimum of 3 pairs of jeans or rain or snow pants in winter; shorts are *not* allowed during classes)
- Shirts (minimum 1 per day)
- Underwear
- Warm jacket
- Sweatshirt/sweater
- Towel and washcloth
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.)
- Rain gear (rubber boots and ponchos are recommended; boots are available at Calvin Crest to borrow; ponchos are available at our cost through our store – approximately \$1.25) **Check the weather forecast!**
- Sunglasses
- Chapstick
- Refillable water bottle, canteen, or hydration pack – **ESSENTIAL!**
- Plastic garbage bag for dirty clothes

WHAT IS OPTIONAL TO BRING TO CALVIN CREST:

- Non-phone camera with fresh batteries (and extra film if your camera is not digital)
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Spending money if the school has decided to use the store (see our website for costs of items in the store)
- Hat or cap (warm hats or beanies are very helpful in cold temperatures)
- Gloves or mittens during the winter
- Writing materials (paper, pen, pencil, stamps, envelopes, etc.)
- Umbrella for rainy weather
- Hair dryers (*Due to potential fire hazard, curling irons and straighteners are not acceptable.*)
- Watch or alarm clock
- Binoculars
- Suggested for Cabin Leaders: Travel mug, watch and alarm clock

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CALVIN CREST:

- CELL PHONES**, video games, MP3 players/iPods, CD players, radios
- Gum, candy, food of any kind (exceptions for diabetic students - dietary needs should be arranged in advance)
- Sandals, open-toed shoes (except sandals brought to be worn in the shower - optional)
- Valuables (expensive jewelry, cameras, etc.)
- Tobacco products, drugs, alcoholic beverages (**see below)
- Pocket knife or weapons OF ANY KIND (**see below)

****IF ANY STUDENT OR CABIN LEADER is caught with a weapon, or illegal substances in his/her possession: the weapon/substance will be confiscated and the Madera County Sheriff's Department will be contacted. The individual will be removed from Calvin Crest and may be arrested and prosecuted, as it is against the law to have a weapon or illegal substance on a school site.**

*All clothing and equipment should be marked with the student's name. Calvin Crest is not responsible for lost or stolen belongings.