

# Overnight Experience Options

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# Objective

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- Share options for overnight experience
  - Discuss pros and cons
- Q & A

# Context

- Overnight experience will be explored for 6th grade students
- Will not be attached to science curriculum
- Partner with Gibbs PTO
- Initial inquiry included three day/two night experiences
- Initial inquiry only includes vendor cost

# Option 1

- Morse Hill Outdoor Education Center
  - Students can learn SEL skills, team building, communication, and can also do fun activities like canoeing, climbing, tree identification. Activities are designed based on interest.
  - There is no nurse on staff but all staff are trained on medication admin, first aid, & CPR.
  - For students on an IEP or need behavior support, the staff first identifies the student, looks at the form that is filled out, they will talk to adults beforehand or the student, and the program can be customized.
  - They definitely have strategies for different capabilities, which is their company's philosophy
  - We still need to do more research to determine the cost/student

# Pros/Cons for Option 1

Pros	Cons
The program can be customized to fit our needs	No nurse on staff, so we need to bring a nurse to administer medication
It appears the program can be differentiated	
Staff have been trained to administer medication	

# Option 2

- **The Farm School** (488 Moore Hill Rd., Athol, MA 01331)
  - The skills the students would be learning depends on what is happening on the farm due to activities being seasonal. Feb/March = making maple syrup, tapping trees. Right now is harvesting. Farm is separated into 4 groups: field/garden, barn, forest, and kitchen. Students spend time in each department, including making the meals and snacks.
  - For supervision, students come with the teachers of their school (2-4 teachers).
  - There is no nurse on staff but all staff members are trained in first aid & CPR. Some staff are trained in first aid wilderness.
  - For support given to students with an IEP or needing behavior support, ask the person in charge of your experience. They work with all kids and when students have additional needs, they may ask for more support from the teachers.
  - They have allowed parents to chaperone in the past but there is limited space available. If not enough teachers can make it, parents could be an alternative. They charge per youth, not for adults (unless maybe there is a really high # of adults coming)
  - Cost depends on Free or Reduced Lunch percentage. Highest rate right now is \$425 per student.

# Pros/Cons for Option 2

Pros	Cons
There is flexibility with the cost per student	Supervision relies on teacher participation
Adults are not charged	No nurse on staff
Students learn about working on a farm, very hands on	Limited scope of program (everything revolves around farm activities)

# Option 3

- **Merrowvista** (147 Canaan Rd., Ctr. Tuftonboro, NH 03816)
  - Students will learn team building skills. The company will craft a program that lines up with the values of the school and support what our school is already doing.
  - Activities include animal adaptation and environmental curriculum, or more SEL curriculum. They can build a raft, shelter in the woods, learn how to build a fire, Games such as Capture the flag, archery, arts and crafts., etc.
  - Overnight supervision would be the teachers. 1 adult for 1-12 students.
  - They ask the school to bring a nurse or designated medical personnel. They cannot dispense medication. Staff is trained in first aid & CPR though for immediate need.
  - Costs: 3 day, 2 night ~\$320/person. Adults are free for every 1 adult up to 12 students (like 100 students and up to 8 adults; otherwise, pay for meal).



# Pros/Cons for Option 3

Pros	Cons
The vendor works to align the program with values of the school	Relies on teacher participating
Students learn about engineering by building different things	No nurse on staff and staff cannot administer medication

# Option 4

- **Nature's Classroom** (19 Harrington Rd, Charlton, MA 01507)
  - Morning portion is a field experience/environmental education. Low ropes initiatives without helmets. Afternoon is to get students excited to learn and will focus on what the schools want, like engineering, mindfulness (meditation, yoga), humanities (journal writing, poetry), etc. Idea is to get kids to learn outside of the classroom and think about things they might want to learn in the future, like in high school. Night experiences include observing science outside.
  - Schools should do the overnight supervision. You can pay extra for sleep-in coverage if you need staff to supervise the nighttime portion.
  - There is a nurse on staff 24/7 and available overnight for emergencies. Three check-ins at designated times but can come in to administer medicine, etc. outside of those designated times.

## Option 4 Continued

- Some schools find that a designated teacher/staff member from the school may be able to work with a student more if they need additional support. Can hire a one-on-one Nature's Classroom staff member if school does not have one. Finds that students on an IEP tend to flourish since it is outside their normal academia.
- Some schools prefer parents to chaperone; some do not, but parents are allowed to chaperone.
- Staff orientation goes through strategies on how to teach different learning styles,
- There are two standalone sites but can operate as a single unit. M-W rate is slightly less expensive than W-F with no weekends.
- Cost depends on site and time of year and days of the week

# Pros and Cons for Option 4

Pros	Cons
Program can be customized	The cost can get to be very expensive with add-ons
Can be connected to science	
If you pay extra, night time supervision can be provided	
Staff are trained to address different learning styles	
Nurse on staff	

# Q & A