



February 2, 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On Friday, March 9, 2012, students, faculty and staff of Sloan Creek Middle School will be participating in our 6th Annual Outdoor Service Learning Project at Lake Lavon. The project provides a truly unique experience to do community service and learn simultaneously. This is a joint project with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, SCMS PTA and our middle school.

Each grade level will be at different locations around Lake Lavon, and they will be supervised at all times during this project. Students will be divided into groups of 14-16 students under the direction of both the Lovejoy ISD teaching staff and volunteers. In addition to performing vital service, the students will be learning about the importance of the lake in our daily lives, water conservation, and the consequences of inappropriately or illegally dumping trash.

Students will be required to wear long pants and closed toe/heel shoes. They will have a t-shirt to wear for the event. We highly recommend that students wear a long sleeve shirt underneath their event shirt in the case of weather and for protection while working in and around brushy areas. As a safety precaution, **ABSOLUTELY NO FLIP FLOPS OR SLIDES** may be worn. Students will be given a small backpack to carry small items of necessity. Hats and sunglasses are recommended but will be the student's responsibility to keep up with. Please encourage your student to apply sunscreen prior to arriving at school. Lunch, as well as plenty of water, will be provided.

*Students are being asked to pay \$15, which includes materials for the project, backpack and lunch. Please include a payment of \$15 with this Authorization Form, and make checks payable to **SCMS**. If this amount is a hardship, please contact Stacey Hancock at stacey_hancock@lovejoyisd.net.*

Volunteers are needed to help with learning stations and student groups. We are looking to have about 100 volunteers for the event. This would be a great day for parents/guardians to spend with students and pitch-in at the lake. If you are interested in helping on the day of the event or in the planning process, please contact Carol Vik at SCMS (Carol_Vik@lovejoyisd.net) or the PTA Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Motsenbocker (m_motsenbocker@sbcglobal.net). Please return the volunteer form to the SCMS Front Office.

Students and volunteers will be transported by school buses, leaving around 9:00 AM and returning by 2:00 PM. Please note that students will not be able to be checked out of school early on this day, so take this into consideration when making appointments. If a student has a scheduled appointment or chooses not to participate, that student will remain on campus and will be given an alternate community service assignment on March 9.

Each location will have a First Aid station staffed with a Registered Nurse to handle cuts, scrapes, medications, and other injuries. We are asking all participants to complete the attached Parent Authorization Form so we are familiar with every student's individual needs during this outdoor activity. The nurses will only be taking medication required that day and not medications that are kept in the clinic for an as needed basis.

Prior to the Outdoor Service Learning Project at Lake Lavon, students will receive information about safety precautions and procedures from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the school nurse, and the Project Coordinator. Students will also have activities or assignments in multiple classes related to this project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will survey the site to remove any hazardous material just prior to the event.

Please return the Parent Authorization Form & \$15.00 to your child's 4th period teacher no later than Friday, February 17, 2012. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please feel free to contact the school by phone or e-mail.

We are looking forward to providing your child with a great learning experience!

Sincerely,

Kent Messer
Principal
Sloan Creek Middle School

**6th ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT at LAKE LAVON
PARENT AUTHORIZATION FORM**

Office Use Only <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____
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Student Name _____

Grade 6th 7th 8th

4th period teacher _____

Lovejoy ISD faculty and staff have my permission to:
(Check all that you grant permission for.)

- Transport my (daughter/son) by bus to & from the event locations.
- Use any photograph that includes my child for public use on the website, brochures and other print or media collateral/materials related to this project.



Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

(Date)

- My child will **not** participate in the service learning project at Lake Lavon.
 _____ He/she will remain on campus and complete an alternate community service activity.
 _____ My child will not be at school on the day of the project.

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

(Date)

Students are being asked to pay \$15. This amount assists in covering the cost of the materials used throughout the entire project. Please include a payment of \$15 with this Authorization Form, and make checks payable to **SCMS**.

Please make sure all medical concerns are updated in Power School. *(If you feel like your child will require medication during the time we will be off campus, such as Benadryl, Epi-pens, or Inhalers that they normally self-carry, please list the medication below and bring the medication in the original container to Nurse Young by **Thursday, March 1, 2012**. If you have any other concerns, you may call Nurse Young at 469-742-8308 or send her an e-mail at gretchen_young@lovejoyisd.net.)*

Taking the following medications...	
Allergic to the following medications, plants, animals...	
In need of special attention with regard to...	