

PRE-TRIP ACTIVITIES

Get ready to witness the amazing impact that outdoor education will have on your students! We've put together some ideas that will enhance your students' experience here in Pollock Pines. Whether you're attending Sly Park at the beginning of your school year or towards the end, here are some pre-trip activities to stimulate learning.

_ **Living Biome:** Gather a collection of animal, bug, or/and nature images including habitats, foods, shelters, rock formations, water cycles, planets, Native Americans in California, etc. Post each image on a piece of butcher paper and scatter around the classroom. Have students wander up to each station and write a comment on the paper that explains how he/she interprets the image. Re-group, pair and share!

_ **KQL:** If you have already been studying the environment, challenge students to come to Sly Park seeking more knowledge! Have them chart out what they Know, what they Question, and what they want to Learn.

_ **Wanted Poster:** Many teachers have their students research animals that are on the endangered list. Have each student create a *wanted poster* for their animal and include information gathered about that animal.

_ **Team Building:** Few animals survive *alone*. Your students might benefit from some activities that specifically target working as a community. Some resources include: www.gamesforgroups.com and www.usscouts.org/games.

_ **Respect** is our guiding principle at Sly Park. On a piece of butcher paper, design an acrostic for the word respect. Have students brainstorm how they might show respect in certain circumstances. For example, in the bunkhouses, on the trail, towards a guest presenter, etc. How about at home? On the playground at school?

_ **Packing 101:** As you know, this may be the first trip away from home for some 5 or 6th graders. Because of this, we have found that a little pre-trip packing experience might be helpful. Demonstrate how to pack a suitcase in the classroom, making sure to stress "weather appropriate" clothing.

_ **Read!** Many teachers turn to children's literature as an introduction to California's nature. Some favorites include:

[The Pebble in My Pocket](#)

[The Lorax](#)

[Dear Children of the Earth : a letter from home](#)

[There's a Hair in My Dirt](#)

[Cooking on a Stick](#)

[Trekking on a Trail](#)

[Essential hiking for teens](#)

[Squirrel Park](#)

[Our Big Home: An Earth Poem](#)

[The Water Cycle](#)

[Kid Heroes of the Environment: Simple Things Real Kids Are Doing to Save the Earth](#)

[The Wump World](#)

[Shaping the Earth](#)

[They Dance in the Sky: Native American Star Myths](#)

[Powwow](#)

[Keepers Of The Earth](#)

[Aani and the Treehuggers](#)