

Saint John's Outdoor University COVID-19 Protocols for Field Trips

Using the outdoors as a learning environment has proven to be an effective way to teach students while helping to limit the spread of COVID-19. Saint John's Outdoor University will be offering limited field trips for Winter 2022 following COVID-19 protocols.

Staff

- All Outdoor U staff will be vaccinated, including a booster shot.
- All Outdoor U staff will have masks to use in case proper distancing is unable to occur while outdoors and while teaching indoors.
- All Outdoor U staff will be trained in best practices to reducing COVID transmission.

Groups

- Group size is a maximum of 1 classroom.
- SLEDDING: Class will be indoors for an introduction, outside for 1 hour, then indoors for the rest of the time.
- OTHER WINTER CLASSES: Class will be indoors for an introduction, then outdoors the rest of the time.
- Groups must bring at least 2 school staff (classroom teacher plus paraprofessional, for example) with them who are able to provide supervision.
- Additional chaperones are encouraged and welcomed.

Facilities

- All field trip participants must wear a mask while inside campus buildings.
- Restrooms are available inside the buildings.
- Groups will not be able use any indoor sites at Saint John's University for lunch.

Equipment

- Less equipment will be used during field trips than in years past
- Equipment that will be used will be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC protocols after use by students

School and Teachers' Responsibility

- Teachers are responsible for maintaining safety and following all protocols while on bus.
- Teachers are responsible for conducting health screening for students and staff before boarding the bus at school. Students or adults who do not pass the school's COVID health screen are not able to attend the field trip.

Saint John's Outdoor University reserves the right to cancel any scheduled field trip due to staff sickness or shortage due to COVID-19. These policies may change based on changing campus conditions. Please contact Sarah Gainey with any questions or concerns.

Sarah Gainey, Environmental Education Coordinator

sgainey@csbsju.edu

320.363.3133

Resources:

Schools and Child Care COVID-19 Best Practices Recommendations

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/plan.html>

COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth Programs and Day and Overnight Camps

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/youthguide.pdf>

American Camp Association Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/field-guide-camps>

