

Discovery Trails ~ 2010

A Special Summer Program Offering at the Kansas State School for the Blind

Dear Parents or Guardians:

I am writing you this special note because I know that a camping adventure such as the Discovery Trails program is likely to raise some concerns about safety and supervision for your son or daughter. I want to assure you that we share the same concerns and have worked diligently over the twelve year history of our program to see that we keep everyone safe and secure. Our record on this front has been spotless.

Every activity we engage in has been thoroughly planned with safety measures in mind, and there are contingencies for emergency assistance all along our route. At each new camp and activity site we agree as a group of adults and teens what the “rules” of the site will be in terms of who can go where and who can do what and when. “Sticking together” is our common practice, and it has served us well. Campsites are arranged so that teen and adult tents are in close proximity. We conduct ourselves as if you, the parent or guardian, were right there with us. Your child’s emotional well-being is as important to us as his/her safety, and we are very skilled in addressing home-sickness, peer issues, and whatever else may arise.

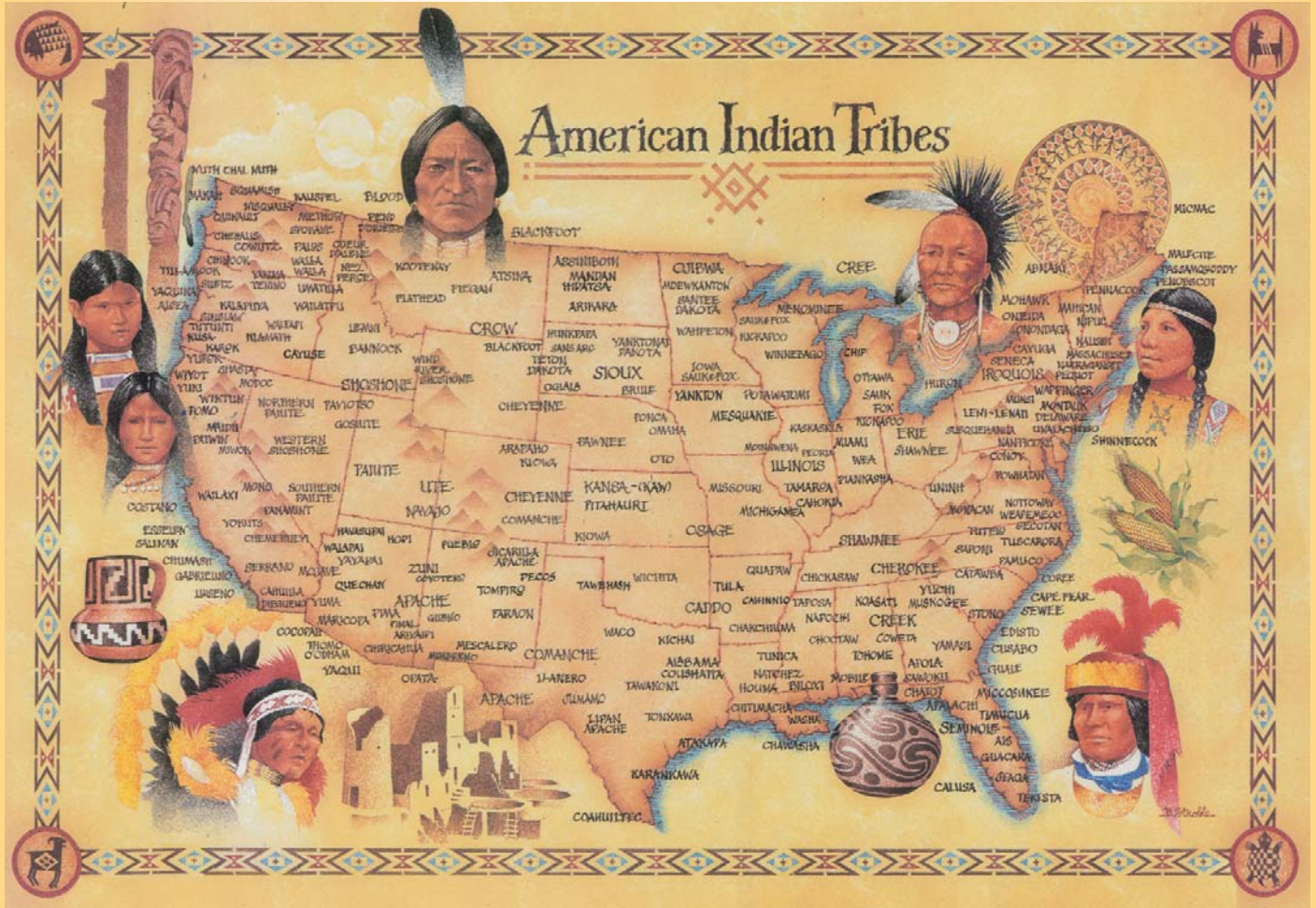
Take a look at the attached letter from Eleanor to your teenager to get a feel for the type of summer that awaits your son or daughter. This is a rare opportunity, not completely without risks, but with no stone left unturned when it comes to safety and supervision, and no path left unexplored when it comes to learning and adventure.

Lastly, the fee for the trip is due by May 15. Teens in need of financial assistance should contact us early so that we can help you explore all the possible options. Do not let your financial situation be the deciding factor in passing up this opportunity. The Discovery Trails Program was honored at the White House in January, 2008, receiving the *Coming Up Taller Award* from the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. I sincerely hope your teenager will take advantage of this unique opportunity to experience history the way the pioneers lived it. I promise your teen will return to you with greater independence, stronger self-confidence and many incredible but true tales of the Trail.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Burkindine
Superintendent
Kansas State School for the Blind

**Kansas State School for the Blind
and
Accessible Arts, Inc.**



Discovery Trails 2010

**The Amazing Adventures of Alexander Hamilton Willard
From the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean
1804-06 and 1852**

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A Special Summer Program Offering at the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB)
Coordinated by Accessible Arts, Inc.

Dear Teen,

Welcome to an Adventure of a Lifetime!

I hope you will complete this application and join our elite corps of adventurers setting out to cross Indian country. You will find rivers to wade, mountains to climb, oxen to drive, canoes to paddle and horses to ride. All along the way you will live the dramatic life of the explorers and pioneers! You will experience the peoples of the western tribes, hearing from Indian teenagers how their forebears lived in the days when explorers first appeared in their lands.

You will experience action-packed teamwork amidst some of America's most beautiful and majestic landscapes. You will travel off the beaten path to places the general public seldom see, and meet people who have a passion for history, for the outdoors and for the arts. You will participate in an amazing program of music, drama and creative arts with the help of talented folks who know how to get everyone involved.

Every day we get up early, eat and head out for a full day of great adventures ending at a new camp, most often in a place where the pioneers circled their wagons for the night. Everyone participates in all the activities and helps with all the chores—this is NOT a catered vacation. You'll love it after a while because you get good at the skills and work along side really interesting people. If you haven't done much camping, don't worry about it—we all help each other out. I absolutely promise that this three-week trek will stretch you to new heights of independence and self-confidence.

Lastly, the friends you make on this trip will be friends for life. There will be some teens who know the ropes and many who are new to the experience, so don't let "not having any friends along" hold you back. By the end of the first day, you will have more new friends than you know what to do with. Come join us and be a part of history in the making!

Eleanor Craig
Coordinator and Trail Boss
Accessible Arts, Inc. and
Kansas State School for the Blind

PROGRAM SIZE:	18 students who are blind or visually impaired.
AGES:	14 and up.
DATES:	June 5 through June 27, 2010
COST:	\$250 per student, payable by the family or other sources. We'll help you find funding, if need be.
HOUSING:	All housing, meals, and most camp supplies will be provided by Discovery Trails.

Kansas State School for the Blind
and
Accessible Arts, Inc.

Discovery Trails ~ 2010

June 5—June 27, 2010

Name of Student: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Student's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Dad/Male Guardian Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Mom/Female Guardian Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____ District: _____

Name of V.I. Teacher _____ Evening Phone: _____

Section I: (To be completed by the **PARENT/GUARDIAN**)

Tell us why you would like your child included in this program: _____

Student's Interests and Special Skills: _____

Student's Eye Condition and Acuity: _____

OD: _____ OS _____ OU _____

Student's use of Low Vision Devices/Glasses: _____

Other Health, Medical Conditions or Disabilities, Special Needs Student May Have: _____

Medication(s): _____

Can the student administer his/her own medications? _____

Section II: (To be Completed by the STUDENT)

Tell us what skills and strengths you bring to the Trail group: _____

Section III: (To be Completed by the TEACHER of the Visually Impaired)

Tell us why your student is a good candidate for this program: _____

Reading Medium: Braille _____ Large Print: (point size) _____ Regular Print _____

Low Vision Devices: _____

Reading Grade Level: _____

Orientation & Mobility: Does this student travel independently at school? _____

Cane Use: _____ Other Methods: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 30, 2010

Mail to:

Discovery Trails - 2010
Office of the Superintendent
Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB)
1100 State Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66102

The fee of \$250.00 is due by May 15, 2010. Make checks payable to:
"Accessible Arts. Inc.—DISCOVERY TRAILS PROGRAM"

If you have questions, please feel free to call:

Eleanor Craig, Trail Boss
913-281-1133 or cell: 816-721-8016
800-682-9469

NOTE: Space is limited to 18 students. The selection process is based upon the student's age (older students given priority), and other factors. Certain medical conditions may make the rigors of this trip inadvisable. As soon as you've decided to apply, we recommend that you notify Eleanor Craig to reserve a seat in the caravan.