



SCHOOL SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS & CULTURAL EXCURSIONS POLICY

The Governance Council of Nevada City School of the Arts (“NCSOTA” or the “Charter School”) recognizes and supports the concept of connecting our students with the broader community, both locally and globally, by providing field trips, cultural and art experiences, community service opportunities, and environmental education to fulfill NCSOTA’s mission and philosophy. These activities help to promote tolerance, understanding, and acceptance of others, and enrich the educational experiences of the students, as well as meet NCSOTA’s goal of creating passionate life-long learners.

The safety and security of our students is a primary priority when planning or participating in field trips or excursions. These activities will be carried out in an appropriate manner to maximize and ensure student safety and to minimize NCSOTA’s legal liability and financial cost.

Definition

A field trip or excursion is defined as students leaving Charter School grounds to participate in school sponsored educational opportunities in connection with NCSOTA’s course of study or school related social, educational, cultural, athletic, school band or other extracurricular or cocurricular activities.

Selection of Field Trips and Excursions

The teaching team will continue to research and provide enriching learning opportunities to share with their students both within the classroom and out in the broader community. The Director shall have the authority to approve all in-state day (non-overnight) field trips and excursions. Requests for out of state, out of country or overnight travel shall be brought before the Governance Council for approval. The Director will initially receive all such requests and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to whether the request should be approved.

The Director will ensure that the following items will be adhered to for all Charter School field trips and excursions:

- 1.) The proposed field trip or excursion relates to NCSOTA’s educational objectives
- 2.) The correct ratio of adult to students is met for supervision of the activity
- 3.) A means of transportation to and from the activity is provided
- 4.) Adequate restroom facilities, food and water will be available during the activity

The Director shall not approve any activity that he/she considers to be inherently dangerous to students.

Permission Slips

Before a student can participate in a school-sponsored trip, the teacher shall obtain parent/guardian permission for the trip. Whenever a trip involves water activities, the parent/guardian shall provide specific permission for his/her child to participate in the water activities. NCSOTA shall provide an alternative educational experience for students whose parents/guardians do not wish them to participate in a trip.

All persons making the field trip or excursion shall be deemed to have waived all claims against NCSOTA or the State of California for injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip or excursion. All adults taking out-of-state field trips or excursions and all parents/guardians of students taking out-of-state field trips or excursions shall sign a statement waiving such claims.

Items that will be included on the permission slip are:

- 1.) An emergency phone number for the student
- 2.) Any medications the student is required to take with the time and dosage required
- 3.) Any medications the student is allergic to
- 4.) Any other medical information necessary to ensure the student's safety
- 5.) Waiver as described above

A copy of a completed and signed permission slip will be kept on NCSOTA site and one copy will be given to the teacher or teachers to take on the field trip or excursion.

Voluntary Participation

NCSOTA will provide alternative educational activities to those students who choose not to attend a specific field trip or excursion. Parents/guardians will have advance notice of any upcoming field trip or excursion and have the option to withdraw their permission for their child to attend that field trip or excursion.

Disciplinary Rules

Students are under the jurisdiction of NCSOTA Board at all times during the field trip or excursion and all Charter School disciplinary policies continue to be enforced during field trips and excursions. Charter School disciplinary policies are to be adhered to at all times. (e.g. Horseplay, practical jokes, harassment, taunting, rough play, aggressive or violent behavior, profanity, viewing of pornographic material, and use of alcohol and/or controlled substances during the field trip or excursion are strictly prohibited.)

Except as otherwise required by law, a student may be excluded from the trip if their presence poses a safety or disciplinary risk.

Defraying Expenses of Field Trips and Excursions

NCSOTA may charge a fee for field trips and excursions pursuant to section 35330 of the Education Code. However, NCSOTA will endeavor to keep the costs of any field trips affordable for all students' families. In no event will a student be prevented from participating in the field trip or excursion due to lack of sufficient funds. In accordance with Education Code section 35330(b), NCSOTA will coordinate the efforts of community service groups to supply funds for students in need.

Supervision of Field Trips and Excursions

The teacher who coordinated the field trip will be present to supervise the field trip or excursion, except in unusual circumstances when a replacement teacher is assigned because of an unexpected unavailability. The Director will be designated as the emergency contact for the group on the field trip or excursion. Any injuries or unusual incidents occurring during the field trip or excursion will be documented in writing by the coordinating teacher and given to NCSOTA's Director.

The Director shall ensure that the field trips and excursions have an adequate number of adults attending to safely supervise the student attending the field trip or excursion.

A first aid kit shall be in the possession of or immediately available to a teacher, employee, or agent of the school during the student field trip or excursion. Whenever trips are conducted in areas known to be infested with poisonous snakes, the first aid kit taken on the trip shall contain medically accepted snakebite remedies. In addition, a teacher, employee, or agent of the school who has completed a first aid course which is certified by the American Red Cross and which emphasizes the treatment of snakebites shall participate in the trip.

Charter School employees or volunteers shall not consume alcohol or use controlled substances (except for medications taken under a physician's orders) while accompanying and supervising students on a field trip or excursion.

Accident Insurance

NCSOTA provides student accident insurance which covers medical expenses arising from student injuries on campus or while participating in a Charter School-sponsored off campus activity. The family's health insurance is primary, but if there is no health insurance, NCSOTA's Student Accident Insurance becomes primary. Information and applications for student accident insurance are available from the Director. The cost incurred by NCSOTA shall be covered by the pupil or his or her parent or guardian.

Parent or Guardian Participation in Field Trips and Excursions

As field trips and excursions are an integral part of NCSOTA learning experience, parents are encouraged to participate in an assisting role with students. The Director or the coordinating teacher will provide parents and guardians with specific supervisory guidelines prior to any Charter School group trip involving students. Topics to be included are safety regulations, emergency responses, and responsibilities of the parent volunteers and language or behavior requirements of all attendees.

A participating parent or guardian will be assigned to a specific group of students to supervise and will be responsible for these students at all times during the field trip or excursion. Under no circumstances will a parent or guardian consume alcohol or use controlled substances (except for medications taken under a physician's orders) during a field trip or excursion. The parent or guardian will notify the coordinating teacher, in advance of the field trip or excursion, should he/she be under a physician's orders and using medications.

All adults taking out-of-state field trips or excursions, and all parents or guardians of pupils taking out-of-state field trips or excursions are required to sign a statement waiving all claims against NCSOTA, its employees, and the State of California for injury, accident, illness or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip or excursion.

Transportation

At all times during the field trip or excursion, teachers, staff and parents will use the safest mode of transportation and the safest and most direct routes of travel. If travel is not by bus, the legal occupancy limit of ten (10) occupants (including the driver) must not be exceeded, all speed notices must be strictly adhered to and students are to be seated with individual seatbelts at all times.

NCSOTA shall take reasonable precautions to ensure that all employees and volunteers who transport students are responsible and capable operators of the vehicles to be used and ensure compliance with NCSOTA Student Transportation Policy and Driver Requirements as follows:

Employee or volunteer drivers who offer to provide transportation for a field trip or excursion must provide a copy of the following:

- Proof of liability insurance for their vehicle with a minimum of \$100K/\$300K coverage
- A copy of their Driver's License and Vehicle Registration
- A written statement acknowledging that their insurance carrier is the primary agent responsible for insurance during the field trip or excursion
- A criminal background check conducted by the California Department of Justice ("DOJ"). Employees or volunteers whose DOJ report reveals a Driving Under the Influence conviction shall not be permitted to transport students or operate any vehicle on Charter School business for ten (10) years from the date of the conviction. Any employee or volunteer convicted of a felony shall not be permitted to transport Charter School students on Charter School business
- A Department of Motor Vehicles record. Employees or volunteers with driving records with two (2) points or more shall not be permitted to transport students or operate any vehicle for Charter School field trips and excursions

Each of these items will be provided to the Director or coordinating teacher prior to driving on a field trip or excursion.

Under no circumstances shall students transport other students.

For the volunteer's safety and that of all the students in his/her car, the following rules apply:

- 1) All Charter School rules apply to students in the volunteer's car. Volunteer drivers are free to appropriately manage student behavior as necessary to maintain safety
- 2) All California driving laws must be followed including child restraint laws: no texting or distracted driving, hands-free phone use only
- 3) No movies may be shown in vehicles
- 4) No side trips allowed, including gasoline stops. Please be sure to have enough gas before leaving on the trip
- 5) Maps and directions from the teacher should be reviewed prior to leaving
- 6) No purchases for students should be made on the field trip including food or treats for students in the car
- 7) Call NCSOTA office immediately if there is a problem

Non-School-Sponsored Field Trips/Excursions

A non-school-sponsored field trip/excursion is defined as one that is organized and promoted by an outside organization whether or not it is of an educational value or is somehow connected to a particular course of study. This includes trips that are organized by organizations that may be affiliated with NCSOTA (i.e. parent organizations, cultural groups, etc.):

- 1) Students who miss school will receive an unexcused absence
- 2) Teachers are not responsible for creating school work ahead of time
- 3) Students must make up missed academic work
- 4) NCSOTA has no responsibility to provide travel
- 5) Any employee of NCSOTA who attends a non-sponsored field trip/excursion does so voluntarily and is not acting as an employee of NCSOTA
- 6) If a non-sponsored field trip/excursion is promoted on Charter School property, all materials must clearly state that this is a non-sponsored school field trip/activity
- 7) No insurance coverage will be provided by NCSOTA
- 8) NCSOTA assumes no legal or financial responsibility for non-sanctioned field trips