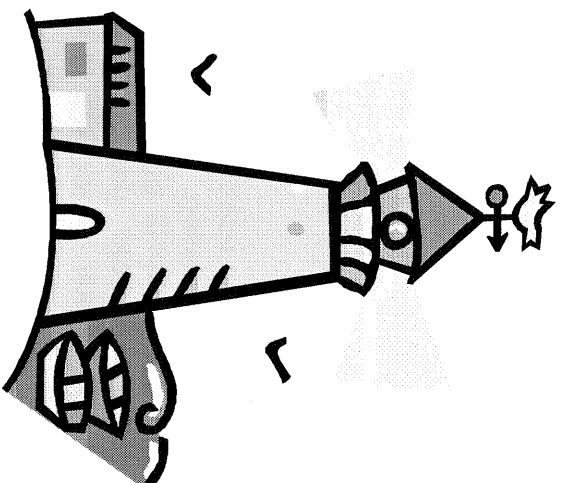


**Camp Casey  
Fifth Grade – Spring 2010**



**Tahoma School District  
Outdoor Education Program**

## **CAMP CASEY FACILITY**

Camp Casey is located on Whidbey Island. Students take a thirty-five minute bus ride to Mukilteo where they then take a twenty-five minute ferry ride to Whidbey Island. They exit the ferry at Clinton and have a thirty-five minute bus ride to Camp Casey.

Camp Casey is an old army fort that was built to protect Puget Sound. It was eventually sold to Seattle Pacific University and is now rented to groups throughout the year.

The facilities currently used at Camp Casey include:

- Five barracks each housing 75 students
- Mess hall
- Auditorium
- Gymnasium
- Teachers' building that doubles as a nurse's quarters
- Cook's quarters
- Oceanography lab
- Craft building
- Basketball and volleyball courts
- Large field for soccer, rocket-launching and kite flying
- Area for campfire

**For more information about the facility and grounds, visit the Camp Casey Conference Center website at: [www.spu.edu/depts/casey/](http://www.spu.edu/depts/casey/)**

## **PARENTAL NOTIFICATION**

Every effort is made to keep parents well-informed. In late February, students will attend an assembly where they will receive detailed information regarding camp. This information will include permission slips, medication authorization form, dates and times the bus will leave and arrive back at school and the rights and expectations of the fifth grade student at camp. We ask that you review this information with your child.

## **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND CAMP**

Camp Casey is considered an integral part of the fifth grade curriculum and every effort is made to take all of our students. If there is a student that would put himself/herself or anyone else at risk, the decision may be made to keep the student home. This is always a last resort. Work packets are given to these students and a place for them to work at school is provided.

If a parent is having difficulty with their child attending, please call and discuss your concerns with the camp director or child's teacher. We may be able to come to up with a solution that will work for you and your child. If a parent chooses not to send a child to camp, students are still expected to attend school.

## OPTIONAL COSTS FOR CAMP

More information will be sent home in February.

Camp Casey T-shirt or sweatshirt : \$15 -\$25

Rocket kit: \$13-\$17

Coupeville candy store visit at camp: \$5-\$15

## CAMP SET UP AND ACTIVITIES

Fifth grade students are divided into squads of six to eight with a high school counselor in charge. There are generally three squads per floor assigned to each barrack. Students are never to be alone. It is expected that they will be with their squad and counselor at all times.

The fifth grade camp curriculum is in the process of being planned. Some of the classes that are in place are:

- History of the area (lighthouse and fort)
- Oceanography
- Outdoor art
- Kite making
- Town and Museum tour (Coupeville)
- Orienteering (scavenger hunt)

Additional planned activities include:

- Rocket launching
- Postcards
- Evening program and campfire

During unplanned activities students have options including:

- Beachcombing
- Fort Casey exploration
- Sports/games

## COUNSELORS

Counselors are selected from Tahoma High School. These students must be juniors or seniors and be in good-standing. Over two hundred students apply and only eighty are taken to camp (forty for each session). The students fill out an application, have references from three high school teachers, and are interviewed by involved staff members. Input is gathered from the high school administration, counselors and other pertinent staff members before the final selection is made.

A teacher is in charge of overseeing the high school counselors. This is a very important job and we find that the selected high school students take it very seriously. Most of them participated in camp when they were in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and want make sure that their assigned students have a similar great experience.

Prior to attending camp, the high school counselors attend a Saturday training session at Camp Casey and several before-school sessions with our counselor trainers. The training sessions include:

- Understanding a fifth grade student
- Discipline
- Achieving squad unity
- Teacher expectations
- Dealing with homesickness
- Rules for counselors

