



Rolling Hills Charter trip to McCall Outdoor Science School October 29 - November 2, 2018

Annually the Middle School students (grades 6-8) at Rolling Hills have the privilege of participating in McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS). MOSS not only plays an important role in their science education, but provides many fun and team-building experiences for our students. **Rolling Hills' 2018-2019 middle school trip to McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) is scheduled for Oct. 29 - Nov. 2, 2018.** We are excited this timing will allow our students to have the MOSS Fall season experience.

Since our trip is only two short months after the start of the school year, it is critical for us to start planning immediately. **If you want your child to attend the Fall 2018 trip to McCall Outdoor Science School, you must complete the following by Friday, August 31, 2018:**

1. Complete and submit your responses the attached MOSS Questionnaire (see last page).
2. Submit a \$100.00 non-refundable commitment deposit. (Cash/Check payable to RHPCS/online credit/debit card payment though: <https://rhpcsstore.maxgiving.com/>)
3. Complete the MOSS online registration for your child at: <https://moss.uidaho.edu/> The system will ask you for a Password, enter: **learning**

What is MOSS?

You can think of MOSS as the ultimate field trip! Held at the University of Idaho facility located in Ponderosa State Park in McCall, Idaho, hands-on classes are conducted in the coniferous forest, at the edge of a mountain stream, on the shore of the lake, and in the meadow. The most useful tools for learning are readily available; the students' five senses. The subject of ecosystem science serves as the context for standards-based study of science, technology, mathematics, and language arts. Students typically learn in small teams, taught by University of Idaho graduate students, faculty, and staff. Each day, teams of 8-10 students accompany their instructors to field sites to scientifically characterize local ecosystems. They collect data on local atmospheric conditions, vegetative cover, soil characteristics, and aquatic ecosystems' physical, chemical, and biological conditions. Finally, students work with fellow teammates and instructors to develop their own inquiry projects which they present to their classmates and teachers at the end of the week.

Questions about MOSS? Learn more about MOSS on their website at: <http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/moss/about>
Mark Your Calendar –MOSS Informational meeting with Question & Answer time will be held on Thursday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to bring your questions, concerns, and come to find out more.

Trip Dates & Times

Departure: Monday, October 29, 2018 (approx. 9:30 a.m.), Return: Friday, November 2, (approx. 1:00 p.m.)

MOSS Participation Costs:

The MOSS participation fee is \$300 per participant and includes: the week's MOSS academic programs, 4 nights of lodging, and meals for the week (excluding lunch on Monday), and bus transportation to and from McCall.

MOSS Payment Schedule:

- **Due by Friday, August 31, 2018 - \$100.00 non-refundable commitment deposit** to be applied toward your child's MOSS participation fee. This initial payment is required to secure your child's placement in the

MOSS program. Note: this a monetary payment, school-provided fundraising funds cannot be applied toward this initial minimum payment.

- Due by Wed., September 26, 2018 – additional minimum \$100.00 payment and/or fundraising \$ applied
- Due by Monday, October 22, 2018 – Final \$100.00 payment and/or fundraising \$ applied

You can now begin making payments, in any amount, toward your child MOSS participation cost. **Payments can be made online at our secure payment website: <https://rhpcsstore.maxgiving.com/> or by check payment at the school office (make check payable to: Rolling Hills Public Charter School).** You are welcome to pay your child's full MOSS participation fee in full at commitment instead of making payments.

Fund-Raising Opportunities

We understand that the participation fee can be significant for families with limited resources. We encourage students/families to start now to acquire the funds needed to attend MOSS through your own earning and saving opportunities. Now is a great time to consider odd jobs for family, friends and neighbors – leaf raking season is right around the corner.

Rolling Hills will help by making available some coordinated opportunities to fundraise money towards MOSS.

Note: money raised for MOSS through these school provided fundraising opportunities can only be applied to your student's Oct-Nov 2018 MOSS trip expense. If your child participates in school coordinated fundraiser(s) but is unable to attend MOSS for any reason, or fundraises more money than needed for individual expense, the fundraised money will be applied to the general MOSS expense fund and/or made available for scholarships.

Currently planned fundraising opportunities include:

- SaveAround Coupon Book sales – In August/September, students will have the opportunity to sell Treasure Valley SaveAround coupon books. Specific information about this fundraiser will be coming soon.
- Harvest Festival – middle school students will have the opportunity to plan and man activities and stations for our upcoming Harvest Festival to be held on Saturday, October 20. Participants will earn funds toward their MOSS participation fee. More details to come.

Scholarships

A limited number of financial-need based partial scholarships from the RHPCS PFA will be available by application. Student participation in fundraising opportunities is expected prior to scholarship funds being approved and applied toward a student's individual MOSS registration fees. Contact the school office for an application.

Online Registration for MOSS:

The MOSS Online Registration process is now open. Early registration is requested and will help us significantly with our planning process. This will take you about 10 minutes. It is important that a parent/guardian complete this online process as it does have detailed legal information requiring adult review and your electronic signature. **MOSS requires that their online registration process be completed** for every attending student and adult, only those who have completed this online registration are allowed to attend. **Your child's online registration should be completed by Friday, August 31.**

- To complete the MOSS online registration, go to: <https://moss.uidaho.edu/>
- The system will ask you for a Password, enter: **learning**
- Click on "Student Form" found in the Parent section to proceed with the student registration process.
- In the Participant Information section, for "Program Type" select "School Residential" from the dropdown list.
- Near the bottom of the form, in the Student Information section, for the "Name of Your Program", make sure you choose "Rolling Hills Public Charter" from drop down list (that will tie your student to our RHPCS-MOSS program).
- Be sure to complete all the way to the end of the page and click the "Submit" button.

Parent Chaperones Needed

We need parent chaperones to attend MOSS with our students. Chaperones are a vital part of the MOSS trip, helping with student supervision and well-being throughout the day and night. Our chaperones attend with no financial obligation (up to the 7:1 adult to student ratio recommended by MOSS) All chaperones will undergo a background check (completed and paid for by RHPCS) prior to attending MOSS. If you are available and interested in attending MOSS as a chaperone, please contact the school office for more details and/or to volunteer. Note: Priority will be given to those chaperones who can be present the entire time.

Please review and respond to the questions on the attached sheet and return to school office no later than Friday, August 31, 2018.



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Response required no later than Friday, August 31, 2018

Student Name: _____

____ Yes, my student will be attending M.O.S.S. I understand that a \$100.00 non-refundable commitment deposit, to be applied toward my child's MOSS participation fee, is due by Friday, August 31. I have completed/will complete the required online registration by Friday, August 31. Register online at: <https://moss.uidaho.edu/> Password: learning

____ No, my student will NOT be attending M.O.S.S. Reason: _____

____ Yes, I am interested in chaperoning. Your Name: _____

____ My child has food allergy(ies) that will require special accommodations.
Allergy to: _____
Accommodation(s) needed: _____

Note: it may be necessary for parent/guardian to coordinate directly with the MOSS Food Service staff, contact Megan Faulkner, MOSS Food Systems & Sustainability Manager at mfaulkner@uidaho.edu.

____ My child takes daily medications that will need to be administered during MOSS.
(Note: ALL student medications - prescription or over-the-counter- will be stored and administered by an RHPCS adult on site.)

____ My child needs to/will participate in school-provided fundraising opportunities.

____ We may need additional financial-assistance beyond fundraising. Please send me an application for partial PFA scholarship application.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____