What is the Environmental Field School all about?
It is the goal of the Alabama EFS Program to be an extension of your child’s classroom. We believe in a hands on approach to learning by engaging the students in the subject matter. For example, we feel there is no better way to learn about a lake ecosystem than to be in the lake collecting and studying what you collect.

Where is the Alabama 4-H Center?
The Alabama 4-H Center is centrally located between I-65 and Alabama Hwy 280 along beautiful Lay lake. The Center is in Columbiana, AL on 264 acres of lush woodlands.

Tell me about the Environmental Field School Staff?
The EFS Staff is made up of individuals from many different states, each bringing something unique and special to the program. The staff is trained in First Aid, CPR and Lifeguarding. Background checks are conducted on all 4-H center staff.

What are the accommodations like?
Teachers may choose from dormitory style accommodations or cottages. We have two dorms, the Alfa and the Morrison. In each room there are two sets of bunk beds, sleeping a total of 4 and a private 3/4 bathroom. Also on each floor there is a lobby area where the students can hang out. Chaperones are on each floor to oversee the students. Also, there are five cottages each sleeping 13, with 6 sets of bunk beds and one single bed in each cottage. There are two bath houses located behind the cottages with restroom and shower facilities.

What is the Dining Hall like?
The dining hall serves cafeteria style. Students are provided with decaffeinated tea and water at each meal excluding breakfast when juice and milk are available. The students sit together as a group and leave the dining hall as a group. Special diets may be accommodated with advance notice.

Can I call and talk to my child at the Center?
Groups are outside and will not be near a telephone during most of their stay. In case of an emergency, a message can be left in the office and will be delivered to an adult with the school. The office is staffed from 7:30am—10:00pm; the number is (205) 669-4241.

Is there security at night?
Two full time staff members reside on either side of the main entrance gate. Also, all dormitory entrances may be secured.

Do I need to send money with my child?
The Canteen sells souvenir items and snacks. The canteen is open each day in between afternoon classes. Snacks are $.50 each and drinks can be purchased from the vending machines for $.75—$1.00. Souvenir items can range in price from $1.00—$10.00. Please do not send large amounts of money.
What happens if my child is injured? Do you have a nurse on site?
All of the EFS staff are certified in First Aid and CPR. We do not have a nurse or health facility on site. If your child is injured and requires basic first aid (scrapes and splinters), the teacher or chaperone may get supplies from us (Band-Aids, Neosporin, etc.) to take care of the injury. If the injury is more serious, the student will be transported to the hospital. The center is located about 20 miles from Shelby Baptist Medical Center. We recommend bringing a vehicle that can be used in an emergency. If one cannot be provided, the 4-H center will make sure that a vehicle is available. The center is within service area of local EMT. Average arrival time is 10 minutes after the call is placed. Every effort will be made to notify you for your permission prior to administering treatment of more serious conditions.

Do I need to buy new clothes for the trip?
Please make sure to send **OLD** clothes and **OLD** sturdy shoes (tennis shoes, hiking boots, etc.). Flip Flops, sandals, or open backed shoes are not recommended and are not allowed to be worn during class. A raincoat is a great idea. Classes go outside, even if it is raining (thunder and/or lightning are exceptions). Student need to bring a sleeping bag (this is recommended) or a bedroll.

What is the contact information in case of an emergency?
Alabama 4-H Center
892 4-H Rd.
Columbiana, AL 35051

Office: (205) 669-4241
Fax: (205) 669-1364
Website: www.alabama4hcenter.org