

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Coosa River Science School all about?

The mission of the Science School is to provide hands-on, educational experiences that connect people of all ages to the natural world and each other, while fostering respect and understanding for the environment and stimulating critical thinking and educated decision making to engender environmental stewardship. We feel there is no better way to learn about our natural world than to immerse ourselves in it!

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 Science School staff?

The CRSS Staff is made up of individuals from many different states, each bringing something unique and special to the program. All are required to have a college degree. The staff is trained in First Aid and CPR. Criminal background checks are conducted on all 4-H center staff prior to hiring. All canoe, boat, and pool instructors are lifeguard certified.

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 with a private bathroom. On each floor there is a common lobby area where the students can hang out. Chaperones room on each floor (across the hall in similar rooms) 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 restrooms and shower facilities.

What is the Dining Hall like?

Our dining hall serves meals family style, with platters going out to each table for the students to pass around and serve themselves. 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. Coffee is available for adults at most meals.

Can I come visit my child at the Center?

This is a great opportunity for students to experience independence away from home. Meal counts are calculated ahead of time, students are moving about property throughout the day, and we have intentionally planned their day with limited downtime. Please refrain from dropping by unannounced for the safety and security of all campers unless you have a family emergency and need to pick up your child.

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 immediately. 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 (candy bars, granola bars, and chips) are \$.75 each and drinks (some soda along with PowerAde) can be purchased from the vending machines for \$1.00—\$1.75. Souvenir items can range in price from \$0.50 to \$10.00. Please do not send large amounts of money, small bills are appreciated.

What happens if my child is injured? Do you have a nurse on site?

All of the CRSS staff are certified in First Aid and CPR. An adult from the school taking medical responsibility for the group will attend each camp session. If your child is injured and requires basic first aid (scrapes and splinters), the teacher or chaperone may get supplies from us (Band-Aids, Gauze, 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 and is within the 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 (including Crocs) 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). Students need to bring a sleeping bag (this is recommended) or a bedroll.

I'd like to be a chaperone. What will be expected of me?

Schools have the final authority to choose chaperones based on their needs. Chaperones are expected to attend all classes, to be physically able to move about property on foot, and be willing to oversee the care and support of all students, not just their own. Chaperones are a vital part of our program, but we want everyone to be completely prepared for the physical demands of programming as well as the supervisory needs and expectations.

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 (hours of operation 7am-10pm)
Fax: (205) 669-1364

After hours:
Becky Collier-Program Coordinator
(205)612-6646

Website:
www.coosariverscienceschool.org
www.alabama4hcenter.org

