

Valley Trails Ranch Leadership Retreat

A Day Retreat Focused on Attaining Greater Heights

October 4, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Kenter Canyon grade 5 teachers and administration strive to instill independence and confidence in each of our students as they grow to become adolescents and middle school students.

To promote individual leadership and teamwork, we have planned a field trip at Valley Trails Ranch Leadership Retreat in Santa Clarita that serves all of Los Angeles County schools and is approved by the Los Angeles Unified School District. The purpose of this field trip is to foster teamwork skills, gain individual confidence, and use problem solving and communication skills as a team and as individual leaders.

Valley Trails Ranch is designed as a team building and training retreat. Nestled on 200 acres and a short drive from Los Angeles, the ranch is the perfect setting for Kenter Canyon students seeking to learn, share and bond. Their team building professionals are fully accredited naturalists who work year round at this retreat camp.

The VT Ranch team has worked with Dr. Moren to develop a dynamic and effective program and memorable day for Kenter Canyon grade 5 students.

The VT Ranch is a multi-element opportunity where individuals and teams overcome obstacles through creative problem solving and communication. Individuals and teams are encouraged by experienced ropes course facilitators to face a series of challenges using ropes, cables, and planks to reach new heights. Every person is called on to participate allowing numerous opportunities for discovery and growth. Their facilitators are the best in the business and are uniquely capable to design challenges that address specific goals in a lively context that is more tactical than physical.

The low ropes course at VT Ranch is comprised of challenges using fixed ropes, planks, islands, and games. The low-level initiatives are designed to move a group from one point to another with limited resources, enhance group communication, develop creative thinking techniques, all while developing team bonds.

The day is packed with fun challenges, scavenger hunts, meal times and ends at dusk with a special campfire event that brings forth the bonding of teams.

Kenter Canyon participants may only travel to Valley Trails Ranch on school-provided, LAUSD approved buses from Kenter Canyon School to the Ranch and back. Individual vehicles may not be used to or from the ranch site.

Participants from Kenter Canyon School will leave from the school parking lot on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 8:20 a.m. and leave the VT Ranch at 7:00 p.m. Expected time to return to the school's front loop is around 8:30 p.m.



VT Ranch has a complete staff of trained educators to execute the day's activities. Teachers and aides will attend; however, parent chaperones will not be needed for this particular field trip.

This is a new "field trip" for Kenter Canyon School and was not budgeted by PSG this upcoming year. We believe that this retreat would be a meaningful and memorable event full of learning opportunities for our youngsters. To enable Kenter Canyon grade 5 students, teachers and aides to attend, grade 5 families are requested to make a donation towards this activity. Donation payments options include: 1.) Checks are made payable to Kenter Canyon PSG and may be submitted with the attached form and left in the Parent Center Cubby; 2.) The form may be returned to your child's teacher and an online payment may be made at www.kentercanyon.org

The cost for the trip including transportation to and from, two meals and the day's activities is only \$100 per participant. We do not want the inability to donate to be a cause for any student to not be able to participate. Please use the attached page to let us know your family's decision regarding this pursuit.

VT Ranch attempts to address a variety of dietary options for its guests. The VT Ranch lunch and dinner meals will be as follows:

<p>Lunch: Taco Bar Chicken / Beef / Tofu / Vegetables Refried Beans Spanish Rice Flour & Corn Tortillas Shredded Lettuce Shredded Cheese Salsa Sour Cream Salad Bar Bug Juice / Water / Iced Tea</p>	<p>Dinner: Pasta / Gluten Free Pasta Red Meat / Vegetarian Marinara Sauce Garlic Bread Salad Bar Bug Juice / Water / Iced Tea</p>
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Kenter Canyon School has not participated in a Valley Trail Retreat in past years. We have researched a variety of such day field trips and have heard excellent feedback on this one. We feel the focus on the retreat provides important life skills that will help our age group of students as they mature and progress through the year.

Please complete the attached form and return to your child's teacher or place in the Grade 5 VT Retreat cubby in the Parent Center. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Moren, or your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry Moren, Principal

Mr. Matthew Risman, Grade 5 Teacher/Chair -Room 204

Mrs. Jamie Haas, Grade 5 Teacher -Room 203

Ms. Madeline Kerwin, Grade 5 Teacher - Room 202

Ms. Deanna Carter, Grade 5 Instructional Aide

Ms. Molly Meek, Science Lab Coordinator

Mr. Jasmit Nijjar, Parent Engagement Coordinator

KENTER CANYON ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
Los Angeles Unified School District



**DONATION PAYMENT PLAN FOR
KENTER CANYON GRADE 5
VALLEY TRAILS RANCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 11, 2019

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Room: _____

Telephone Contacts: (_____) _____ (_____) _____

Check One:

_____ **Yes, we are excited about this opportunity for our child. We have opted for the following donation plan:**

_____ Donation for \$100 - Payment in Full

Check submitted

On-line Payment Made

_____ Two-installment Plan:

\$50 donation due on October 11, 2019

\$50 donation due on October 18, 2019

Donation payment options:

Checks are made payable to Kenter Canyon PSG;

On-line payment may be made at www.kentercanyon.org

_____ We wish for our child to participate, but need to discuss our donation/financial options with Dr. Moren. (Please do not have this discussion with teachers or other parents.)

_____ We do not wish for our child to participate in this field trip. We will discuss options with Dr. Moren of how our child can enjoy their day at the school on October 21, 2019.

_____ We wish to make a donation in the amount of \$_____ to assist students who may need such support for this experience.

_____ Other _____