



## **Mountain School Information**

- **What is Mountain School?**

Mountain School is a nationally recognized environmental education program created by *North Cascades Institute* that brings students to the North Cascades for *three days and two nights* with their class, teacher and chaperones. A strong focus on science and the natural and cultural history of the North Cascades provides the academic foundation of the Mountain School program. The curriculum is fully aligned with the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements, Grade Level Expectations and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. A majority of the elementary schools in the Bellingham School District have implemented this enrichment program for their fifth grade students. For more information, visit the website: [www.ncascades.org](http://www.ncascades.org).

- **Where is Mountain School?**

Mountain School is located at Lake Diablo in the heart of the North Cascade Mountains. Chartered buses transport students and teachers from Silver Beach Elementary to the North Cascades Learning Center in North Cascades National Park. The SBEA will cover the cost of transportation.

- **When are we going? How much does it cost?**

All fifth grade students will attend March 22-24 or March 24-26. *Cost per student is \$150.00*. We will be looking at other ideas to offset individual student costs. Some scholarships will be available if needed. No fifth grader will be left behind.

- **What do students "do" at Mountain School?**

In small learning groups of 8-10 students and 1-2 adults, participants spend their days exploring the ecosystems of North Cascades National Park through hands-on, inquiry-based experiential lessons and activities. Led by environmental educators, with support from resource managers and park rangers, the Mountain School staff is dedicated to helping young people discover the wonders of the natural world. Learning is extended into the evening with lessons about nocturnal animals of the North Cascades, night hikes, skits and campfires.

- **What are the Student Accommodations?**

The North Cascades Environmental Learning Center offers comfortable lodging accommodations. Participants sleep three to a room in gender-segregated lodges with shared bathrooms. Each bathroom has two sinks, two toilets and two showers.

- **Where do students eat?**

Students eat at the Salmonberry Dining Hall which offers a variety of delicious and nutritious meals prepared by the foodservice staff. Students with allergies are taken into consideration prior to arrival and provided alternative choices.