



The Leelanau School Exploratory Trips

It is our mission at The Leelanau School to support the journey for developing the potential of the whole individual. Learning happens everywhere, not just in classrooms. Teaching and learning shows up in the houses, at morning energize, within all-school councils, after school and weekend activities as well as during trips abroad. We invite all students to become lifelong learners with the ability to grow when meeting whatever challenges they may encounter throughout life. Since all students learn differently, success requires an intentional effort to create various opportunities for them to learn about themselves and to develop strategies to become successful within both the academic and social settings.

One of the most challenging parts of beginning a new school year or starting at a new school is the initial transition into the social environment. A function of our Exploratory Trips at the start of a school year is to help students transition socially. By travelling and working together on these experiences students learn about each other and interact with each other in safe, controlled settings. They will be more connected and know more about each other after a three-day Exploratory experience than they would after three weeks of campus life.

These learning experiences are an integral part of the curriculum at Leelanau. Whether students and faculty are traveling to Ireland, Spain, the West Indies, or the Manitou Islands, they learn to become resilient by being aware of the interconnectedness required for working in unfamiliar environments-- which for many, translates to uncomfortable--situations. We intentionally present the students with challenges they can meet and overcome. Our expectation is that when members of our community encounter a challenge, we will not avoid but work together to initiate a resolution, to support each other, and to be patient with ourselves.

The Exploratory learning experiences introduce The Leelanau School values that will become very familiar to our students as they transition to the norms and expectations of our community. We understand that many students may be uncomfortable or have some anxiety, but we promise that these trips are very realistic, and there will be more than adequate adult support available at all times. We look forward to welcoming returning families and meeting our new families this coming school year.

***Registration is on Tuesday, September 4th for Seniors &
Wednesday, September 5th for new and returning students.***

Freshmen and Sophomore: Explore Yourself within The Leelanau School Community

The Leelanau School values the development of the whole person, not just a student's academic skills. Over the course of the school year we participate in a tradition known as Council, where we examine our core values. Our core values include **Awareness, Stewardship, Interconnectedness, Resilience, Courage, Integrity, and Leadership**. A way to communicate (connect, to learn about ourselves, each other, and our place in the world) is to introduce our students to these values during the first week of school. For Freshmen and Sophomores, we call this "Leelanizing." In other words, exploring what it means to be a part of this special community we refer to as The Leelanau School.

By introducing our 9th and 10th graders to these core values they will gain opportunities for developing ideas about service to our community, breaking out of our individual comfort zones, and being inspired to restart a new learning experience toward transitioning into campus life at The Leelanau School.

On Thursday, September 6th, we will travel a short distance to the Leelanau Outdoor Center (LOC). Students will spend three days and two nights learning about each other and becoming familiar with the outdoor learning experience with LOC staff and The Leelanau School faculty. A selection of Faculty from The Leelanau School will be present at all times to help the students pack for the trip, provide support and encouragement, learn about each student as an individual, and provide supervision and support overnight. This faculty is referred to as the Freshman and Sophomore Council Team throughout the year. The Freshmen and Sophomore classes will hold their first Council, a structured way of communicating that ensures all ideas are heard, during this Exploratory trip with faculty. The first night will be spent at LOC's residential cabins while the second night will be spent in tents on the campsite constructed and maintained by former Leelanau students. The LOC staff will work with the students facilitating personal growth initiatives as The Leelanau School faculty is teaching the students how to integrate our core values within their individual learning experiences. Students will return to campus on Saturday, September 8th.

Here is a packing list for the 9th and 10th graders:

OUTER WEAR

- Comfortable shoes or hiking boots
- Water shoes or shoes that can get wet
- Rain gear – top and bottom

CLOTHING

- 1 heavy sweatshirt, sweater, or fleece pullover
- 1 long sleeve shirt
- 2 tee shirts
- 1 pair of long pants
- 2 pairs of socks
- 2 pairs of shorts
- Sleepwear
- Daily change of underwear

TOILETRIES

- Towel and washcloth
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Shower shoes (if desired)

BEDDING

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Pillow and pillow case

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

- Flashlight
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Sun Glasses

DO NOT BRING: Radios, knives, food, candy, lighters/matches, soda, or personal gaming devices

Juniors: Quest for Independence and Responsibility

The Leelanau School values the development of the whole person, not just a student's academic skills. Over the course of the school year, we participate in a tradition known as Council, which is a way to communicate, connect, and learn about ourselves, each other, and our place in the world.

The juniors will practice the tradition of Council during their Exploratory trip. They will leave campus on Thursday, September 6th and will travel to the Sand Lake Quiet Area in Williamsburg, MI. They will spend three days, two nights hiking, canoeing, and camping. Staff from the Leelanau Outdoor Center (LOC) will join them to provide gear and teach the students how to use it. The LOC staff will also work with the students facilitating group initiatives. The eleventh grade Council faculty team will be present at all times to help the students pack for the trip, provide support and encouragement, learn about each student as an individual, and provide supervision and support overnight. The students will return to campus Saturday, September 8th.

Some of the skills that we will help our eleventh graders develop include understanding and demonstrating one's personal gift to the community, conscious awareness of self, and the development of leadership.

Here is a packing list for the eleventh graders:

OUTER WEAR	2 pairs of sturdy walking shoes are needed should one get wet Warm cap Rain gear – top and bottom Water shoes or shoes that can get wet
CLOTHING	1 heavy sweatshirt, sweater, or fleece pullover Long underwear top and bottom 1 long sleeve shirt or sweatshirt 2 tee shirts 1 pair of warm long pants 3 pairs of cotton socks 2 pairs of shorts Pajamas Daily change of underwear Swimsuit
TOILET ARTICLES	Towel and washcloth Toothbrush/toothpaste Comb/brush
BEDDING	Sleeping bag in a stuff/compression sack Sleeping pad
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	Flashlight Camera (optional) Water bottle Sun Screen Bug Spray Sun Glasses Large Dry Bag

DO NOT BRING: Radios, knives, food, candy, lighters/matches, soda, or personal gaming devices

Seniors: A Time for Introspection

The Leelanau School values the development of the whole person, not just a student's academic skills. Over the course of the school year, we participate in a tradition known as Council, which is a way to communicate, connect, and learn about ourselves, each other, and our place in the world.

The seniors will practice the tradition of Council during their Exploratory trip. They will leave campus on Wednesday, September 5th and will travel to Leland to board a ferry to South Manitou Island. They will spend four days, three nights camping on the island. The twelfth grade Council faculty team will be present at all times to help the students pack for the trip, provide support and encouragement, learn about each student as an individual, and provide supervision and support overnight. The students will return to campus Saturday, September 8th.

Some of the skills that we will help our twelfth graders develop include the awareness of self, making informed decisions, awareness of individual potential and place within the community.

Here is a packing list for the twelfth graders:

OUTER WEAR 2 pairs of sturdy walking shoes are needed should one get wet
Warm cap
Rain gear – top and bottom
Water shoes or shoes that can get wet

CLOTHING 1 heavy sweatshirt, sweater, or fleece pullover
Long underwear top and bottom
1 long sleeve shirt or sweatshirt
2 tee shirts
1 pair of warm long pants
3 pairs of cotton socks
2 pairs of shorts
Pajamas
Daily change of underwear
Swimsuit

TOILET ARTICLES Towel and washcloth
Toothbrush/toothpaste
Comb/brush

BEDDING Sleeping bag in a stuff/compression sack
Sleeping pad

GENERAL EQUIPMENT Flashlight
Camera (optional)
Water bottle
Sunscreen
Bug Spray
Sun Glasses

DO NOT BRING: Radios, knives, food, candy, lighters/matches, soda, or personal gaming devices