



ST ANDREW'S  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

# Year 7 Camp

Outdoor Education Program  
February 2024



1 December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

In this letter you will find information about the Year 7 Outdoor Education program for 2024.

## Outdoor Education at St Andrew's Cathedral School

St Andrew's Cathedral School aims to develop well rounded students. The school focuses on students' physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and social growth as well as their academic development. SACS educational philosophy acknowledges that there is enormous benefit for students in education outside the conventional classroom. To this end, SACS purchased Kirrikee Outdoor Education Centre in 1984 and has been running outdoor education programs of a high standard ever since. We differ from many other schools because we have our own Outdoor Education department and staff that develop and run each of our Outdoor Education programs rather than contracting them to outside providers.

The school's Outdoor Education program encourages students to learn new skills, provides them with physical challenges and gives the students an opportunity to experience the natural environment in a unique way. Many students enjoy the opportunity to express themselves in a new setting. For these reasons SACS Outdoor Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum.

## The Program

The Year 7 Outdoor Education program offers students a wide variety of activities allowing them to try new things and grow. Year 7 students will also be introduced to an overnight hiking expedition preparing them for multi-day expeditions in future years.

The program focuses on relationships as many new students join the school and cohort in Year 7. It also develops leadership, initiative, and resilience and encourages students to be adventurous in a safe environment. It is designed to challenge students in many ways.

During the Year 7 program students will spend one night in hiking tents at Bungonia National Park, one night expedition in Penrose State Forest and stay another 2 nights at the school's Outdoor Education centre, Kirrikee, in Penrose. They will have the opportunity to take part in amazing outdoor activities such as bushwalking, caving, abseiling, and rogaining. At Kirrikee they will complete several initiative activities, mountain biking, raft building and swim in the dam.

**Please note that Year 7 will be divided into three camps. You will be notified of the camp your student is allocated in January 2024:**

**Camp 1: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (Week 2 – Term 1)**

**Camp 2: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (Week 3 – Term 1)**

**Camp 3: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 (Week 4 – Term 1)**

The students will be travelling by seat belted coach or minibus to Kirrikee. The departure and return times are as follows:

**Monday – 9am Departure from Bathurst St Steps**

Please arrive by 8.30am to have names marked off

**Friday – 2:30pm Arrival at Bathurst St Steps**

Students must have their names marked off before departing



ST ANDREW'S  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

# Year 7 Camp

Outdoor Education Program  
February 2024



## Program Fees

Please note that the program fees are not included in the normal tuition fees. The program fees are decided by the finance department and will be released early next year. We expect they will likely be \$1,019, which is comparable with other school's camps and the cost of contracting to outside providers. Outdoor Education is developed, organised and run by SACS employed staff allowing total ownership of the program and consistency in relationships between guides and students. This fee will be added to your school fees, spread across four terms in equal instalments.

The program fees are directly attributed to the costs in running the program based on the number of students in the year level. The most significant cost is attributed to the employment of staff. Staff are employed and assessed in line with the highest industry standards of safety and training. The application of clear policies, the provision of excellent equipment and the scoping of programs that are both safe and challenging, creates costs that cannot be avoided.

In the past there have been, at times, requests for the refund of fees due to non-participation or non-attendance on SACS Outdoor Education programs. Tuition fees are not normally refunded when a student misses classes because of illness or other reasons and the same policy extends to the annual camp.

**If you believe there is a reason your child can not attend camp, please contact the Head of Middle School, Mr John Partington, at [jpartington@sacs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jpartington@sacs.nsw.edu.au).**

## Equipment

Please find a Minimum Equipment List attached to the email with this letter. It is important that all items on the equipment list are packed. We have found through experience that the equipment listed is the minimum amount necessary for students to be comfortable and safe while on camp. Often students come without some of this necessary equipment which makes it more challenging for the staff to care for them in the outdoors. Be aware that Kirrikee can be up to 10 degrees colder than Sydney.

The cost of camp and then the additional cost of new equipment can be burdensome. We have tried to minimise the equipment list and subsequent cost of those items we believe necessary for comfort and safety in the bush. The equipment list essentially remains the same for the duration of outdoor programs at SACS, and therefore any equipment bought is an investment for future camps. If you would like advice on equipment or have concerns, please contact the Outdoor Education department on [outdooreducation@sacs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:outdooreducation@sacs.nsw.edu.au) or 9286 9500.

To keep costs for parents down, students will be provided with a hiking pack and pack liner as well as tents, groundsheet and cooking stoves. All catering is also provided. Please also note that it is school policy that **all students hike in either full length pants, or wear shorts and gaiters while hiking on expedition**, and in some of the paddocks at Kirrikee.

We have also partnered with One Planet to use their online Camplist equipment site (<https://www.camplist.com.au/>). You can use this alongside the Equipment list attached to obtain the correct and adequate clothing and equipment for camp. Follow the link above and type in 'St Andrew's Cathedral School' and then select 'SACS KIRRIKEE Year 3-8' to view a selection of pre-approved items that you can **hire** or buy. Each item may have several possible selections varying in price and quality. You will only need the number of items as specified by the attached gear list. There are also items on the Camplist site that are not on the equipment list and are therefore optional. Please use the attached SACS equipment list as your guide. We hope that this process may simplify equipment and clothing selection for you. **Please be aware that these items may take a few weeks to get to you.**

We have an arrangement with some of the shops on Kent St (Trek & Travel, Mountain Equipment, Macpac and Paddy Pallin) where students can buy equipment at a minimum of 15% off normal recommended retail prices. Students can also get a discount at Decathlon in Tempe. To take advantage of this, students will need to present their student card.



ST ANDREW'S  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

# Year 7 Camp

Outdoor Education Program  
February 2024



## Items Not Allowed on Camp

Please note that students will not have any opportunities to spend money on this program, so please do not send them to camp with cash.

Parents are asked to ensure that **NO aerosol cans** are brought on camp (including bug spray cans or deodorants cans) due to incidents which have occurred with their misuse in the past. Roll-on or pump applicators are fine.

Electronics including phones, iPads, gaming consoles and iPods are not to be brought on camp. For the week students are on camp, we challenge them to spend the 5 days without technology, interacting directly with their peers. If your child has any concerns, they are encouraged to speak with their group leader.

## Catering

Whilst at Kirrikee students are provided with meals from the Kirrikee kitchen, including lunch on the first day. When on expedition the students are provided with food that they must cook themselves, with the instruction and supervision of Kirrikee instructors. Please advise on the medical form of any allergies to food or special dietary needs that your son or daughter may have so that we can cater appropriately.

## Medical Forms

Please complete a medical form your child to attend this camp using the link below. For us to care for your child appropriately, we will need the Student Medical Form completed and returned by *Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024*. Your assistance in the return of this form will greatly assist us as we accommodate the safety and dietary needs of each student on the program. Please complete this form in detail as this information is imperative for preparing for the students and providing adequate catering, care and supervision.

<https://bit.ly/Year7MedicalForm2024>

**Please complete the form by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at the latest to allow us to prepare for the program appropriately.**

We are looking forward to having Year 7 students on camp and I have no doubt the camp will be a fantastic experience for all involved. If you have any questions about the camp, please send an email to Outdoor Education at [outdooreducation@sacs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:outdooreducation@sacs.nsw.edu.au).

Regards,

Luke Willersdorf  
Outdoor Education Programs Manager