

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The staff of the Educational Talent Search program at East Tennessee State University is pleased to offer Sullivan County middle school participants the opportunity to visit Tusculum College and Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg on **Tuesday, June 2**. While touring the college, students will learn about campus facilities and various postsecondary programs. After the college tour, we will eat lunch at Ryan's. We will then travel to Gatlinburg to experience the sights and wonders of marine life at Ripley's Aquarium.

As always, your child's safety is the first concern of the Educational Talent Search Staff. Transportation for all trip activities will be provided on a school bus with members of the Educational Talent Search staff present as chaperones. **This trip is sponsored by the Educational Talent Search program and not by your child's school or county school system.** All necessary costs associated with the trip (including lunch) will be covered by Educational Talent Search.

If you would like for your son or daughter to go on this trip, you must complete the enclosed **permission form** and **mail it** to us, **ETSU Educational Talent Search, 1501 University Blvd., Kingsport, TN 37660**, by **May 22, 2009**. Due to limited seating, spaces for the trip will be filled in the order that permission slips are received. **The first 55 students will receive priority.** All permission slips must be received by the deadline. You will only be notified if space is **NOT** available for your child to attend.

Students are welcome to bring cell phones. However, these phones must be **turned off** or left on the bus during the guided portion of the tour. This is to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable experience during the day. There will be **no food or drink allowed on the bus.**

If you have questions or would like more information, please call (423) 392-8041.

Sincerely,

Sarah Knight
Coordinator

Kellie Cooley
Advisor