



18 August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Year 9 Urban Challenge consists of an innovative and adventurous program designed to engage students in the urban landscape of Sydney and its surroundings. Students will operate in small teams of approximately 15, each taking on the responsibility of a specific role within the group. Teams are required to complete a series of challenges and activities, embarking on an unfolding adventure that takes them through Sydney. Students are given the freedom to make their own decisions. This includes being responsible for navigating their way around, buying and cooking food, solving clues and managing a team budget.

The Year 9 Urban Challenge will take place over three days in Term Four – Wednesday 25 to Friday 27 October 2023 and is a compulsory activity. Fees for the camp will appear on Term 4 fee statements.

All meals and snacks are supplied during the trip including a variety of options and team meal challenges that cater for any dietary needs. Students will travel by coach to Sydney where on arrival they will be issued with an Opal Card enabling them access to public transport – ferry, bus, train and light rail for the duration of the trip. Accommodation will be provided in YHA youth hostels and other city group accommodation with room sizes varying from 4 to 6 occupants. Students will be required to carry all their own equipment for the duration of the camp and their accommodation will be in a different location on each of the two evenings.

Urban Challenge has created a private page for our College on their website where information can be found about the program. Registering your daughter's personal and medical details for the Urban Challenge is also a section. Please use the information below to log in and fill out the required details. To confirm your daughter's attendance, this online document must be completed by **Friday 8 September 2023**.

To access the Merici College – private page on the Urban Challenge website and complete the personal and medical details:

Go to www.theurbanchallenge.com.au.

Click on 'Log in' and log in with:

- Username: meriurban
- Password: meri2023

Information about the program will appear here.

Please then complete the compulsory personal and medical fields.

Once the online program form has been completed you will receive a summary of these details. Please save these summaries for your records.

During the program, the private page will allow parents/carers the opportunity to watch the progress of the teams and assist to help your daughter's team earn extra points. Using the same login details, listed above, parents/carers can access challenges, read the team's daily blogs and view photos and videos from each day. This portal will open closer to the program and will stay open long after it has finished so that students and parents can download images from the program.

Parent Information Session: On **Thursday 31 August** there will be an opportunity to hear Paul Colagiuri talk in detail about the Urban Challenge. The meeting will be via team from the comfort of your own home commencing at 5.30pm. This information session is for parents and carers only and a link will be sent to families closer to the date.

Administration of Medication: If your daughter requires medication to be dispensed whilst on the Urban Challenge, please complete and return the relevant form. The form is attached to this letter.

Equipment list: An equipment list is available on the Urban Challenge website and attached for your information. It is recommended that students do not take mobile devices such as phones or iPods to the Urban Challenge. Should students take such devices, restrictions will be placed on their use during the program. The College will not be responsible for the loss or damage to such items.

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff is the highest priority. The Urban Challenge holds a comprehensive Risk Management Plan, uses accredited providers for activities, and has working procedures and contingencies set in place.

We anticipate that the Year 9 Urban Challenge will be a positive and memorable experience for each student. Normal College conduct will be expected. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their daughter if any serious misbehaviour occurs.

If you have any queries regarding your daughter's participation in the Urban Challenge, please don't hesitate to contact your daughter's House Coordinator or me (kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au).

With kind regards,

Kate Durham
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

MEDICATION AUTHORISATION

Instructions

This form is used to record the request, by a parent/carer, for the school to administer medication to their child. Where a student requires more than one medication, a separate form must be completed for each medication to ensure all details are clear for each medication.

Wherever possible, medication should be given to students outside of school hours and/or should be administered the first time away from school and the student observed for 24 hours before returning to school. Administering prescribed medication on a long term basis must be undertaken in accordance with the individual student's Individual Medical Response Plan.

Wherever possible, medication should be in a pharmacy prepared dosette (Webster pack). Other medication must be administered from its original container, bearing the original label and instructions. Schools will not administer medication that has passed the expiry or use by date.

The information collected will be held at the student's school and will be made available to relevant school staff, including first aid officers, and to medical or paramedical staff in the case of an accident or emergency. The information contained in the form is personal information and it will be stored, used and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988 and other relevant legislation.

Section 1 – Parent/Carer Authorisation

Parent/Carer authorisation:

I hereby request that school staff administer medication to my child at school or during school related activities. I understand it is my responsibility to:

- Complete a new *Medication Authorisation* if the student's dosage of medication changes (e.g. 20 mg to 30 mg).
- Where dosage requirements vary from day to day (e.g. for insulin, Rivotril), to provide a letter from the prescribing qualified health professional advising the school that the parent/carer will be responsible for notifying the school of any adjusted doses.
- Collect and dispose of any unused medication that is no longer required to be administered at school.

Parent/Carer Name		Phone Number	
Parent/Carer Signature		Date	
Health Professional Signature		Date	

Section 2 – Student Information

Student Name		Date of Birth		Insert student photo here
Name of Medication		Dosage		
Route (e.g. oral, skin, gastrostomy)		Time/s of Administration		



Online Information & Medical Form

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The Merici College Year 9 Urban Challenge will run from Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th October 2023.

A 3 day program filled with fun and adventure, the students will be involved in an unfolding journey taking them around the Sydney CBD and surrounding suburbs. They will organise their own food, travel and selves as they navigate and negotiate their way across the city. The students will learn about team work and real-life lessons (such as public transport won't wait for the slow team!) whilst being supervised by a school staff member and guided by an Urban Challenge Guide. All this will happen while with friends and learning skills and methods in self-sufficiency, leadership and followership, team responsibility, and much more.

We have created a private page for your school on our website where you will find all the information about our program and how to register your child/ward's details for the Challenge. Please use the information below to log in and fill out the required details.

During the program this private page will allow parents/guardians the opportunity to watch the progress of the teams and play along to help their child/ward's team earn extra points. Using the same login details below (so please keep this in a safe place) parents access challenges, read the teams' daily blogs and view photos and videos of the program. This portal will be open closer to the program and remain open till long after it is finished.

At the end of the Challenge, students and parents alike will be able to log in here to download the images from the program.

How to access the Merici College private page on our website and complete the personal and medical details:

- Go to www.theurbanchallenge.com.au
- Click on 'Log in' and login with:
- Username: meriurban
- Password: meri2023
- Information about the program will appear here.
- Please then complete the compulsory personal and medical fields.
- If you choose to purchase any gear for the Challenge from us, full payment will be required at this time.
- Once the online form has been completed and consent ticked, you will receive a summary of these details onscreen to save for your own records.

Please navigate our website for further information about The Urban Challenge.

We are looking forward to seeing the students on The Urban Challenge!

The Urban Challenge Team

The Urban Challenge

EQUIPMENT LIST

The following is a recommended equipment list for students attending The Urban Challenge.

Please note items in bold are essential for your well-being.

Wear comfortable clothes – no singlet tops or short shorts.

While completing the challenge you will be staying in youth hostels each night - linen, pillow cases and blankets are supplied.

Gear should be packed in a back pack (your school backpack or rucksack of similar size). Shoulder bags and suitcases are not suitable.

It is important to pack minimal gear as you will be carrying your backpack each day throughout the Challenge.



- > **Rain jacket** - Essential and must be waterproof.
- > **Footwear** - Shoes that are sturdy and comfortable for walking all day. Thongs may be brought to wear in the shower.
- > **Sun hat** - Compulsory. We recommend a soft hat with a wide brim or peak and cape.
- > **Water bottle** - Must be refillable and at least 600ml.
- > Long sleeve shirt & long pants - For sun protection and evening warmth.
- > Polo shirts or T-shirts.
- > Jumper/fleece - Not too bulky.
- > Socks & underwear - One set for each day.
- > Tracksuit/PJs - To sleep in.
- > **Do not bring a towel - We will supply a pack towel for all students .**
- > Swimming costume - You may have the opportunity to swim throughout the Challenge.
- > Water shoes - Enclosed footwear suitable for water activities (eg: aqua shoes, canvas shoes)
- > Head torch - This may come in handy where you are staying.
- > Toiletries - Don't go overboard as all items have to be carried.
- > Sun screen - Bring a small tube.
- > 2 large garbage bags - For wet gear and waterproofing .
- > **Student ID** - You will receive a student OPAL card for the duration of your Urban Challenge - you will need ID in case your card is checked by an inspector.



Medications: All medications should be listed on the medical form supplied by the school.

Food: Please do not bring any sweets or junk food to The Urban Challenge - there will be plenty of meals to keep you going.

Valuables: Please do not bring the following - mobile phones, your own money, electronic games, iPods, expensive jewellery as we are not responsible for lost items.

Contacts: For general enquiries call our Sydney office on 02 9483 9333 during business hours. If after hours contact is required, please call the office line for the listed number for your program.