



FAQs: Opal Creek Outdoor School (day program)

Q: What should my child bring to outdoor school each day?

A: We ask that your child brings the following items:

REQUIRED ITEMS

- ☐ Backpack (large enough for jacket, rain gear, water bottle and journal)
- ☐ Jacket (stuffable nylon, fleece, down, etc)
- ☐ Rain gear (poncho, or jacket and pants)
- ☐ Water bottle (durable, reusable)
- ☐ Hiking boots or shoes with laces (waterproof recommended)
- ☐ Baseball/Sun hat
- ☐ Warm Hat/Gloves
- ☐ Jeans or long pants
- ☐ Shirts (at least one with long sleeves)
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Socks (wool if possible)

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Pen or pencil
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Chapstick or lip balm
- ☐ Personal medications as needed
- ☐ Sanitary products as needed

DO NOT BRING

- x Electronic games and devices. There is no electricity for charging.
- x Any restricted substances. Drugs and alcohol are prohibited

Q: What will my child be learning at outdoor school?

A: Opal Creek's curriculum supports national science learning standards – outdoor school learning *is* an extension of science learning that students are already doing in school! At Camp Silver Creek, students will use a BEETLES learning methodology (exploratory, hands-on!) to study and learn about the organisms at camp, how those organisms interact with each other, the ecosystem as a whole, and with us – humans!

Q: If it rains, do students stay outside?

A: Typically yes, we're outside as much as possible! That said, should it be a very rainy day, we do have covered areas to take breaks and indoor areas to do activities and lessons. Our dining hall has a fireplace for warmth, and each cabin pod has a lodge with a fireplace. We have two additional indoor buildings at Camp Silver Creek for rainy day activities.

Q: What do you do for medical emergencies?

A: All staff are CPR/First Aid certified. Additionally, we have Wilderness First Responders on site who are trained in backcountry medicine. Our guides carry communication devices (radios and cell phones) which are used in the case of an emergency. Please be aware that in the event your child needs to leave the program due to illness, injury, or other circumstances, you or an authorized adult will be required to pick your child up from the designated trailhead. Please make sure that an emergency contact is listed on your child's waiver, and that that authorized adult will be accessible and available during your child's program. If you need to contact Opal Creek in case of emergency, please contact our Outdoor School staff at: (503) 892-2782, ext. 2 or outdoorschool@opalcreek.org.

Q: Should my child have a medical emergency, what is the closest hospital with an emergency room?

A: Santiam Hospital. 1401 N 10th Ave, Stayton, OR 97383.

Q: What if I need to reach my child during outdoor school?

A: You can contact Opal Creek staff onsite at (503) 892-2782, ext. 2 or outdoorschool@opalcreek.org.

Q: What are the expectations for participants who attend outdoor school?

A: Opal Creek Outdoor School is a unique experience where students have the opportunity to learn, explore, and have fun. We ask that each person be a positive member of the Outdoor School community while you are in these wild places. Please review and commit to following these guidelines before you arrive.

At Opal Creek Outdoor School, I will...

1. Respect all students, staff members, and visitors. Be open minded and accepting of people's differences and respect their ideas and attitudes.
2. Respect other people's belongings, including gear provided by Opal Creek and other students' personal items.
3. Do not use inappropriate language and/or gestures.
4. Stay on the trails and behind my leader.

5. Listen to my leaders' instructions carefully and follow directions. It is critical to pay attention in wild places.
6. Be respectful to plants, animals, and the ecosystem as a whole.
7. Talk with someone if we have a disagreement. I will not fight or yell as a problem-solving solution.
8. Not bring tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or weapons of any kind to Opal Creek.
9. Not use my cell phone/electronic devices or leave them at home.

Should any student choose to disobey these rules and refuse to cooperate after warnings and disciplinary action, they may, at the discretion of Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center, be sent home. In any such an event, the student's parent(s), guardian(s), or previously authorized adult(s) will be required to pick up the student at the trailhead.

Q: What are your COVID-19 policies & procedures?

A: Opal Creek follows the COVID-19 policies & procedures of schools and districts attending Outdoor School.

Q: What do I do if I have a question not answered in this FAQ?

A: Should any questions, comments or concerns arise, please contact our Outdoor School staff: (503) 892-2782, ext. 2 or outdoorschool@opalcreek.org