

Dog Mountain Hike Prospectus

Hike	Dog Mountain/Auspurger Loop	Route:	Counterclockwise Loop
Length / Elevation	7 miles / 2800' total	Grade	B
Date	4/12/25	Meet Time	6:45 AM at the Trailhead
Hike Leaders	Lauren Walker and Carrie Spates	Contact Info	Lauren Cell: 786-325-5753 Carrie Cell:202-276-1519

Start Time

We will be meeting in the Dog Mountain parking area at 6:45 AM for a 7:00 AM start. There are two restrooms available near the parking lot. We'll be sharing the trail with two other BCEP groups today and it's important to start on time as we try to stagger the teams to minimize the crowding.

****Please call or text Lauren or Carrie if you are running late****

General Information

Dog Mountain (source of that name unknown) occupies land formerly inhabited by the [Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde](#), [Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians](#), [Yakama](#), and the [Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla](#) peoples. While I could not find any documentation of Dog Mountain's indigenous history, nearby [Wind Mountain](#) is a significant site of spiritual reflection.

This is an extremely popular hike in late April and May due to a prolific bloom of yellow balsamroot that covers the exposed hillsides. [Oregonhikers.org](#) notes that the trails used on this route may have poison oak, rattlesnakes, and ticks. AllTrails confirms recent tick sightings and Lauren + Carrie spotted poison oak. Long sleeves and pants are recommended. Look for poison oak before you drop your pack.

Directions to Trail Head from Carpool Location:

[Google Directions from the Mazamas Mountaineering Center to the Dog Mountain Trailhead](#)

From the Park and Ride, head south to Glisan and turn right. Stay in the right lane and get onto I-205 North. In a mile, get onto I-84 East. Stay on I-84 until Cascade Locks where you will take Exit 43. Cross the Bridge of the Gods (\$3.00 toll each way) and on the other side, turn right onto SR14. Go through Stevenson & past Wind Mt. Parking is on the North side of the road at milepost 53, look for cars & a sign.

Roundtrip mileage via Hwy 84/14 is 108 miles. The Mazamas suggest a gas contribution of \$0.14 cents per mile for each person, so about \$15 per person to a maximum of \$45 per car.

Permits and/or Restrictions:

[Northwest Forest Pass](#) is required. ([Day Use Pass](#) can be purchased online for \$5)

Hike Description:

The hike begins at the parking lot and after passing the restroom, heads in a northerly direction up a series of steep switchbacks. We will plateau at a junction and plan to stay left taking the "Most Difficult" trail. This starts out flat as we enter a valley but quickly steepens as we head up the valley wall, gradually turning northeast to reconnect with the main trail. From there we continue up a few switchbacks until we exit into a grassy hillside (where wildflowers bloom in the spring), and follow the open trail to the top. On a clear day, you'll be rewarded with panoramic Gorge views. We will take a break on the summit to catch our breath and have a short meal break. On descent we will return via the slightly longer and more gradual Augspurger trail, heading first northwest before turning south back towards the river.

This is a good opportunity to test your gear while building up your fitness. Portions of this trail have loose rock where hiking poles come in handy. The plan will be to take a 10-minute break approximately every hour. We will also take a short 5-minute break after the first 10-15 minutes to adjust/remove layers once everyone has warmed up.

Coordinates (WGS 84)

Trailhead	10 T 600601 5061450 Elev. 140'	First Junction	10 T 600430 5061790 Elev. 780'
Augspurger Junction	10 T 600470 5064430 Elev. 2240'	Summit	10 T 601110 5063420 Elev. 2940'

Weather:

[NOAA](#)
[MeteoBlue](#)
[Windy](#)

Student Gear:

A detailed gear list below. This hike will be similar in length and elevation to last week, so consider suitable increases in your pack weight.

If you have any questions about the gear list, please email Lauren or Carrie.

Checklist (x - mandatory, o – optional)

Clothes:

- ☒ Good hiking boots (always better than bad ones)
 - ☐ Liner socks
 - ☒ Wool or poly blend socks
 - ☒ Fleece jacket, vest or wool sweater (middle layer)
 - ☐ Fleece or wool pants (optional middle layer)
 - ☒ Waterproof/breathable jacket or shell
 - ☒ Waterproof/breathable pants/bibs
 - ☒ Fleece/wool hat or balaclava
 - ☒ Synthetic underwear/base layer
 - ☒ Thermal/polypro underwear top
 - ☒ Thermal/polypro underwear bottom
 - ☒ Mittens or gloves
 - ☒ Hat with visor, for sun or rain
 - ☒ Clean clothes (for drive home)
 - ☒ Change of shoes (for drive to/from trail)
 - ☐ Thin liner gloves
 - ☐ Handkerchief/bandanna/Kula cloth
- **NO COTTON CLOTHING (hats/bandannas ok)****

Food/Drink:

- ☒ Water (2 liters minimum)
- ☒ Snacks
- ☒ Lunch
- ☐ Carbo or Gatorade-type mix for water
- ☐ Summit snack to share

Gear:

- ☒ Backpack
- ☒ Harness
- ☒ Climbing gear (ATC, carabiners, prussik cords, etc.)
- ☒ Water bottles or hydration bladder
- ☒ Headlamp (with extra batteries)
- ☒ Sunscreen & Lip protection
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Ski or trekking poles
- ☐ Gaiters (recommended)
- ☐ Small insulite sit pad
- ☒ 60m ropes (to share, provided by leaders)

Additional Personal Gear:

- ☒ Whistle
- ☒ Map & Compass
- ☒ Pocket knife
- ☒ Waterproof matches/lighter
- ☒ First aid kit
- ☒ Extra clothing (socks, gloves, hat)
- ☒ Garbage bags (for muddy boots in the car!)
- ☒ \$6 cash per car for bridge tolls or a [Breezeby account](#)
- ☒ Emergency space blanket/Bivy sack
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Watch/Altimeter
- ☐ Electronics (cell phone/GPS)
- ☐ Microspikes
- ☐ Post-climb munchies

[Conserve paper! Please print the map on the back of this page.](#)

JUST FOR FUN: a few things we might see

Check out [iNaturalist](#) for much, much more



Arrowleaf Balsamroot



Gyromitra fungi (poisonous)



Brown Dog Tick (most common tick in Oregon)



Orange Jelly "Witches Butter" fungi



Western White Trillium



Rattlesnake Plantain



Poison Oak - early spring growth
(as seen 2 weeks ago on Augspurger Trail)



Morel mushroom (if we're lucky!)



Pacific Northwest Rattlesnake



Columbia Gorge Kittenail



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Candyflower



Pelt Lichen