



Coastal Discovery Center *at Camp Gray*

Outdoor Science School Student Packet **Spring 2025**

3400 SW Abalone Street
South Beach, Oregon 97366
Phone: 541.819.0030
Email: CoastalDiscoveryCenter@omsi.edu



Student Infor

Everyday Encounters with Science

WELCOME! We are excited you'll be participating in an OMSI Outdoor Science School program. This packet will provide you with the information you need to make your OMSI Outdoor Science School experience as rewarding as possible. Please read it carefully and refer to it throughout your planning process.

Who to contact for help:

If you have questions about the packet or about your program, please contact your group leader. Your group leader should have all of the site specifics and contact information.

Outdoor School for all

OMSI Equity Statement:

OMSI respects, values, and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that make each person who they are. We believe that we will be successful in accomplishing our mission and vision when we seek out and respond to diversity of participation, thought and action. We will work to dismantle barriers to equity and access to the experiences OMSI provides and to create welcoming environments and conditions where all people can reach their full potential.

In keeping with this opening line of OMSI's equity statement, OMSI Outdoor School uses and supports inclusive pronouns. OMSI Outdoor School staff will introduce themselves using their pronouns (they, she, he, etc.) and will invite students, chaperones, and teachers to do the same. OMSI's goal is for every student to have an opportunity to be true to themselves.

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OMSI Outdoors Kitchen

OMSI Outdoors prides itself on serving meals that are nutritious and homemade.

Vegetarian, dairy-free, gluten-free, and other diets can usually be accommodated as needed. OMSI Outdoors can provide foods made without a given allergen, but our facility is **not** dedicated allergen-free. We take all possible measures to cook allergen-free foods on separate, clean surfaces, but there is always a slight risk of cross-contamination. If any participant has a life-threatening allergy to a particular food, contact the program coordinator immediately to discuss if the family should send supplementary food. All pertinent dietary information should be delivered to the program coordinator at least two weeks in advance so that the kitchen staff can be prepared

Nuts and nut oils are not used in cooking in OMSI Outdoors commercial kitchens, however, we may use foods that may contain traces of nuts, or were processed in a factory that also processes nuts. Additionally, peanut butter is usually an option during lunch-making. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are always made at a table that is separate from all other lunch items to avoid cross-contamination. If participants have an airborne allergy they can be invited to make their sandwiches before the peanut butter is brought into the room. Depending on the severity of the allergy, peanut products can be removed from the kitchen for the duration of the visit.

Receiving Mail

We recommend mail is sent at least a week before the program. This will ensure that the mail arrives while the program is in progress. In the event that mail arrives late, mail with a return address will be sent back to the sender.

Student name and school or group name
Coastal Discovery Center
3400 SW Abalone Street
South Beach, OR 97366

OMSI Outdoors Program Rules and Policies

Culturally-Responsive Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

We utilize a positive behavior intervention and support procedure to address student behaviors. Unsafe or disruptive behavior may result in redirection, a break, or a call to the teacher as an initial response, depending on the type of behavior.

We strive to work closely with schools to find behavioral tools that allow all students to successfully participate in Outdoor School. We allow family-provided support adults for students. We will dismiss students whose behavior poses a threat to other students, staff, or themselves. No refunds will be available.

The goal of these policies is to ensure a safe environment for everyone on site

1. All policies maintained by the school administration apply while participating in OMSI programs. If a rule is not stated, common sense, good judgment, courtesy, respect, and safety apply. In instances where OMSI's policies conflict with school policies, OMSI will work with the school to come to a fair, safe, and equitable compromise
2. All living creatures, including people, are to be treated with courtesy and respect. This precludes the use of obscenities, jokes, or slurs relating to another's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical or mental abilities. It also means that plants, creatures, and all of nature deserve your respect and should not be damaged, injured, or harassed.
3. No adult may ever be alone with a child in a one-on-one situation
4. No type of firearm, explosive, or firework is allowed. Sharp tools will be provided as needed and are to be used in a manner that will not injure one's self or others.
5. OMSI Camp Gray is a smoke and vape-free site. Use of alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis in any form is not allowed. The use of any illegal substance will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
6. Quiet hours are observed between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except under special circumstances.
7. Students should not visit others' sleeping areas. This is to prevent problems relating to personal possessions and bullying.
8. We do not allow students to use personal electronic devices during the OMSI led activities and programs. We recognize that electronic devices may be part of a behavioral management plan or family emergency procedure, and we welcome families to reach out to discuss potential accommodations.
9. OMSI staff reserve the right to enter, inspect, and/or repair any cabin or OMSI-owned building at any time. A courtesy notification will be given when possible but is not required for OMSI staff to enter any OMSI building.
10. Violations of these policies, particularly those relating to an individual's physical or mental health and well-being, might include immediate removal from programs.

OMSI Outdoors Health, Safety, and Emergency Procedures

Emergency phone numbers and procedures are posted near each phone on-site, and detailed procedures concerning OMSI Outdoors' emergency plans are available upon request.

Medications:

- All medications must be in their original containers and stored in a locked container.
- The health officer dispenses all medications unless that responsibility has been delegated to another adult member of the group when the student is in the field.
- Each student must be told it is their responsibility to report to the health officer at the proper time to receive medications.

Minor Illness or Injury:

Report any illness or injuries to a teacher or the designated health officer.

Serious Injury or Illness:

- DO NOT MOVE the injured/ill person(s). Contact the designated health officer, a teacher, or an OMSI staff member immediately. Send one adult (or two students) with the following information:
 - WHERE to find the injured person(s)
 - WHO is injured
 - WHAT happened
 - WHO is staying with the injured person(s)
- The emergency phone number from Camp Gray is 911. Only the designated health officer or group leader may initiate calling for emergency medical services unless another person is the ONLY one able to call. Please notify OMSI management when calling for emergency medical services.

Missing Participant:

Notify a manager immediately. They will coordinate a search effort with the help of other trained OMSI staff.

Fire or Other Need for Evacuation:

A fire alarm or air horn signal (three short blasts, repeated) will sound. Everyone is required to gather in front of the dining hall (Welcome Deck) for instructions. Please travel in and line up by cabin groups. Each cabin chaperone should count their group to ensure all members are present.

Earthquake:

Wherever you are, drop to your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter nearby. Cover your head and neck with one arm and hand. Hold on until the shaking stops. If you're under shelter (e.g. a table or bed) hold onto it with one hand and be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts. When the shaking stops, wherever you are, head to Safe Haven Hill, our tsunami evacuation site, as quickly as possible. More instructions will be given there. The path to Safe Haven Hill is very steep and will require assistance for mobility devices and any student who experiences disability. Designate an assistant for each student in cases of emergency that both know how to find each other and best assist and what will need to be taken with for health management.

Unexpected Guests and Arrivals:

If unfamiliar people arrive on-site, greet them immediately and introduce them to OMSI staff members. Please help us ensure that nobody walks around the site without being greeted and escorted by an OMSI staff member. If a stranger becomes belligerent, will not leave, or becomes threatening, call local law enforcement immediately.

Power Outage:

Activity will continue as scheduled. A manager will inform the OMSI staff via radio of any instructions for the group and communicate with the group leader if there is a reason to adapt the program or evacuate the site.

Notes about the Weather

The Oregon coast is known for its diverse weather, meaning that on the same day we can have sunny skies and pouring rain. You may be fortunate to have a week of clear skies, or you may experience precipitation of every form, from hail to rain. When planning your trip, expect all kinds of weather. For the health and safety of your participants, everyone must come prepared with waterproof rain gear and warm clothes. In cases where extreme weather requires evacuation of the site, schools/groups will be refunded the unused portion of fees. No other weather-related refunds will be issued.

Packing List

Standard Field Gear

We ask that all students, chaperones, teachers, and OMSI staff wear or bring these items during activities. Keep this list in mind when packing.

- Comfortable, broken-in shoes, good for walking all day that cover the entire foot
- Pants that cover the ankles
- Warm layers
- Rain jacket or poncho*
- Two reusable water bottles* (one liter, or 32-ounce capacity), filled at the start of each activity
- Sunscreen*
- A sturdy day pack to hold water, lunch, notebook, pencil, and other gear*

Note: All participants must bring a lunch for the first day of their program.

Sleeping/Nighttime

- Warm sleeping bag* (pack an extra blanket if needed)
- Pajamas
- Pillow (can be as simple as a stuff sack that can be filled with clothing)
- Flashlight/headlamp for in-bunk reading and traveling around camp after dark

Clothing

- Two pairs of shoes that are well broken-in. One for out in the field, and a backup pair, if they get wet
- Multiple pairs of socks (wool sock preferred, but not required)
- Two pairs of pants, long enough to cover the ankles
- An appropriate number of t-shirts, underwear, and socks
- Warm layers for under rain gear (preferably not cotton)
- warm hat/gloves (optional)

Personal Gear

- Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, hairbrush, soap)
- Washcloth and towel*
- Optional:
 - Reusable lunch bag/containers
 - Camera
 - For adults only: reusable travel mug

Please do not bring:

- Electrical equipment (phones, tablets, computer games)
- Snacks or candy (they attracts rodents which may damage your gear)

**Items that can be borrowed from camp (limited supply for those who need it).*

All clothing and gear should be marked with the owner's name. OMSI is not responsible for lost or broken items. Found items will be kept on-site for two weeks. Please call your group leader as soon as possible to arrange for their return. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

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