

# RHS Field Studies Guide: 2025-26'

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## High School

### **Zodiac Sailing Experience**

One week, one sailboat, San Juan Islands, 24 students become sailors, navigators, and teammates. This experience requires you to sail around the San Juan Islands for 4-5 days / nights. You will sleep on the boat, learn to sail, and learn about natural and human geography. Led by Mrs. Hansen and Mr. Johnson. (Not a good option for those that experience motion/sea sickness).

This field study experience allows students to explore these questions as they take on the shared responsibility of operating the Zodiac, a 160 ft schooner originally launched in 1924. Students will build strong teamwork and communication skills as they work together to sail the Zodiac in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. They will get hands-on training and experience with sailing and navigation as well as opportunities to visit marine state parks that are not accessible by the San Juan Island ferry system. During the trip, students will disconnect from social media and bond with their fellow sailors.

### **Freshman Service Experience and Team-Building**

Ms. Trepka leads the freshman for a week-long exploration of service opportunities throughout the Portland region, and combines that with fun team-building exercises to promote class unity and bonding. Students will get service experience at multiple local service groups, including *Oregon Food Bank, Sunshine Division, Hoyt Arboretum, Friends of Tryon Creek, Free Geek*, and others.

Students will practice the collaborative, social-emotional, and organizational skills that they have been working so hard on all year in their courses. This is a great opportunity for them to continue to grow together as a class and learn more about the inner workings of their city. In addition to the hands-on experience students will also be fulfilling their service hours for the year, helping them to meet an important graduation requirement.

### **Fun with Fire**

Join Mr. Orton and Mr. McLain for a week of creating artwork with fire. Students will learn welding, woodworking and blacksmithing.

Students will also tackle creating jewelry with metalsmithing and sand molding. Each day the group will head out to Northeast Portland to meet up with a variety of experts at Wildcat Hobby, a shop dedicated to this kind of artwork. Students will take long lunches, walking through the Fremont neighborhood which has a wide range of food options including Fire on the Mountain, Nepali Kitchen, donuts, Hawaiian food, a fantastic bakery, and a taco shop: Tacovore! On Friday, students will be downtown Portland doing an art crawl. Destinations may include notable Portland sculptures and/or art museums (weather may help us decide). Lunch

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destination Friday will be decided by the group, but may include Pioneer Place with time to wander.

## **Oregon Golf Experience**

Golf at various courses within driving distance of Portland, as well as virtual and Top Golf. A golf lesson will be part of the first day's plans. You will be home every night. The leader is Mr. Pridemore.

Golf Oregon offers an in-depth exploration of a life-long physical activity. We are able to experience and learn an individual and team activity that we otherwise could not while in school. We focus on learning the game, its rules, and etiquette while getting valuable exercise and stress reducing activities. This field studies experience allows us to personalize the students' learning based on their skill level and allows us to teach the game of golf to those who are new to the sport while still challenging the more experienced player. It is a great way to learn a life-long skill, physical activity, and social connection with their peers and adults in a supportive environment.

## **Summer Lake (Seniors Only)**

Students spend the week in and around Paisley, Oregon. Leaders are Ms. Keldorf and Mr. Preacher.

While there, students will explore the unique landscapes of south central Oregon and consider an essential question centered around the urban-rural nature of our state. When possible, students will spend time with Paisley High School students in facilitated discussions about their experiences living in different parts of the state. The Summer Lake field studies experience complements what all seniors learn over the course of their fall trimester in Geology. In addition to exploring the physical landscape of central Oregon, students also engage in a service project with Paisley High School students at the Summer Lake Wildlife Area, located just outside of Paisley, Oregon. Riverdale HS and Paisley HS students share their experiences as Oregonians, acknowledging the differences and similarities between urban and rural experiences.

## **STEM Explorations**

Students who opt for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Explorations during Field Studies Week will have the opportunity to visit research facilities, businesses and college campuses so that they may engage with professionals currently working in STEM fields, gain further knowledge about STEM careers and learn how to plan their educational pathway. Leaders are Ms. Carroll, Mrs. Mahoney and Mr. Laughlin

The week will include hands-on experiences applying a variety of science principles, engaging with guest speakers and in-person field trips to Oregon Zoo, OMSI, iFLY, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Oregon State University campus and an afternoon learning about tissue and organ donation with Donate Life. Students will deepen their understanding of where education can take them. . This trip includes two nights out of town in Newport, Oregon for our marine science labs and field experiences. In alignment with our dedication to the CES principle of "Personalization" students who are interested in exploring future STEM careers will have the opportunity during Field Studies Week to engage in a personalized exploration of STEM fields and careers. This week of activities fulfills the Oregon

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Department of Education Personalized Learning graduation requirement of Career-Related Learning Experiences. “Career-Related Learning Experiences are structured educational experiences that connect learning to the world beyond the classroom. When students participate in these activities, they are better able to imagine their future career pathways and plan for life after high school.[ODE website](#)”