

Parent/Family Information

Welcome to Outdoor School

We have been eagerly preparing for your arrival and are looking forward to serving your family at Camp this week!

Important Things to Know:

- **If you have forgotten anything at home** (ex: sleeping bag or towel) our staff may be able to help you. Don't hesitate to ask us for help.
- **The Camp Store** will be open following lunch and supper for a few minutes starting on Wednesday. Exact times will be announced. They accept cards, checks and cash. Cash is best for them. It is located on the porch of the Dining Center.
- **Coffee, Tea and Hot Cocoa** is available 24-7 in the Dining Center. If it is running low ask at the Kitchen during the day to have it refilled. Parents you will want to monitor your children's intake of these beverages closely and help us avoid children taking sugar or creamer shots.
- **Special Diets and Supplements:** If you have a special diet and needed to bring your own food to supplement the camp meals then the kitchen may be able to store refrigerated items with your name on them in our refrigerator. Head to the kitchen and ask at the counter. If the camp is providing food for your special diet listen for an orientation containing instructions for these items in the first few meals. If you didn't notify us in advance of a special diet need we still may be able to help accommodate it. Ask at the kitchen for more information.
- **Ice:** If you brought a cooler and need ice throughout the week the kitchen may be able to provide you with ice. Ask at the kitchen counter. There is also a small refrigerator in the dining hall available for guest use. If you use it be sure your items are clearly marked with your name.
- **Wireless Internet:** This facility is remote and doesn't have wireless internet for guest use at this time.
- **Please be on Time:** The schedule is complex to maximize learning opportunities. Please be on time to all scheduled classes/activities and meals that you plan on attending. Arriving late will make the volunteer teacher's job much more difficult. A few lessons require traveling during the class, and if you aren't on time then they may leave without you. This includes free time activities if they have a specific starting and ending time.
- **Nurses and Medical Emergencies:** Most minor medical needs can be met by parents. Should you need additional medical assistance we will have volunteer nurses on site. If you need a nurse please reach out to our staff members and they can help connect you with a camp nurse.
- **Bed Wetting:** Bed wetting is common and our staff is accustomed to handling it. If more than the parent is prepared to handle: In the morning let our staff know which cabin/room and bunk the wet bed is on. Our staff will do our best to remove the bedding and have it back on the bunk dried before nightfall.

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Our Approach to Education: Glen's Gizmos programs take a holistic approach to education from a Christian perspective. This means at camp we strive to help outdoor school participants find identity, meaning and purpose in life through connections with their family, community, the natural world, and Jesus Christ. We believe an outdoor school program should encourage and equip students to develop a reverence for life, and a passionate lifelong love of learning. Activities and classes are designed to provide relationship building opportunities, while at the same time promoting academic opportunities.

Classes and Structured Activities: Class sessions (sometimes called field studies) are assigned based on age and age categories and may be broken down further alphabetically by last name if we have over 100 guests in attendance. **It is important to have students attending the assigned class/rotation so our staff can accurately predict class sizes.** If you as a parent would like to have your child attend a different class rotation please seek approval in advance from the class teacher, understanding that it may not be possible. Even if you aren't in class sessions with another family you came with you'll have lots of time to see them and build memories the rest of the day. "Make new friends, but keep the old. New are silver, but the old are gold."

Punctuality: You will want to be on time to all scheduled classes/activities because many classes take place outside the initial meeting room and the group may travel during the lesson.

Attendance: You and your family members are encouraged to attend events. If a child attends the classes and activities then they are more likely to learn, strengthen relationships, and build memories at Outdoor School. However, we recognize that the schedule is very full, and kids (and parents) need breaks. Parents are responsible for letting their own children know what their attendance expectations are. If you as a parent feel your child could use a break, or wish to take a hike for family time this is fine. **Children should not be outside of classes/activities without parent supervision.** This means that you can take your child away instead of attending an activity with them, but you can't send them off on their own without a parent present. Also, the pool is only available during designated times in the afternoon. Please avoid distracting children in classes or activities if you are choosing not to participate for a session. For example: If you wish to use the gym but another activity is taking place there, then you'll need to quietly head elsewhere.

Journal Pages and Worksheets: Some years the older kids may be receiving a workbook with schedules, journal pages, ID charts, scavenger Hunts, and numerous other documents. If provided parents should communicate your expectations for how much and which pages you'd like them to fill out each day. Please look through their workbooks so you will know what they have available. Not all of the pages are appropriate for all ages, but you can pick and choose what you'd like them to try. A few classes may also be handing out worksheets to be filled out during the class.

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Skits: Some years each family will be assigned an optional skit upon arrival. Your family members will be both the audience and the performers in the skits. Please plan on presenting a short family friendly skit. It doesn't need to be fancy, but a little preparation would go a long way so you'll probably want to practice as a family in advance. We have goofy dress up clothes and a few props we'll make available to borrow in the auditorium, but you might want to keep your eyes open for other prop or costume ideas to bring with you. If you have a parent approved skit for your family to do that is fine, but please practice it with parents present (or better yet with parents performing in it). **PARENTS:** Ideally skits should be shorter than 4 minutes, have a fun punch line, and **MUST** avoid any inappropriate language, action, bullying, put downs, or violent behaviors. If it seems questionable it probably isn't a good idea to use it. For the sake of time we don't plan on having skits featuring individuals this year. Skits will be dinner performances this year. Please be ready by supper time on Wednesday or Thursday.

Online Photo Albums: Throughout the week we'll be collecting pictures to share with your family. When you get back home visit https://www.homeschoolhub.org/share/9POCDpUYyKZz53zj?utm_source=manual to access and download copies of photos taken during the week. The photo albums are in our Homeschool HUB network and require a free account to access them. If you have other family such as grandparents who would enjoy them they are welcome to join our network. If you have a digital camera consider sharing pictures with other families, we'll collect pictures toward the end of the week and upload them to the group.

Fishing: While you are welcome to bring a fishing pole, we are not confident the pond at Ochoco Christian Camp and Conference Center has fish in it. Perhaps bring a pole and let us know. I am confident that if you bring a net you will catch interesting critters in the pond and stream.

Boating: Ochoco has paddle boats on the pond! They will be open during designated family free times. A parent must be present for boating and lifejackets must be worn correctly the entire time. Boating is done at your own risk.

Campout Night: Some years there is a family campout option, not every year. This is an opportunity for a family to stay out one night in a tent instead of the cabin. Usually this is offered on years with a survival theme.

Boundaries and Hiking: Ochoco Christian Conference Center is surrounded by a cattle fence and 850,000 acres of National Forest. Families are encouraged to explore together, though there is no clearly marked trail system in many areas. There are some access roads. There is a trail to another property owned by Ochoco Christian Camp known as the Activities Property. While we won't have many activities scheduled there this week it is a beautiful hike for a family to take. Bring drinking water and refer to your camp map for the trailhead location. It is a good idea to let another adult know

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where your family is headed and when you expect to return if adventuring off site.

Children should not be leaving the main camp without a parent.

Formal Dinner:

We will be having a Formal Dinner on Thursday Night. You'll want to bring a formal item to wear to this meal. However, don't think fancy or expensive. We call it a formal dinner, but really it is a fun/goofy dress up occasion. So think of fun clothes, neon colors, things that react under black light, silly hats, neck ties, etc. You also don't need to go all out. Bringing one clip on neck tie or silly hat for each member of your family is plenty to make it fun and memorable.

Fires:

Due to fire danger and the summer timing we can't have campfires outside.

Meal Setup, Serving and Cleanup:

Ochoco Christian Camp serves cafeteria style at meals. **Each family will be helping get ready for a meal, serving behind the buffet line, and cleaning up after the meal once during the week.** Your family's assigned time is determined alphabetically using the first two letters of your last name. You can find this time by looking on the schedule prior to each meal and searching for the range that your family's name fits with. Please plan on showing up with your family 15 minutes prior to the meal you are assigned to set up for and staying 10 minutes after the meal to help cleanup. This is a great opportunity to teach and model responsible behavior and a servant's attitude. **Setup Duties:** Wash hands at the hand washing sink just inside the kitchen doors. Check with the kitchen staff to see what they need help with. **Serving Duties:** Older kids and adults will be asked to help dish food to other families as they travel down the buffet line. This is a great opportunity to be friendly, smile and meet new friends. **Cleanup Duties:** Sweep up any messes on the floor using brooms from the hallway (near the restrooms). Wipe down tables with sanitizing rags.

Supervision of Infants and Toddlers:

Childcare is available in a nursery room at scheduled times during morning classes and the parent workshop. Refer to the schedule for ages and times. We will have two adult volunteers in the nursery room during these times. The nursery room is located in the carpeted family room next to the Dining Hall. Shoes are not allowed on this white carpet. If all of the infants are dropped off in the nursery room at the same time then the volunteer staff will be overwhelmed. Please be sure to sign your children in and out. When you go to drop your child off note how many children are already in the room and stick around if it looks like the volunteers have their hands full. You are welcome to take infants into classes with you as long as they aren't causing a distraction. If they do cause a distraction just duck out and then join back in again when they calm down. When childcare is not available the nursery room is still open and you are welcome to go there with your children anytime.

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Supervision of Children:

Supervision of children throughout the week is the responsibility of the parents in attendance with their children. Please plan on being in classes and participating in activities with your kids. If the kids are not involved in a class time then you as the parent must be with them at all times. If you have multiple children in different sessions at the same time, by default plan on attending with younger children a majority of the time. We are leaving it up to you as the parent to ultimately determine which children would benefit most from your involvement in their class. The older kids in the 14-18yr old age range will usually be fine without an adult present, though you are welcome to attend these classes if you wish.

Each day before lunch we'll call on all of our volunteer staff to help run recreation activities and handle supervision of children while parents are in the parent workshop and taking a break. You'll drop children off and pick them up at the locations listed on the schedule.

General Policy: For safety and accountability reasons please avoid one-on-one situations with children beyond your immediate family. If we have concerns over your behavior you will hear from us. We reserve the right to require a parent or family to leave camp at any time by our discretion if we feel like they are a danger to others or themselves. Our staff are mandatory reporters and required by law to notify authorities if we note anything which indicates a child is not safe.

- **Stream and Pond:** While we do encourage exploring the streams on camp with parent supervision for children, we ask that you not wade in or swim in the pond. However capturing creatures to study from the stream and shore of the pond is great fun and highly encouraged.
 - **PARENTS: The stream and pond are located in the center of camp near areas your family will frequently be in. Please keep a very close eye on your littlest kids as these waterways are very attractive and could be dangerous to them without your supervision.**
- **Swimming Pool:** Ochoco Christian Conference Center has an outdoor swimming pool! Swimming is not allowed in the pond. Please bring a Modest Swimsuit, Lifejacket & Floaties for little kids. Similar to pools in hotels as per Ochoco Christian Conference Center policy there is no lifeguard on duty. **Swimming is during designated afternoon family free times and only under direct parent supervision.** Ochoco Christian Conference Center and Glen's Gizmos are not responsible for your child's safety while swimming.

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Age Limitations:

- **High Ropes Course** – Not available this year, but will likely be available next year. These elements can be seen on the activities property only a short hike through the national forest. The course is currently being repaired and recertified for safety.
- **Slingshot Range or Archery Range – Available every other year.** Campers must be **9 years and older** to participate at the slingshot range. These are powerful slingshots, not meant for toys. The range is only open at designated times and those participating must follow the directions of a staff member closely or lose the privilege of participating.
- **Inflatable Slides** – Campers must be **10 years or younger** to use our inflatable slides. The slides aren't made to support any significant amount of weight and will be damaged and become dangerous to older kids.

Lending Library and Bedtime Stories:

There is a lending library full of children's books and resource books available in the Auditorium next to the Dining Hall. You are encouraged to check out books (fill out the checkout sheet on the table) and use them throughout the week. Please return them before the week is over or return them in your cabin kit box when you check out.

Cabins:

Each cabin has one queen bed and at least one twin bunk for each child in your family. Families will need to bring their own sleeping bags/bedding and linens. There is a bathroom and electricity. You will find the housing and food is fantastic.

Food Service:

You will receive a link to fill out your allergy/diet information at least a week prior to camp. If you didn't receive a link please email joel@glensgizmos.com right away. Sometimes if a person has more than one dietary need the family may wish to bring food to help supplement at meals. If you do bring food there is a microwave and the kitchen can help keep items cool for you. Because of their staffing and tight production schedules the kitchen is not usually able to help prepare items brought from home unless a plan is in place prior to camp.

Bedtimes:

Many activities run late into the evenings. You as a parent are expected to choose the bedtime for your children and head them in that direction when the time comes, most likely between the hours of 7:30-11:00pm. We are expecting older children/families to stay up later and have activities later in the evening that are appropriate for older kids, but would be a struggle for younger children. Feel free to get a good night's sleep.

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All Camp Emergencies:

In the unlikely event that we have an all camp emergency (such as a lost camper or fire) our volunteers will have everyone in camp head to one safe central location.

Fire Drill: Once during the week at random the camp will conduct a mandatory emergency drill. The alarms will sound and/or a bell may be ringing. When this happens head to the intersection at lower end of the pond near the dining hall. We will gather there and take a quick count of families. Let your kids know this is happening as well and what to do. It is also at this time that we will take an all camp photo.

Feedback – Help us continue to improve:

If you have advice or feedback please help improve upon this program by filling out the participant Survey located in your arrival packet during the week and returning it in your family's cabin kit at the end of the week.

Additional things to remember:

- Don't forget to wear sunscreen and drink lots of water! The nurses may have some if you forgot it.
- **Your kids will be looking to you as they decide how to react during the week.** If you are having a good time, participating in games, singing silly songs, willing to act a little goofy, and make new friends then they will too. **Positive parent attitude is especially important** to assure your kids have a great time regardless of weather conditions.
- **Older Parents and Students:** Remember to keep your competitive nature in check when playing with younger kids.
- **Thank our staff.** Our staff are volunteers. They are taking time from their schedule to provide an unforgettable week for you at outdoor school. Please model and encourage thankful and patient behavior. Don't forget to thank them!

NOTES: