

Parent/Family Information

Welcome to Family 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** our staff may be able to help you. Don't hesitate to ask us for help.
- The resort has a **coffee shop that offers drinks, tea, hot chocolate, pizza** and a number of other items. They accept cards, checks and cash. Cash is best for them. It is located in the front office.
- **Coffee** are available 24-7, free in the Dining Tent. If it is running low ask at the Kitchen during the day to have it refilled. Parents you will want to monitor you children's intake of these beverages closely and help us avoid children taking sugar or creamer shots.
- **Special Diets and Supplements:** Please bring items you'll need for special diets and supplements. If we know about your dietary needs we will accommodate it at the meals we provide.
- **Meals:** An arrival barbecue will be provided along with all breakfasts. You will need to figure out Lunches and other dinners on your own. Each room will have a mini fridge, coffee maker and microwave at a minimum. Some rooms will have small kitchens. For rooms without kitchens we will have shared kitchen space nearby for families. We provide basic dishes and pans including frying pans, pots, plates, silverware, cups, etc. There is also shared barbecue space which makes for a great cooking option.
- There are several **restaurant options** in town. Learn more here: <https://sunriseresorthoodcanal.com/blog/2021/07/hoodport-restaurants-where-to-eat-when-visiting-hood-canal/>
- There is a small, but well stocked grocery store in town. The Hood Canal Grocery.
 - <https://www.loc8nearme.com/washington/hoodsport/hood-canal-grocery/2386018/>
- **Bedding and Linens** are provided by the resort, including towels. If you need replacement linens during the week let the resort staff know and they can help.
- **Pets:** You can have pets in the rooms, they will cost a little extra per night and there is a 2 pet maximum per room. It is our suggestion that you don't bring pets as the rooms are small. If you do decide to bring them please work out payment upon arrival directly with the resort staff.
- **Ice:** If you need ice the coffee shop/office can help you get it.
- **Wireless Internet:** This facility has internet if you need it. If the network name has motel as part of the name then the password is "sunrisemotel" if resort is part of the name then the password is "sunriseresort".
- **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.
- **Medical Emergencies:** Most minor medical needs can be met by parents. Should you need additional medical assistance we will have volunteers trained in CPR and First Aid on site.
- **Bed Wetting:** Bed wetting is common and the resort staff can help you clean and dry bedding.

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- **Hot Tub** use is at parents risk and discretion. Please do not go back and forth from the hot tub to ocean and back again. It brings in a lot of debris and dirties the hot tub for others.
- **Swimming in the Sound** is at parents risk and discretion. The water is quite cold and the rocks are sharp, especially the oyster shells and barnacles. Please consider using water shoes, sunscreen and flotation devices.
- **Kayaks:** We will have a couple sit on top kayaks available for families to use. Please take care to carry them over the rocks and concrete without dragging them so they aren't damaged. They scratch easily. All people kayaking must wear lifejackets and boating is done at the participants own risk.
- **Sunscreen:** Wear it, especially on boats.
- **Water Shoes:** There are sections of the beach with small round rocks, and sections with very sharp shells. Please bring sandals at a minimum and water shoes are probably even better.
- **If participating in the Discover SCUBA class:** We need to know right away so the dive shop can get materials and equipment ready for you. Cost is only \$50 for a class session, equipment rental, book and one-on-one time in the water with an instructor. Diving will be up to 10 ft down. Students 10 years and older (providing the gear fits) can participate along with adults.
- **Safety:** Vehicles move fast on the highway above the resort building. Please help kids avoid that area by staying on the lower side of the building. There is also a concrete wall along the water. Parents will have to monitor the youngest kids for safety there as well.
- **Other things to do: Hiking and more!** <https://sunriseresorthoodcanal.com/diving-more/>

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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.glensgizmos.com/photo-albums/category/family-camps> 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.

Optional Fishing: While you are welcome to bring a fishing pole and gear, you will need a Washington fishing license. There are salmon and rock fish to catch from the shore.

Boating to Dinner:

On Wednesday or Thursday night your family will have the option to take a boat trip down the water to the local Mexican restaurant. Food is usually \$12-20 per plate.

Meal Setup, Serving and Cleanup:

Each family will be helping get ready for a meal 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,

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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:

It is the parents job to provide supervision of their kids at all times. For the littlest ones this will be made easier because of the close proximity of rooms to meeting spaces.

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.

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.

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.

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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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:

- **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: