

## **Adventure Awaits!**

Take something you love in the outdoors and share it with the rest of us!

We believe in strengthening families and that the family structure in America is under attack. Our culture doesn't value our elders the way we should, we don't often have deep intergenerational friendships and I want to see that change. God gave us families, I'd like to see families strengthened.

Shared experiences are a major way relationships are built. Sharing places and things that matter to us, hospitality. Roxanna and I have no home, but we do have many of our favorite places which are dear to us and we want to extend the invitation to share these places with us.

Dad's this is your opportunity to step up. We are hoping both parents can be involved and to engage the entire family. Most events will be on weekends, especially Saturdays.

### **Goals:**

Christ Centered

Provide lifelong positive memories for families, shared experiences they can remember back to when things get tough.

Strengthen Marriages

Showcase our Creator through outdoor education and the study of his handiwork.

Provide opportunities for Teens and Parents to stay connected through outdoor adventure.

### **Geographic Area:**

The Pacific Northwest, to start with primarily Washington and Oregon, though if people start connecting with us from other states we would be happy to talk about looking broader. The great thing about family adventures is they can happen anywhere. Rarely do we really know what is even in our own backyard.

### **Cost:**

\$6 per person per activity with a family max of \$30.

- After that it depends on the activity.
  1. If we go Backpacking then the cost will be minimal, perhaps permits required by the forest service or ranger station.
  2. If we go rafting down a technical river or charter a boat for whale watching then the cost will be higher. Rafting the White Salmon River for example is likely to be around \$55-\$60/person which will be paid directly to the professional rafting company for equipment and guides.

3. Many adventures will not carry any additional cost at all. For example hiking up NeahKahNie Mountain and spending time on the coast will only be \$6 / person or a max of \$30 per family.

So you might be wondering, where is that \$6 going.

- \$3 goes to Glen's Gizmos. We are using to pay for things like payment processing, website services, registration services, photo sharing so you can download event photos, collectors coins, communication and T-Shirts.

**THAT'S RIGHT**, at the first event your family attends we will be giving you each a T-Shirt! We recognize we will likely never recover the cost of a T-Shirt on \$3 per event considering all of the other expenses, but we really wanted your first shirt to be our gift to each of you. These shirts are to be worn to each Glen's Gizmos event so we can easily identify who is in our group and build community. This way if we go to some place like Champoeg State Park to ride bikes, or to a pumpkin patch together we can easily strike up conversation with other families and make new friends! So to get your families first free shirts simply attend your first event with us. If you want additional shirts for your family they can be purchased at \$10 per shirt (plus shipping if shipping them to you). This fall a link to purchase additional shirts will be added to our website at [www.glensgizmos.com](http://www.glensgizmos.com).

#### **OK, I get that. What about the other \$3?**

- So really this question starts with how many events will there be a year. Roxanna and I can only directly provide 15-20 quality opportunities to connect each year, our hearts want to do more, but our budget and schedule can't do it.
- Then there are activities we know others would love, but we lack the expertise to coordinate them. For example, a day of basket weaving. We know very little about this. What about going to the dunes and riding quads or dirt bikes? We don't know anything about that, but recognize the value in these activities. So we are opening it up for help coordinating events.
- The other \$3 goes to the event coordinator to help offset the financial burden of coordinating an event. We want to equip people, and one way to do this is to reduce the financial hurdles to running an event.
- So that \$3. If Roxanna and I coordinate the event we also keep the other \$3. We will use it for things like fuel and setup expenses, snacks, water, and other direct costs, we will stretch those dollars to make the event incredible!
- If another approved person coordinates an event we will manage the sign ups, publicity (we have connections to homeschooling families across the PNW), provide shirts to new families and collectors coins. We hope other event coordinators will also use that \$3 generously to prepare the most fantastic family opportunities.
- No one will be getting rich off of the money you pay in, it is a minimal cost.

**Then there are the collector coins.** You received the first one today. The first Family Adventure coin ever minted. At every event there will be a new unique coin and design given out to children in

attendance. The coins themselves are printed by us in house on our 3D printer. There are some printing now if you haven't seen it at work yet. If you are attending our meeting from home Roxanna and I will mail your kids collectors coins if you ask. Please email me at [joel@glensgizmos.com](mailto:joel@glensgizmos.com) and let me know what address to send them to and how many to send. Of course for all future events you'll only receive them if you attend our events in person.

The coins themselves are 34mm in diameter and sized to fit into 34mm coin and medallion collection books. After running a our first few events we hope to provide one of these books specifically for collecting these coins.

### **This is sounding pretty good, how can I help?**

- If you can help out please do! There are lots of things we need help with.
- Some Examples Include:
  - managing photographs and videos, editing media
  - sharing information with others – emailing, Facebook and Phone Calls
  - committing to pray for the program and all of us involved.
  - applying to take the lead as an adventure coordinator. For those leading events there will be an application process which will involve a background check. If we note anything causing us concern we will not accept your application for an event.

Please take a few moments to fill out our quick survey. We have paper copies here along with pencils if you need them. This will ask for your contact information so we can stay in touch. It will also ask about volunteering, and has a few short questions to help us tailor this program to your family.

What are the next steps:

- If you want to volunteer to help: You'll need to fill out a volunteer application. They will be available soon on the Glen's Gizmos website at: [www.glensgizmos.com](http://www.glensgizmos.com).
- How can my family start attending events?
  1. First be sure you are on our mailing list by providing your email on surveys. Email is our primary form of communication. Also, check to be sure my email [joel@glensgizmos.com](mailto:joel@glensgizmos.com) is on your safe senders list. We use mailing list software that easily allows people to sign up, or unsubscribe from our mailing lists. Sometimes email services identify this software as SPAM and will block or send emails to the SPAM folder. If you want to stay up-to-date be sure we aren't going into your SPAM folder.
  2. Second, we primarily use email and Facebook to communicate with families. If you aren't already a member of our closed Facebook Group "Glen's Gizmos Homeschoolers" please join us now. Simply search on Facebook for Glen's Gizmos Homeschoolers and ask to join us. We will approve your request quickly.
  3. And finally, be watching for invitations to events we will putting up many different events soon through our website, email and Facebook. We will likely start with simpler

events, and move to more complex activities after finding ways to train member families if needed. In the description of each event we will clearly describe the activities so you can decide if they are appropriate for your children and the cost.

4. Registration for events will be happening through our registration database. We use a system called Camp Brain. It is a bit involved, but not bad the first time you create a family account. Your basic family information including parent, emergency contact information and names along with ages of children is stored year to year. This means you'll only need to create a family account in our system once. After that all you'll need to do is sign back in using your password, select the adventure you are registering for and which family members will be attending.
  - We collect this information so we can reach the right people in the unlikely case of a lost parent or other emergency.
- If you already have an account you can simply click the forgot password button if you can't remember your password.

These are the first events we will be publishing. Please be patient with us however as our next several weeks are very full with programs throughout the NW.

- Rock Cutting, bring a rock and find out what's inside! Thundereggs, agates, or even plain old driveway rocks if you are curious. Location: Newberg, OR
- Pumpkin Patch Excursion: Location TBD
- Corn Maze (not haunted): Location TBD
- Rafting the White Salmon River: Washington
- Climbing Neah-Kah-Nie Mountain (Oregon Coast)
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Snow Camping
- Tidepool Exploration
- Clamming / Crabbing
- Kayaking
- Pottery Activity
- Ceramic Ornament Creation
- Trip up Saddle or Kings Mountain in Oregon
- Birdwatching
- Bug Collecting
- Bicycle Riding
- Bow Making
- Flint Knapping
- Zipline Tour
- Ropes Course Challenge
- Fishing
- Guided Nature Hikes
- Mushrooms, lichens and Clothing Dyes
- Caving
- Star Party

- Discover SCUBA
- Backpacking / Camping
- Movie Nights

**Today: Sign Up for Family Account! (free)**

Visit [www.glensgizmos.com](http://www.glensgizmos.com) and click on the link for Family Adventures.

There you will find a link to register your families account and this also allows us to reach out to you when new adventures are published.

- 1. Sign Up for a family account.**
- 2. Get Excited!**