

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Kraxberger Outdoor School

Why have outdoor education?

The basic philosophy of Outdoor School (ODS) is, simply, leaving the classroom to teach those things in the out of doors which may best be taught there. Unlike the traditional classroom, ODS students are surrounded by what they study and can see, feel, hear, smell and even taste the realities of the natural world around them. They learn with all their senses. ODS is not an attempt to add new subject matter to curriculum. Rather, it provides an ideal environment for teaching certain areas of study which suffer in the comparatively sterile atmosphere of the indoor classroom.

What will the curriculum include?

The curriculum will include lessons on beaches/dunes, ponds, plants, arthropods, survival, environmental art, as well as environmental footprints. Many of the lessons reinforce skills learned in science, language arts, social studies, art and math.

Do all sixth graders attend camp?

Almost all sixth graders go to camp, but since outdoor school is not a requirement, some parents choose to not have their child attend. Much of the science curriculum after Spring Break centers around the skills students will be learning at ODS; camp is an extension of the science curriculum both before and after camp. Periodically, students who have demonstrated poor behavior at school are not allowed to attend ODS. Students who don't attend camp will be placed in an alternate classroom for the week and will complete the same work using textbooks and the internet.

How much will it cost my child to go to ODS?

The cost to each child is \$125.00. Please pay by April 14th. Making monthly payments is fine, but it must be paid in whole before the child may get on the bus to camp.

Does the school district share in ODS costs?

Yes, the district pays about 1/3 of the total cost of ODS. This year the total cost to send sixth graders to camp is over \$40,000.00. After the \$125.00 student fee per camper, the remainder of the money is paid through fund raisers, grants written by the teachers, and the Gladstone School District.

Will there be funds available for needy students?

Yes, families should contact Ms. Bisenius to apply for a *partial* scholarship.

This should be done no later than April 10th when the camper fee is due.

Send a note to your child's teacher or email directly: biseniup@gladstone.k12.or.us

Can a camper be sent home mid-week?

Yes. You will need to sign a contract with the school district that you understand you are responsible to pick up your child **at camp** in a timely manner if your child becomes sick (the camp nurse will make this decision) or if your child is not following the safety and behavior rules at camp (the camp director will make this decision). Please plan ahead. Sorry, we can't offer refunds.

What kinds of safety and behavior rules do you have at ODS?

Rules for camp are basic safety rules – be safe, be respectful, and be responsible. Students will be well aware of rules. For example: *No one is allowed in the ocean at any time; No one may be unsupervised at any time; No electronics are allowed on the buses or at camp.*

What kind of supervision is provided at ODS?

Supervision at ODS will be provided by the sixth grade teachers as well as 20 high school counselors each week.

Who will supervise the living quarters at night?

High school counselors will be in direct supervision of living quarters at night. Adults will sleep in separate rooms/cabins in the same areas.

What are the sleeping quarters like?

Campers will be in a dormitory setting - *rooms with 4 bunkbeds with bathrooms/showers in the hallway* or they will be in cabins - *4 bunkbeds with two private attached bathrooms/showers.*

Who will cook the food at ODS?

Twin Rocks has a full-time kitchen staff. Our experience has been that students are generally enthusiastic about the food. Campers and counselors sit in groups and eat meals that are served family style. Seconds, dessert, and treats are offered.

Yes, we will cook S'mores over the fire!

Will there be a nurse at camp?

Yes, a registered nurse will go with us each week of camp. In addition, Twin Rocks is minutes away from the Wheeler Clinic and Tillamook Hospital. There is also a paramedic who lives at the camp all year, and most of the teachers are certified in First Aid & CPR.

My child has to take daily medication. What do I do?

Give all medications and doctor's instructions for dispensing them to the camp nurse before getting on the bus at Kraxberger – original containers in a plastic baggie are best!

What kind of clothing and equipment will my child need to participate in ODS?

See the Packing List included on the ODS site. Classes are conducted in the outdoors in all weather. Plan for lots of rain and wind. Kids need warm layers, waterproof jacket, and lots of socks.

Will we need to buy hiking boots?

No, rubber boots or "duck shoes" are best. If a student has one good pair of rain boots, all they need is many pairs of thick, warm socks to make it through the week!

Are the students insured 24 hours a day?

The school and camp insurance overlap in the same manner as they are insured while at school.

What are the roles of the high school counselors?

High school counselors receive training from the sixth grade teachers and will be responsible for assisting with teaching as well as social, recreational, and living group activities under the adult staff direction.

What will be my child's share of duties while at ODS?

Students will attend classes and keep living quarters neat. Cabin groups have duties around camp each day helping to set tables in the dining hall, reporting the weather for the day, and participating in the daily flag ceremony.

The daily schedule amounts to a fourteen-plus hour day. Will there be a rest time?

There are breaks throughout the day between activities when kids can return to their cabins with their counselors to change wet clothes or shower. After lunch there is a scheduled rest time for reading or napping. See Daily Schedule on the school ODS site.

What kinds of recreation are planned?

A variety of activities are planned including arts and crafts, small and large group games, archery, hikes, and other activities that take advantage of the camp setting including beach time.

Are there bees, rattlesnakes, or poison oak at ODS?

There may be bees, but no poison oak or rattlesnakes.

What arrangements have been made for transportation to ODS?

We have contracted with our regular bus transportation agency. Please do not ask to drop off or pick up your child at camp. All students will ride the bus to and from camp.

Can parents visit camp while their child is at ODS?

Sorry, there are no visitors allowed at camp.

Can I send my child mail while at camp?

Yes! Since you won't be able to text, please send letters or postcards for your child. Keep the information positive to avoid creating any homesickness. Please avoid sending food or candy that will have to be confiscated for the week. You may also drop off letters (no need for a stamp!) on Monday morning at Kraxberger as students load the buses. Students will also be writing a letter home to let you know how their week is going.