



Ozark Natural Science Center
1905 Madison 1305, Huntsville, AR 72740
479-789-2754 ; <http://www.onsc.us>

Enhancing the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Ozarks natural environment.

Dear Parents,

We look forward to hosting your child's class at the Ozark Natural Science Center. There are several important issues to mention in preparation for the trip. Please review the attached ONSC Guidelines form with your student.

- Please follow the packing checklist closely; all items are listed for a reason.
- It is important to pack layers of clothing to add or remove as needed. We will be outdoors.
- Students should wear closed toe boots or shoes. No new boots.
- Raingear with head protection is required. No umbrellas please. Gloves, scarves, and stocking caps are a *necessity* for chilly weather.
- Your child's comfort is essential to learning. Please involve them in the process of careful planning and packing. They must be aware of the gear requirements and familiar with their gear.
- Complete the medical/liability release form in its entirety and sign it; some forms have 2 sides that must be completed before the child can attend.
- Any medication must be given to the teacher prior to the visit (students are only allowed to possess rescue inhalers and/or EpiPens). Please enclose medication in its original container with detailed dosage instructions in a zip-lock bag labeled with the student's name.

Please make arrangements to attend the parent meeting to be held at the school. Check with the teacher for the date and time. This meeting is your opportunity to gather information, ask questions, and learn more about the Center.

All program participants will receive a complimentary ONSC T-shirt as a memento of their trip; please send a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the T-shirt program. Checks may be made out to 'ONSC' and given to your child's teacher. If you and your child value the ONSC experience, we encourage you to consider an individual or family membership to ONSC. Members receive notifications of special programming, our quarterly newsletter, and most importantly, help ONSC to continue providing unique learning experiences for area youth and families. Please see our website for details at <http://www.onsc.us>.

Sincerely,

Ozark Natural Science Center

ABOUT THE OZARK NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

Programs and Focus

ONSC is a non-profit outdoor education center whose mission *is to enhance the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Ozark natural environment.*

Visitors enjoy the rugged natural beauty of the Ozark Mountains and receive instruction from professional field staff and guest speakers. Age appropriate programs are seasonally adjusted to complement and enrich traditional education. Many programs are interdisciplinary, weaving the natural history of the landscape with the cultural history of Native Americans and pioneer settlers who came to the War Eagle and Kings River valleys.

During the school year, the center's primary focus is a residential program for students from public, private, and independent schools in Northwest Arkansas and Northeast Oklahoma. The school-based program complements and enhances the standard science curriculum, helping teachers to meet and exceed state and national standards in science education.

Summer camps provide opportunities for youth to be involved in hands-on studies of field science that emphasize terrestrial and aquatic ecology, local flora and fauna, cave studies, astronomy, and more. Campers develop an understanding of natural diversity using scientific techniques and creative problem solving strategies. They celebrate nature through music, writing, and the visual arts, and they draw inspiration from the classic writings of well-known naturalists and scientists.

They also have fun hiking, swimming and canoeing, forming strong bonds of friendship as they develop a sense of responsibility for others and for their own personal actions.

Seasonal events provide programming for families. Participants are exposed to a natural environment that is sensitive, responsive and dynamic. ONSC offers a perfect setting for classes, retreats, meetings and small workshops.

Location

The science center is located in the heart of the Interior Highlands on the Springfield Plateau, a natural division of the Ozarks. Its 486-acre campus is three miles off Highway 23, between Huntsville and Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The central campus is bordered by the Madison County – McIlroy Wildlife Management Area.

Facilities

Amenities and services are available for day, overnight, weekend, or week-long activities for private and corporate entities based on the program calendar. Indoor space is suitable for a variety of programs, and a covered pavilion provides shelter for campfires and outdoor programs. Overnight visitors are housed in one of three comfortable lodges with a 68-person (total) sleepover capacity. The kitchen and dining room are well equipped, and meals are prepared with careful attention to quality, health, and presentation.

Gate Policies and Participant Release

When students are on the ONSC campus, all ONSC policies and procedures must be followed. If you have discipline problems, illnesses, accidents, or incidents, please contact the program liaison or the Education Director immediately. ONSC will only release the student to an authorized adult.

Our gate will be open during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. and will be locked after hours. All arrangements to have the gate unlocked after hours must be arranged with the Education Director and/or Staff Liaison.

2008–2009 Board of Directors:

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Ex officio:
Douglas Fletcher
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Little Rock, AR

COMMON CONCERNS

Educational Staff:

Jenny Harmon

Executive Director

Jason L. Kindall

Education & Research Director

Toby Von Rembow

School Program Coordinator

While at ONSC, program participants will receive instruction from our professional field staff. All instructors have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science in a natural resources field. Areas of expertise range from aquatic resources to wildlife ecology. Several instructional staff have advanced degrees.

Field Instructors

Elizabeth Hill
Steve Keltner
Naima Montacer
Dr. Joanie Patterson

Adam Schaffer
Rob Seal
Caleb Wardlaw

All ONSC personnel undergo full background checks as a condition of employment. All employees are trained in first-aid and CPR and receive training in participant safety and rescue applications annually.

Supervision

Students are supervised at all times by their teachers, chaperones, and ONSC staff. An ONSC liaison is on 24-hour-duty and instructors remain on site for the duration of the program. Teachers for each program select adult chaperones; chaperones must agree and be physically capable of supervising students at all times and participate in moderate physical activity over rough terrain.

Accommodations

Sleeping accommodations are provided by gender in our 3 climate-controlled lodges. Supervision in the lodges is provided by the students' teachers and adult chaperones. Each room has two sets of bunk beds, cubby spaces for clothing and gear, and a private vanity, toilet, and a shower.

Meals are prepared fresh daily by our professional kitchen staff. Participants will enjoy delicious hot food items and a fresh salad bar. Dietary restrictions and food allergies should be communicated to Audrey Zickwolf, ONSC Facility Manager, at 479-789-2754 in advance.

Hunting

NO hunting is permitted on the 486-acre ONSC campus and Bear Hollow Natural Area. Because limited hunting is permitted on the nearby Madison County - McIlroy Wildlife Management, all program participants wear orange vests while hiking during hunting seasons as a precaution.

Contact Information

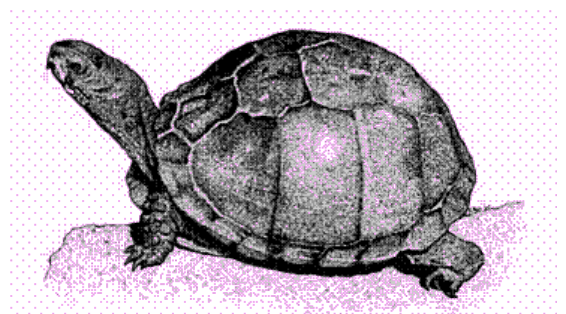
Ozark Natural Science Center
1905 Madison 1305
Huntsville AR 72740

Main Number: (479) 789-2754
Fax Number: (479) 789-2728

Email: info@onsc.us

Office Hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday

Visit the center's website at: <http://www.onsc.us>



ONSC PACKING CHECKLIST

Please follow the checklist closely. Students should be involved in the packing process so that they are aware of the gear requirements. Please note that it is not necessary to buy anything.

REQUIRED CLOTHING AND GEAR

Two complete changes of clothes, including:

- Shorts for hiking are permitted during September and May (be aware that students may be exposed to poison ivy and biting insects). Students must still pack 1 pair of long pants during this time. Long pants **required** for October through April (note: capri pants are **not** long pants)
- T-shirts and/or turtle necks
- Long-sleeved shirt or sweater
- Three pair of socks- during the winter, we recommend wool or wool blend socks.
- Sleepwear
- Underwear
- Jacket or heavy coat (weather appropriate)
- Comfortable, practical, sturdy sneakers or hiking boots. All shoes need to be closed toed and closed heeled (no sandals, flip-flops, or shoes with open sides)
- Sleeping bag or twin-sized sheets and blankets
- Pillow
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo, deodorant, and other toiletries (none are provided)
- Towel and washcloth
- Brush or comb
- Plastic or cloth bag for dirty clothes

A backpack will be provided for your student to use at ONSC:

Please pack for your child's use on the trail:

- Warm gloves and hat (weather appropriate). We discourage chemical hand-warmer packets – please help us keep our trails clean by not sending them.
- Extra layer such as sweatshirt, sweater, or jacket
- One extra pair of socks- during the winter, we recommend wool or wool blend socks.
 - Water bottle (32 oz. capacity recommended; avoid excessively large bottles)
 - 2 Pencils
- Raingear (Jacket and pant set or long poncho)
- Camera (Optional)

DO NOT BRING:

- TV, radio, tape, CD, or MP3 players, or electronic games
- Flashlights
- Alarm clock (only adults will need one)
- Knives of any kind
- Hair dryer, curling iron, curlers, or hair spray
- Umbrella
- Food, drink, candy, gum
- Jewelry
- Money
- Cellular phones or pagers
- "HotHands" or similar hand-warmer packets – please help us keep our trails clean by using warm gloves instead

ONSC PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are essential for the safety, enjoyment, and well-being of all participants. Students and parents should read the following information *together*.

Respect

- Show respect for other students, center staff, and chaperones.
- Respect center facilities and property; participants will assume financial responsibility for any damages they cause.
- Respect the personal property of others. If it is not yours, leave it alone.
- Respect the environment: "Take only pictures, leave only footprints, kill only time."
- Respect quiet time in the lodges and on trails.
- Respect shared living spaces by keeping your belongings neatly stowed.

Readiness

- Be prepared to participate enthusiastically in all activities.
- Bring a spirit of teamwork and friendship for your fellow students.
- Follow the packing checklist and be familiar with your gear.
- Bring a backpack with water bottle, rain gear, pencil, and extra socks with you to all activities.
- Be on time for all activities.

Responsibility

- Take responsibility for your own personal items throughout your stay. The center is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property.
- Share responsibility for cleaning dining area, lodges, and living spaces.
- Be responsible for your well-being; communicate any questions or concerns to the center staff. They will be happy to listen and assist you.
- Wash hands before every meal and be responsible for personal hygiene.

Safety

- Listen to all safety instructions before and during every activity.
- No running at any time.
- Stay on trails at all times.
- Do not stand on top bunk beds. Only one person at a time on top bunks.
- Do not pick up or throw rocks, sticks, or other items.

All students should understand that their conduct must be appropriate to the standards of ONSC at all times and that failure to abide by the guidelines may result in their dismissal from the program. Visiting teachers, adult chaperones, and Center staff will counsel students whenever possible to avoid dismissal.

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OZARK NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER PARTICIPANT MEDICAL FORM

Student's Name _____ Teacher's Name _____

Home Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Telephone _____

Age _____ Sex _____ Height _____ Weight _____ lbs. Date of Birth _____

Immunizations Current? Yes No Adverse reaction to medication _____

Current medication (if any) _____

Dosage Instructions _____

Dietary Restrictions _____ Allergies _____

Recent operation or illness _____

Other physical or mental limitations (please explain) _____

Parent/Guardian Names _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Address (if different than above) _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, WHAT OTHER LOCAL PERSON MAY BE CALLED?

Name _____ Telephone _____

Relationship to your child _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, WHAT OTHER PERSON MAY BE ALLOWED TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD?

Name _____ Telephone _____

Relationship to your child _____

Is there accident/health insurance coverage for the student? Yes No

Insurance Company and Policy Number _____

Family Physician _____ Telephone _____

Hospital preference for insurance purposes? Yes No

If so, name of hospital _____

If more space is needed please attach a separate sheet of paper.

PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE

Instructions: remember to sign in all 3 places. Your student can't participate without your signatures.OVER-

THE-COUNTER MEDICATION CHECKLIST

Please indicate which of the following over-the-counter medications teachers have your permission to administer to your child if needed. (These are medications that ONSC has in stock for minor medical situations.)

Student's Name _____

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)
- Benadryl (oral or cream)
- Antacid tablets (Rolaids, Tums)
- Imodium A-D (tablet or liquid form)
- Antibiotic cream (Neosporin)
- Rhuli-Gel (topical gel for poison ivy & insect bites)

Medications will be administered ONLY if needed. If the student has specific prescriptions and/or over the counter medications he/she takes regularly, please note this on the student's medical form.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I am familiar with the general nature of the program and activities planned for my son/daughter during his/her stay at the Ozark Natural Science Center. To my knowledge he/she is capable of moderate, half-day hikes, the pace of which is reasonably set and modulated by the Ozark Natural Science Center. I recognize that certain unavoidable hazards and risks are an inherent part of forest travel under changeable weather conditions. I understand that the Ozark Natural Science Center staff are qualified in first aid procedures and will do everything in their power to minimize risk and to ensure a safe enrollment for all participants. At the same time, my son/daughter is expected to abide by the rules of the Ozark Natural Science Center staff, and to accept a sensible amount of responsibility for his/her actions.

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the Ozark Natural Science Center and I authorize medical treatment for him/her in the event of an emergency. I verify that you have my permission to take my child to the nearest facility for emergency treatment. I also grant permission to dispense to my child any medication according to the prescribed directions.

Finally, on behalf of my child, my spouse, and myself, I release the Ozark Natural Science Center, it's staff, employees, agents, and those acting through it from any claims or damages of any kind or nature which might result from my child's visit to the Ozark Natural Science Center.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

MEDIA AND INFORMATION RELEASE

Periodically, the Ozark Natural Science Center uses photographs of and statements made by participants in its programs. These may be for newsletters, fund raising efforts, brochures, slide shows, videos and articles about the Center in print and on the internet. All photographs and statements are used with reasonable judgment for purposes directly related to the operation of the Center. A signed form gives the Ozark Natural Science Center permission by the signer to utilize participant photos or statements for the aforementioned purposes.

- Yes, my child may be included in photographs. No, please do not photograph my child.

From time to time the center has announcements regarding upcoming events, such as summer camps, public programs, and fundraising activities.

- Yes, I would like to receive announcements. No, please do not send me announcements.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____