

## Hancock Explorers Program Information

Journey to Hancock Field Station for a grand summer camp adventure! Programming will have a different theme each day. Campers will participate in a survival day, a wildlife ecology day, an astronomy day, and a geology and paleontology day.

On Survival Day, we will be navigating with a map and compass and will make shelters out of natural materials. We will have opportunities for tracking animal sign and practicing with early American Indian tools. The program will stress outdoor ethics and modern wilderness skills; focusing on the skills and knowledge required when working or recreating outdoors.

Ecology Day will focus on the animals and plants in Central Oregon and each animal's place in the ecosystem: its habitat, its predators, its food and its relationship to other competing species. We will also be discussing how we humans can affect the ecosystem.

The clear, dark nights at Hancock make it an ideal place for astronomy. During the day we will learn about the moon, other planets and our very own star: the sun! You will have the opportunity to discover many new things about the stars and planets and the world of space exploration. At night we will observe the sky to get a closer look at other galaxies and nebulae, attempt to count the stars in the sky, and learn our way around the spring constellations.

Discover the mysteries of ancient Oregon through fossils on Geology and Paleontology Day. We will hike the trails of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and visit some famous fossil localities. Discover how minerals make up rock, how fossils are made, how rock is eroded into canyons, and what stories are locked inside the hills.

Each night will conclude with songs and stories around the campfire. It will be a whirlwind excursion into the best that Hancock Field Station has to offer. It promises to be a fantastic week! We look forward to your participation.

### Course Syllabus

#### **OBJECTIVES: Academic and outdoor training goals**

- ◆ To investigate and observe many animal species and learn about their role in the ecosystem
- ◆ To realize the importance of careful scientific study of fossil locales and archaeological sites
- ◆ To understand human survival needs and how to prioritize and meet those needs
- ◆ To increase the student's ability to observe and understand the natural world

#### **ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field**

- ◆ Investigate animals in a semi-arid landscape and their niche in the ecosystem
- ◆ Find and identify leaf fossils
- ◆ Practice survival skills: use of compass, shelter building, and fire making techniques
- ◆ Explore animal signs: bones, scat, and tracks.
- ◆ To use telescopes and star charts

#### **SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS: Scientific Principles to be introduced**

- ◆ Ecology, habitats, niches, adaptations, and behavioral studies of native animals
- ◆ The orbits of bodies within our solar system (planets, asteroids, comets)
- ◆ Past climates, how to determine and climate changes through the fossil record
- ◆ Oregon's geologic history: concepts of stratigraphy, formations, and rock classification
- ◆ Knowledge of the lunar cycle and familiarity with constellations for basic navigation

**SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE\***  
**Hancock Explorers**

6:30 a.m.	Optional morning walk
7:00 a.m.	General camp wake-up
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Field activities (Lunch included)
2:00 p.m.	Rest & relaxation
3:15 p.m.	Snack
3:30 p.m.	Interest groups
5:00 p.m.	Recreation and free time
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:15 p.m.	Evening activity
8:30 p.m.	Campfire
9:15 p.m.	Return to cabins, prepare for bed
9:30 p.m.	Lights out/ optional observational astronomy

**\*ALL SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Programs that are partly or entirely field-based will follow a unique schedule each day, depending on the activities planned. Drive times between field sites and campgrounds will include stops for short hikes and games, meals, and bathroom breaks.

**TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION**

Cell phones are not allowed on any OMSI Science Camp program. Cell phones are too easily lost or damaged. Campers have an excellent support system at camp including their fellow campers, the counselors, the instructional staff, and the lead staff. We will ensure that any necessary communication between parents/guardians and campers can take place through the main phone at each site. Instructional staff carry cell phones during transportation and on off-site programs for emergency purposes only. An important part of the camp experience is for each camper to gain independence, develop greater resilience, and enjoy the unique opportunities offered by OMSI Science Camps without technological distractions. We are grateful for the trust parents and guardians put in our staff to care for each camper, and we appreciate the time taken in discussing this important issue with your camper before his or her program begins.

We recommend single use cameras and film cameras, digital cameras are allowed (remember your SD card and batteries). Please keep in mind cell phones with cameras will not be allowed.

For the safety of your child and OMSI Science Camps staff, we strongly discourage our staff from having contact with your child after camp since we cannot supervise it. Making new friends is one of many positive outcomes of OMSI Science Camps programs, and campers who want to stay in touch with each other may exchange phone numbers, addresses, or e-mails. Please understand that any communication between your child and another camper or a staff member after the camp session is over is the responsibility of the camper's parent or guardian to oversee.

If your child would like to contact a staff member, then email a letter to: [hancock@omsi.edu](mailto:hancock@omsi.edu).

## Equipment List

- SLEEPING GEAR:         sleeping bag  
                              pillow with pillowcase (optional)  
                              sheet (optional)  
                              pajamas
- FIELD EQUIPMENT:     2 water bottles (1 quart/liter each)  
                              flashlight or headlamp  
                              bound notebook, pencils, and pens  
                              daypack with straps  
                              **sack lunch for the first day**
- CLOTHING:             boots (sturdy, comfortable, well-fitting and broken in)  
                              boot socks (3 pair minimum, 1 slick pair for blister protection)  
                              3 pairs long pants (1 jeans and 2 lightweight, light-colored)  
                              1 or 2 pairs of shorts  
                              3 shirts, 1 long-sleeved, 2 short-sleeved  
                              adequate underwear  
                              jacket  
                              warm layers (it can get cold at night)  
                              rain gear (jacket w/hood & pants, or poncho)  
                              bandannas or handkerchiefs  
                              broad-brimmed or billed hat for sun protection  
                              tennis shoes or sport sandals for camp
- PERSONAL GEAR:       sunglasses  
                              toiletries: soap and container, toothbrush/toothpaste, comb/brush  
                              wash cloth and towel  
                              sunscreen (SPF 15 or SPF 30)  
                              lip balm with sunscreen  
                              personal hygiene items

ALL CLOTHES AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE MARKED WITH THE PARTICIPANT'S FULL NAME. OMSI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ITEMS.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING SNACKS OR CANDY**

(rodents enjoy searching cabins for food).

**NO ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE BROUGHT  
(CELL PHONES, CD PLAYERS, RADIOS, BLOW DRYERS, COMPUTER GAMES, ETC.)**