

Herpetology Field Study Program Information

Spend your summer exploring! You are about to embark on a ten day odyssey living in and learning about reptiles and amphibians in the varied ecosystems around Oregon. The most experienced herpetologists and naturalists Hancock has to offer will lead the adventure. They will teach you their skills and knowledge so that you, too, will become an avid herpetologist. You will be traveling around Oregon seeing Hancock Field Station at the Clarno and Sheep Rock units of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. We will also be taking part in actual reptile field research with the National Park Service. In the course of your study you will learn how to safely catch and identify animals, take data, and present your results.

Living among a group of like-minded, fun, energetic people for 2 weeks will be yet another high-point of the trip, becoming a true team of research scientists. You will learn about how scientists find, identify, and study reptiles and amphibians. You will also learn about animal husbandry, reptilian genetics, and explore different reptile and amphibian habitats. You will get the opportunity to see some of the most secluded and unique, and seemingly uninhabitable corners of Oregon, and the creatures that *do* inhabit them.

Course Syllabus

OBJECTIVES: Academic and outdoors training goals

- ◆ To gain an understanding of field herpetology and desert ecology
- ◆ To become familiar with the makeup of a healthy vs. unhealthy desert ecosystem
- ◆ To realize the importance of the careful scientific study of live animals and their habitat
- ◆ Having fun in the desert while increasing your mental and physical capacities!
- ◆ To gain an understanding of the importance of reptiles and amphibians in the ecosystem

ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field

- ◆ Perform herpetology research projects in several different locations
- ◆ Identify different reptiles and amphibians, gain familiarity with native and invasive species, and in-field identification techniques
- ◆ Safely catch, identify, and release lizards
- ◆ Learn about the functional morphology of different animals
- ◆ Investigate the deserts of central and eastern Oregon and surrounding semi-arid grasslands
- ◆ Prepare a scientific inquiry study on a specific aspect of the desert and present your findings to the group

SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS: Scientific Principles to be introduced

- ◆ Macro-invertebrate studies: identification of organisms and their ecological significance
- ◆ Plant and animal adaptations to their environment
- ◆ Introduction to anatomy, functional anatomy of reptiles and amphibians
- ◆ What makes a healthy desert ecosystem and the human impacts that effect it
- ◆ Proper use of field notes, data collection, animal handling, data analysis, and scientific procedure

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE*
Herpetology Field Study

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 hour
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.	Prepare for bed
9:30 p.m.	Lights out

***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.

Digital cameras are allowed, but remember that, at camp, things can easily be lost or damaged. We recommend single use cameras or film cameras. 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 letter to: hancock@omsi.edu.

Equipment List

Please note that this trip includes a camp-out, students should bring a warm sleeping bag and sleeping pad of their own, and a two or more person tent if they have one.

- SLEEPING GEAR: sleeping bag
 sleeping pad
 tent
 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
 swimsuit
 tennis shoes or sport sandals for stream wading & in 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 sun screen
 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

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