

OMSI Ambassadors Program Information

In this program you will serve as a friend to a group of Japanese students who are visiting this country for the first time. The LABO International Exchange Foundation is a Japanese program that encourages students to learn English at a very young age. OMSI and LABO have developed a program in which Japanese students can meet and develop friendships with American students. Many activities will give the participants a chance to learn about each other's cultures. Come ready to share your thoughts about the United States and your home state, and be ready to hear about Japanese similarities and differences.

This program will begin by meeting with our LABO visitors right off the plane from Japan and heading east to Hancock Field Station. We will explore the arid lands and canyons, search for fossils, and study the night sky alongside our Japanese visitors. We will then travel to Crater Lake National Park where we will learn about the amazing geologic history of the area. Then it's off to the Wolf Creek Education Center in the spectacular Redwood forests of Northern California. There will be time to investigate tide pools, eat a Japanese dinner and have campfires together. It will be your job to represent American students and to learn how to interact despite language barriers. You may even get to co-lead an English lesson or two for the LABO students. Bring along a few pictures of your family, friends, school, or home to share with your new friends on Cultural Exchange night. At the end of the two weeks, you will say good-bye to the LABO group who will continue on to their third week of adventuring.

Course Syllabus

OBJECTIVES: Academic and outdoor training goals

- ◆ Learn community living skills, cooperation, respect and trust with students from Japan
- ◆ Understand the general concepts of ecology in a semi-arid environment
- ◆ Gain an understanding of the interdependencies of a semi-arid ecosystem
- ◆ Increase your ability to observe and better understand the natural world
- ◆ Learn natural and cultural history of the areas: geologic, Native American, and pioneer

ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field

- ◆ Explore the habitats and investigate the habits of reptiles and amphibians
- ◆ Share cultural information with Japanese students
- ◆ Discover the local history: Native American and pioneer settlers both
- ◆ Find and identify leaf fossils
- ◆ Explore tide pools and beaches
- ◆ Investigate fauna and flora of the Redwood forest, coastal area, and arid desert

SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS: Scientific Principles to be introduced

- ◆ Cycles in the natural world and their place in ecology
- ◆ Ecology, habitats, niches, adaptations, and behavioral studies of native animals
- ◆ Forest Ecology -- What species are found in the areas we are investigating? What adaptations do they possess, what challenges do they face. Plant identification.
- ◆ Cultural History -- Native American, and pioneer history of the region. Who lived here? How did they survive? Travel? Eat?
- ◆ Marine Biology -- Tides, currents, zonation, species identification

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE* **OMSI Ambassadors**

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 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.	Return to cabins, 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
 ___ two or more person tent
 ___ mess kit (plate, bowl, cup, fork, and spoon)
 ___ 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
 ___ warm layers: hat, gloves, scarf, long-underwear etc.
 ___ jacket
 ___ 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

(rodents enjoy searching cabins for food).

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