

ORCA CAMP

Program Information

Orcas and porpoises, marine biology, sandy beaches, calm coastal water for canoeing, coastal hiking trails -- San Juan Island in northern Washington has it all and in five days OMSI naturalists will help you explore it. Travel by ferry to this relatively dry island where cactus even grows. Visit the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor; investigate the history of both the Hudson Bay Company's trade wars and rich Native American Culture that was here when the Americans and British were sparring over boundary lines. Explore by canoe the protected waters and shorelines of the islands. This trip also includes a 4-hour Sea Life Cruise aboard the *Western Prince II*, a U.S. Coast Guard certified passenger vessel.

Course Syllabus

This course includes a minimum of 28 hours of field investigation and discussion/lecture time.

OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Learn science by doing science
- ◆ Learn community living skills, including cooperation, respect and trust.
- ◆ Increase ability to observe the natural world
- ◆ Demonstrate basic canoeing skills and safe boating practices
- ◆ Understand the general concepts of marine biology, marine mammal biology, island ecology.

ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field

- ◆ View and identify marine mammals
- ◆ Visit the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor
- ◆ Explore historical sites at English Camp and American Camp
- ◆ Discover unique wildlife of the fouling communities at Friday Harbor marina
- ◆ Canoe sheltered waters

CONCEPTS: Principles to be introduced

- ◆ Marine Mammal Biology – Anatomy, behavior, history, identifying characteristics challenges faced, rehabilitation techniques
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Wildlife – Adaptations. Survival challenges. Predator/prey relationships.
- ◆ Camping Skills – Opportunity for campers to learn and practice minimal impacts camping skills, meal procedures, campground etiquette and rules, and respect.

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE*

6:30 a.m.	Optional morning walk
7:00 a.m.	General camp wake-up
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Activity Block 1
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Rest & relaxation
1:30 p.m.	Activity Block 2
3:30 p.m.	Activity Block 3
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 tents, 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 a letter to: pmsc@omsi.edu.

**ORCA CAMP
Equipment List**

- SLEEPING GEAR: sleeping bag
 sleeping pad
 pillow with pillowcase (optional)
 pajamas
- FIELD EQUIPMENT: 2 water bottles (1 quart/liter each)
 flashlight or headlamp
 bound notebook or journal, pencils, and pens
 daypack
 sack lunch for the first day
- CLOTHING: boots (sturdy, comfortable, well-fitting and broken in)
 3 pairs long pants
 1 or 2 pairs of shorts
 3 shirts, 1 long-sleeved, 2 short-sleeved
 adequate underwear
 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
 hand lotion
 personal hygiene items
- OPTIONAL: shower shoes
 camera
 binoculars
 compass
 lightweight books (field guides, natural history, legends, etc.)
 musical instruments (e.g. harmonica)
 money (we usually have items for sale from \$10-\$25)

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 tents for food).

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