

Reptiles and Amphibians Program Information

Journey to Hancock Field Station for a summer adventure devoted to looking for, and –on occasion– catching, our local reptiles and amphibians. For five days, you will observe the diverse creatures of the semi-arid desert: those that crawl, hop, slither, and creep. We'll learn the difference between reptiles and amphibians, learn to identify the many native and non-native species living in the desert around Hancock, and become adept amateur herpetologists.

We will be learning about how the animals and plants in Central Oregon adapt and thrive with very little water, and how everything interacts within this ecosystem. We will study the interactions between different types of reptiles and amphibians that live here in the desert and their habitat.

We will be cooling off in the John Day River and singing songs around the campfire all week long. Prepare yourself for a fun-filled creepy, crawly week!

Course Syllabus

OBJECTIVES: Academic and outdoor training goals

- ◆ To introduce students to general concepts of ecology and herpetology
- ◆ To investigate and observe many animal species to learn about their role in the ecosystem
- ◆ To investigate the adaptations that plants and animals use to survive in the semi-arid desert
- ◆ To understand the importance of healthy systems: soil, water, air, space
- ◆ To safely investigate the lizards, toads, snakes etc. that live around Hancock Field Station
- ◆ To increase ability to observe and explore the natural world

ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field

- ◆ Investigate the habits and habitats of western fence lizards and other reptiles and amphibians
- ◆ Learn how to safely catch and identify some native animal species
- ◆ Explore herp habitats: under rocks, in the soil, and in the river
- ◆ Study bones and skins to learn how shapes are indicators of function

SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS: Scientific Principles to be introduced

- ◆ Cycles of water and life in a semi-arid environment
- ◆ Ecology, habitats, niches, adaptations, and behavioral studies of native animals
- ◆ Introduction to entomology, herpetology, and ornithology
- ◆ Water quality parameters and what determines a healthy aquatic habitat
- ◆ Native and non-native species interactions

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE*
Reptiles & Amphibians

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)
1:00 p.m.	Rest & relaxation
2:00 p.m.	Swimming
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.

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: 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
 pillow with pillowcase (optional)
 sheet (optional)
 pajamas
 small insulating sleeping pad
 tent
- 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
 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 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.)**