

SAN JUAN FIELD STUDY

Program Information

Combine an island getaway with field research and you get San Juan Field Study! We'll spend ten days with OMSI naturalists, exploring, researching and monitoring the stunning, glacial-cut San Juans. This ten day program has a little bit of everything that makes San Juan Island great: canoeing, snorkeling, hiking, clamming, tide pooling and a whale watching boat trip. We'll be staying at OMSI's tent facility in San Juan National Historic Park. National Park Rangers will tell us about the history of the San Juan Islands and we'll learn about the islands' wildlife with local researchers and experts. Each camper will gain a basic understanding of scientific field research processes and will work in small teams to design an experiment and conduct an observational research project. We will also take an excursion to Orcas Island to compare the geology, topography and wildlife of this exceptional locale.

Course Syllabus

This course includes a minimum of 60 hours of field investigation and discussion/lecture time. Students successfully completing the course will receive a certificate of credit that may be given to their school or service organization for possible credit.

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 biogeography, glaciation, and oceanography

ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field

- ◆ Design Island related research project
- ◆ Meet with Marine mammal researchers
- ◆ Sea life discovery cruise
- ◆ Marine mammal viewing and identification
- ◆ Visit the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor
- ◆ Snorkel in secluded bays in search of marine organisms
- ◆ Canoe monitoring in sheltered bays
- ◆ Tidepool and beach exploration
- ◆ Water Quality (test salinity, dissolved oxygen content, pH and temperature)

CONCEPTS: Principles to be introduced

- ◆ Marine Mammal Biology – Anatomy, behavior, history, identifying characteristics challenges faced, rehabilitation techniques
- ◆ Marine Biology--Tides, currents, zonation, species identification
- ◆ Fundamentals of Field Science and Inquiry
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Cultural History – Native American, and pioneer history of the region. Who lived here? How did they survive? Travel? Eat?

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 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.

SAN JUAN FIELD STUDY

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)
 boot socks (3 pair minimum, 1 slick pair for blister protection)
 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)
 broad-brimmed or billed hat for sun protection
 swimsuit
 Old tennis shoes or sport sandals for wading into the water/mud
 (They should tighten securely to your feet.)
- 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
 Wet suit and snorkel gear
 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.)