

Spring Break at Hancock Program Information

Journey to Hancock Field Station for a grand spring break adventure! Programming will have different theme each day. Campers will participate in a survival day, a wildlife ecology day, and a geology and paleontology day.

On Survival Day, we will be navigating with a map and compass, and making shelters out of natural materials. We will have opportunities for tracking animal sign, and practicing with early American Indian tools. The program will stress outdoor ethics, modern wilderness skills, focusing on the skills and knowledge required when working or recreating outdoors.

Ecology Day will focus on the animals and plants in Central Oregon and each animal's place in the ecosystem: its habitat, its predators, its food and its relationship to other competing species. We will also be discussing how we humans can affect the ecosystem.

Discover the mysteries of ancient Oregon through fossils on Geology and Paleontology Day. We will hike the trails of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and visit some famous fossil localities. Discover how minerals make up rock, how fossils are made, how rock is eroded into canyons, and what stories are locked inside the hills.

Each night will conclude with songs and stories around the campfire. It will be a whirlwind excursion into the best that Hancock Field Station has to offer. It promises to be a fantastic week! We look forward to your participation.

Course Syllabus

OBJECTIVES: Academic and outdoor training goals

- ◆ To investigate and observe many animal species to learn about their role in the ecosystem
- ◆ To realize the importance of careful scientific study of fossil locales and archaeological sites
- ◆ To understand human survival needs, and how to prioritize and meet those needs
- ◆ To increase the student's ability to observe and understand the natural world

ACTIVITIES: Hands on learning in the field

- ◆ Investigate the animals in the semi-arid landscapes and their niche in the ecosystem
- ◆ Find and identify leaf fossils
- ◆ Practice survival skills: use of compass, shelter building, and fire making techniques
- ◆ Explore animal signs: bones, scat, and tracks.

SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS: Scientific Principles to be introduced

- ◆ Ecology, habitats, niches, adaptations, and behavioral studies of native animals
- ◆ Past climates, how to determine and climate changes through the fossil record
- ◆ Oregon's geologic history: concepts of stratigraphy, formations, and rock classification
- ◆ Knowledge of the lunar cycle and familiarity with constellations for basic navigation

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE*
Spring Break at Hancock

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 & relaxation
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 letter to: hancock@omsi.edu.

Equipment List

- SLEEPING GEAR: _____ sleeping bag
_____ 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
_____ 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 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.)**