Outdoor Science Camp Parent Handbook

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Your child is about to experience the adventure of a lifetime at Outdoor Science Camp at Camp Whittier. They will spend four days and three nights expanding their scientific knowledge in nature's classroom while hiking, developing leadership and social skills, participating in special activities, campfires, and much more. We hope that you will share in their excitement about Outdoor Science Camp and help them prepare for their time away from home. Your support and encouragement are essential for your child's success.

We hope that this guide answers all your questions about Outdoor Science Camp. Feel free to give us a call at (805) 962-6776 or email your questions to educationdirector.osc@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Ben "Mountain Goat" Spring

Outdoor Science Camp Education Director

**In the event of an emergency in which you feel the need to contact or pick up your child, please contact your school/district office first. Then, during business hours, contact the Education Director at (301) 928-3452. Please contact your child's teacher if outside of business hours.*

**Outdoor Science Camp is located across from Lake Cachuma on Highway 154 (about 20 miles north of Santa Barbara).*

Camp Whittier

2400 HWY 154

Santa Barbara, CA, 93105

(805) 962-6776

Curriculum Hikes

Students will participate in five curriculum hikes. The hikes are designed to connect students with nature through exploration and scientific thinking.

· Fire Ecology Hike: Students will gain an understanding of how fires spread and investigate the post-fire recovery of our native ecosystems.

· Cachuma Lake Adventure Day: Students will pack a lunch and spend the day exploring the ecosystems and wildlife on and around majestic Cachuma Lake.

· Night Hike: The night hike is always a highlight of the week. Activities focus on astronomy, nocturnal animals, as well as confidence building through the famous "Courage Walk".

· Dynamic Earth Hike: Students will explore why and how the Earth is constantly changing by studying eroded creek beds, searching for fossils, modeling the Solar System, and much more!

· Closing Hike: The Outdoor Science Camp experience will be wrapped up by exploring native Chumash culture, how these people survived in the valley, and the interactions that people, both past and present had/have with the planet.

Special Activities

Students at Outdoor Science Camp will sign up for 2 "special activities" on the third day of the program. Some of the options include…

- The Waterfall Hike
- Archery
- Low Ropes/Challenge Course
- Extended Campfire
- Old Man Murphy
- Gladiator Dodgeball
- Cachuma Lake Nature Cruise

PACKING

** Please label all clothing and luggage with your child's name (IN HUGE LETTERS!!!).*

DRESS CODE: SCHOOL APPROPRIATE ATTIRE WITH LONG PANTS & CLOSED TOED SHOES ON ALL HIKES!

IT CAN BE VERY COLD AT NIGHT. PLEASE COME PREPARED!!

Sleeping bag AND sheets with blankets (twin) - Pillow - Shampoo/soap - Toothpaste/toothbrush - Hair brush - Sunscreen - Towel - Chapstick - Water Bottles (2 or 3 for a total of at least 36– oz.) - Camera (disposable) - Stationery/paper/ postage - Reading book - Money (for trading post) - Flashlight - Backpack for hiking - Ear Plugs - Swimsuit (one piece – for shower) - 2 short sleeve t-shirts - 2 long sleeve t-shirts - Sweatshirt/sweater - Jacket - Rain gear (we hike in the rain so be prepared) - 4 pairs of long pants (which are mandatory for hikes and most activities) - 1 pair of shorts - Pajamas - 2 pairs of shoes/boots - Underwear - 4 pairs of socks - Hat (for sun and warmth) - Gloves (for warmth) - Dirty clothes bag

If your child's school is coming during the winter months, please send **EXTRA warm clothes/rain gear.**

DO NOT PACK: Makeup - Phones - Hairspray - Food – Gum – Candy - Hair Appliances - Electronic Games

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT PACKING, YOU CAN ASK YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHER OR CALL US!

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our approach to discipline is to use positive reinforcement (STARS). However, sometimes it is necessary for students to experience consequences for poor choices and behaviors (CHECKS). When a student exhibits negative behaviors, s/he will receive:

- 1st check – a warning and discussion with Naturalist of what the student did that was inappropriate.
- 2nd check – the student is the last person to sign up for a special activity.
- 3rd check – a behavior contract is created.
- 4th check – the student will miss a special activity and call home to have a discussion with his/her parents.
- 5th check – the parents and/or guardian of the child are notified and the child is sent home.
- PICK-UP POLICY Any student(s) who exhibit extreme or unsafe behavior such as fighting or intentionally harming others physically or emotionally, intentionally endangering themselves or others, participating in cabin raids or other violations of personal space, stealing, bringing or using knives or controlled substances will be immediately removed from the program and must be retrieved by the legal guardian (school administration will be responsible in the event of the guardian's unavailability). We reserve the right to adjust our policies after consulting with teachers and, though it is not our intention to remove youth from the program, we do reserve the right to have any person or persons removed from the property if their behavior is deemed dangerous or inappropriate. We do not provide refunds. Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

The Trading Post

Every student will have an opportunity to visit the Outdoor Science Camp store. Parents may send money with their children or speak to their classroom teacher about holding money.

Item	***Price****
Bandana……..	$5
Lip Balm……..	$3
Beastie Baby (Stuffed animal with OSC T-shirt)	$10
Camera……..	$15
OSC Beanie……..	$15
OSC Postcard (Postage included).....	$2
OSC T-Shirt……..	$10
OSC Hooded Sweatshirt……..	$25

** Tax included*

HEALTH INFORMATION

- It is essential that you fill the Camp Whittier Student Health and Emergency form out ***COMPLETELY*** (no child will be able to attend Outdoor Science Camp without this form).

- Medication Health forms will be provided by your school district. The rules regarding dispensing medication are determined by your school district. If you have any medication questions, please contact the appropriate school district official. ***Please make sure that all medications are cleared (via doctor's signature on the health form)—including inhalers and epipens.*** Students needing epi-pens or inhalers are required to carry them during all hikes & activities.

Special Needs**:** We welcome all students at Outdoor Science Camp. If your child has a special need (sleepwalking, bedwetting, snoring, shyness, homesickness, health condition, dietary requirements, etc.), please do not hesitate to send her/him to the program. Discuss any special needs your child may have with his/her classroom teacher prior to departure. If you still have concerns, please feel free to call the Education Director at (301) 928-3452.

- If the special need involves dietary restrictions, please list substitution items on the health form. Our kitchen staff needs to know what your child can have, not simply what they cannot.

- Should your child require medical attention, he/she will be immediately transported to the emergency room at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital. If such a case were to occur, you would be notified as soon as possible. Parents are responsible for costs/charges incurred as a result of emergency care.

Refund Policy

A student that attends Outdoor Science Camp in conjunction with their public or private school will owe the respective fees appropriated for each student ($288.00 per student) payable by the student's guardian. For the guardian this rate may fluctuate depending on other costs designated by the attending institution (such as transportation fees). This payment by the guardian is due to the child's public or private school at the appropriate date designated by that institution. The institution will then owe the program for the number of students that attend OR must pay for 90% of the contracted number of students (if contracted enrollment goes below 90% of the expected student population designated on the contract).

In the event that a student must go home for a major circumstance (such as illness, death in the family, medical emergency) Outdoor Science Camp reserves the right to charge for the dismissed student(s) in full; partial; or forgiven (non-charged) amount.

A student leaving within the first 24 hours of programming will typically be forgiven the due amount or be charged a partial fee of $\frac{1}{4}$ the 4 day rate.

Sending Mail To Your Child

- Please mail letters at least a week in advance.
- Please include the name of your child's school and the dates of attendance.
- DO NOT mail packages or express mail; it will not arrive to the school in time.
- If your child will be sending letters home, please provide them with an appropriate amount of self-addressed stamped envelopes.
- Outdoor Science Camp postcards with stamps are available at the Trading Post. Due to administrative restraints we cannot receive emails for students.

Send Mail To:

Outdoor Science Camp

Student Name

2400 Hwy 154, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

School Attending

* Children are not allowed to call home except in emergencies. Parents should call ONLY in case of an emergency. Social calls are not permitted.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM
(MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS)

UNITED BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (CAMP WHITTIER), hereinafter referred to "**Camp Whittier**," requires a signature for all attendees of the Camp. A signature of a parent or guardian is required if the participant is less than eighteen (18) years of age. The signature provided below confirms Agreement to Attend, Voluntary Participation, Assumption of Risk, Media Release, and Medical Release in order to attend Camp Whittier and to voluntarily participate in any Camp Whittier activity.

I, _____, parent/guardian/caretaker for

PLEASE PRINT MINOR'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

acknowledge, appreciate, that **IN CONSIDERATION** of attending Camp Whittier, agree that attendance and activities may include, but are not limited to ropes course, zip-line, archery, swimming, strenuous competition games, night games, frisbee, volleyball, football, soccer, baseball, horseshoes, and other related sports and activities. I also understand that during the participation at Camp Whittier, he/she may be exposed to a variety of risks and hazards, foreseen and unforeseen, which cannot be eliminated without fundamentally altering the unique character of the program. Those hazards include, but are not limited to, hiking/walking/running outside; snakes, insects, and large-animals; sunburn and heatstroke, dehydration, hypothermia and other mild or serious conditions or injuries; falling and rolling rock; drowning; lightning and unpredictable forces of nature (including weather that may change to extreme conditions without notice), etc. I acknowledge that participation is entirely voluntary, and I agree to assume full responsibility for the risks that participation may entail on behalf of the minor.

I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representative and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS UNITED BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (CAMP WHITTIER), their officers, officials, agents and/or employees ("releases"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss of damage to person(s) or property, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEE OR OTHERWISE, except that which is the result of gross negligence and/or wonton misconduct.

Furthermore, this form releases Camp Whittier for any lost, stolen, or damaged articles. I also authorize Camp Whittier to photograph and/or use photographs of him/her for the use in its publications, advertising, promotional purposes, internet, social media sites, and/or visual presentations which inform people of the services and activities of Camp Whittier.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

X_____Date Signed:_____/_____/_____

Parent or Guardian's Signature

_____

___

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Phone Number:(_____) _____

Email:_____

Parent or guardian must read this form and sign below:

This is to certify that I, as a parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree not only to his/her release of Camp Whittier and all other releases, but also to release and indemnify the Releases from any and all liabilities incident to his/her involvement in these programs for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin.

X_____Date Signed:_____/_____/_____

_____ Relationship to Attendee/Participant: