

Camp Ocean Pines Parents' Handbook

*An Attempt To Answer As Many Questions As Possible, And To Help You Help Your Child Get Fully Prepared For Camp
(Please call or email – prior to April 1, if possible - if you have any further questions.)*

Leaving and Returning

- We'll leave for camp on Monday, April 6, at approximately 8:30 a.m. via school bus.
- **Students (and chaperones) need to have all of their stuff at school at 8:00, Monday morning.**
- Leave your luggage on the curb by the circular drive and come into the library.
- **Please don't park by the red curb. The bus needs to get in.**
- **CAMPERS MUST COME WITH THEIR OWN SACK LUNCH FOR THE FIRST DAY.** The camp will provide all subsequent meals.
- We'll return in the early afternoon on Wednesday, April 8 – probably around 2:00. Again, please don't park in the red zone.

Luggage

Your child will have to carry his/her stuff up a steep path from the parking lot to the cabins. He/she will need a place to keep everything together in the cabin. Suitcases work fine, as do large duffel bags. (Warning: the luggage will be piled high and treated roughly on the bus.) Also, the luggage will be left outdoors for at least a half an hour or so the first morning. If it looks like rain, you might think about putting everything in large Ziploc bags inside your luggage.

Why Go To Camp?

We have several goals for our students in taking them on an extended study trip like this. There will be a lot of science and social studies curriculum being taught. Just as important will be the personal growth that comes from being away from home for three days. That is why we don't allow kids to call home, we don't want parents to drop in, and we don't want you to attempt to phone your kids, unless it's a serious emergency.

We promise to call you if your child should have any problems – if he/she isn't feeling well, twists an ankle, etc. However, please be advised, **HOMESICKNESS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AN EMERGENCY.**

The camp phone number **FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY**, is **927-0254**.

Location, Accommodations, Etc.

Camp Ocean Pines is located in Cambria, overlooking the ocean. The kids will be staying in cabins, sleeping on bunk beds with mattresses. There will be 10-12 kids in each cabin, and **there will be an adult chaperone sleeping in each cabin.**

Meals are served in the dining hall, which also functions as a possible place for evening or rainy day activities. The

meals are served family style. The kids will be assigned seats, and will be sitting with the same people for all meals.

During free time the kids will be able to play with soccer balls, footballs, and there is a ping pong table.

Groupings

The kids will be assigned cabins for the entire trip. The teachers will make the assignments, but the kids will be able to request friends. We will attempt to honor as many of these requests as possible. However, if two or more kids have gotten into trouble together during school, or have shown a tendency not to pay attention or to be disruptive together, they will NOT be put in the same groups at camp.

We will also break the kids into three study groups. The kids will do all of their learning activities with their study group.

Lastly, we will assign the kids dining groups. They will eat with the same people all week.

Assigning the groups makes things go much more smoothly for everyone. However, we also know part of the experience of camp is spending time with friends. The kids don't have to worry. There will be plenty of free time, during which they are free to hang around with whomever they wish. In addition, we try and mix up the combinations. If the kids don't get one of their best friends in their cabin group, they may still get that person in their study group or table group (unless they've proven to be a bad combination at school. In that case they won't be in ANY groups together. It pays to behave!)

Medications

Some kids take regular medications. That's a problem at camp, in that the school district has a lot of rules and regulations we have to follow. **If your child will be taking medication at camp (including both prescription and over-the-counter) PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IMMEDIATELY and we'll tell you how to proceed. You may need to get a doctor's signature.**

Paperwork

The following papers must be filled out and turned in prior to your child's participation on this trip:

- **Permission Slip** – the usual one for field trips – attached to this handbook
- **Camp Ocean Pines Health Form** – attached to this packet
- **Medication Forms** – if your child needs to take medication at camp – not attached to this packet – contact your child's teacher

What to Bring to Camp Ocean Pines

Student Checklist

Essentials:

- BRING A SACK LUNCH FOR THE FIRST DAY.**
- Warm sleeping bag or twin bedding and blankets
- Pillow with pillow case
- Two pairs of shoes (one pair may get wet.)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Long pants
- Long sleeve shirt
- Towel
- Heavy jacket or sweatshirt
- Raingear
- Chapstick
- Sunscreen**
- Short sleeve shirt
- Shorts (maybe)
- Plastic bag for wet clothes
- Toiletries
 - Toothbrush
 - Toothpaste
 - Soap
 - Deodorant
 - Shampoo
 - Washcloth
 - Comb or hairbrush
- A good, cooperative, friendly, polite, considerate attitude!

Optional Items:

- Sunglasses
- Hat or visor for sunny days
- Warm beanie cap for cold nights
- Small Backpack
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Insect repellent (the kind you put on yourself, not the kind you spray in a room)
- Camera
- A book to read
- Spending money for “Store”, and for the souvenir shop at Hearst Castle
- A headlight for reading in bed

Make sure that all clothing is stuff that is comfortable and can get dirty. Please place your name on as many items as possible. This will allow us to return items if they get misplaced.

What to Leave at Home

- Makeup
- Jewelry or any other valuables
- Gum
- Food
- Candy (that doesn't come from the camp store.)
- Electronic devices – Ipods, MP3 players, PSP's, Nintendo DS, etc.
- Student cell phones
- Pocket knives, hatchets, etc.
- Toys
- Anything not allowed at school**
- A bad, uncooperative, rude, argumentative attitude.
- ALL “ROMANTIC” STUFF, INCLUDING GOSSIP**