

SAFETY RULES

Please review these policies with your group before arrival. All participants, including adults, are responsible for learning and following the rules below.

There are three basic guidelines for a successful week at OMSI's outdoor science school:

RESPECT YOURSELF
RESPECT OTHERS
RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Always stay with your group. When you are hiking or exploring, stay with your class. If you must leave, inform an adult, and take a buddy.
2. Practice good "Environmental Manners." Leave the camp and trails in better condition than you found them. Pick things up (rocks and sticks) only to look at them and return them where you got them. Throwing things can harm others and disturb wildlife. The less we disturb an area, the more things we can discover: watch, examine, observe.
3. Although it may seem tempting to handle wildlife, please do not. Remember animals such as squirrels or rabbits can carry very serious diseases such as rabies, and certain insects and arachnids have stingers. Extra caution should always be used when you come into a new environment.
4. Walk! Please be observant and careful wherever you go. The area in and around camp has many rocks, roots and other unexpected hazards that are easy to trip on if one isn't careful. Unsafe activities must be avoided at all times (i.e.: running, sliding, or jumping on rough, slick or in poorly lit areas).
5. Contact your teacher or OMSI staff member immediately if someone is sick or hurt.
6. Bring to camp only those items on your equipment list. All personal possessions that are not allowed in your school are not allowed at camp, so please leave those things at home! No gum, candy, or snacks are allowed.
7. Quiet hours are observed between 9:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Students are to be in their bunks and quiet so that everyone can get enough sleep for the next day's adventures, except under special circumstances (e.g. astronomy work and morning walk).
8. Be a good listener. Listen carefully when staff members and others talk; they are almost certainly saying something that you need to hear.
9. Smoking is not allowed for students under 18 years old. No smoking in buildings, in the field, or in the presence of students. The Program Coordinator will specify where smoking can occur. The use of alcohol or drugs is not allowed. The use of any illegal substance will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
10. Please do not hike outside of camp boundaries without an OMSI staff member. Surrounding areas contain hazards that are not immediately apparent to an untrained eye. If you would like to take your cabin on a short walk, please first consult with the Program Coordinator.
11. Firearms, explosives, fireworks, or weapons of all types are not allowed. Sharp tools are to be used in a manner that will not injure others.
12. All personal and OMSI property should be used only with permission and treated with care.
13. Separate sleeping areas for male and female participants will be strictly maintained. Displays of physical affection will not be allowed. Participants should not visit others' sleeping areas. This is to avoid problems relating to personal possessions and sleep schedules.
14. If a rule is not stated, common sense and good judgment, courtesy, respect and safety should apply. As good citizens, we obey all federal, state and county laws.

Violation of these policies, particularly those that relate to an individual's physical or mental health and well-being, are the grounds for immediate dismissal from our programs.