



Blue Ridge Outdoor Education Center

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Experiential Environmental Education

Dear Student,

In a short time you will be coming to the Blue Ridge Outdoor Education Center. In case you haven't already heard, this is a magical place. To understand more of what makes it so cool keep reading...

This is a place where snakes slither, owls hoot, salamanders creep, worms wiggle, hawks soar, songbirds chirp, deer frolic, turtles bask, lizards lounge, foxes slink, otters play, beavers gnaw, crayfish pinch, fish swim, frogs hop, trees sway, pollen floats, flowers bloom, squirrels leap, coyotes howl, and kids smile.

All around us there are plants and animals living and working together to survive. They're called communities, and each member plays a critical role. While you are here, you also will be part of a community made up of your classmates, your teachers and chaperones, and the Blue Ridge staff. Your role is to respect your environment, and cooperate with others. You will need to think of how to help your group, not just yourself. You will be a part of two different groups -- a cabin group and a field group.

You will be living in a cabin with as many as 11 other classmates. It will be fun, but only if you set some ground rules. For everyone to be comfortable, your cabin group will need to decide: When will people take showers? Where will you put dirty clothes? How will you clean the cabin in the morning? Each community member will need to cooperate and follow the rules.

You will be going to different classes with your field group morning, afternoon, and evening. Not like a school class, but like an adventure! You may be hiking along a ridge, wading in a creek, exploring a beaver pond, navigating with a compass, prowling for owls,...the fun never stops!

But remember, we are not only guests at the Blue Ridge facilities, we are guests in the woods and streams on the property. As we explore the communities of plants and animals (some of them RARE!) keep in mind that this is their home and we should treat them all with respect. Most of the animals that live here (even the snakes) are afraid of us, and most of them are smaller and weaker than us. Some of them can hurt you, you can also hurt them, so it is a good idea not to touch any of the animals here unless a Blue Ridge staff member has said it is safe.

Enclosed you will find the rules of conduct. Please become familiar with these guidelines. Then, you need to sign to show you understand. We are psyched to meet you and to share our magical place.

See you soon!

Josh Rood
Program Director

Blue Ridge Outdoor Education Center

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

PACKING CHECKLIST:

- 1 sleeping bag or bed roll (sheets and 2 blankets), pillow
- 1 pair of old jeans per day
- 1 pair of shorts per day
- 2 tee-shirts per day
- 1 heavy shirt (1 per day in cold weather)
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- 1 warm jacket (cold weather)
- 2 pairs of sneakers (one that can get wet)
- 1 change of underwear per day
- 2 pairs of socks per day
- **1 raincoat or poncho**
- 1 hat or cap
- 1 pair of pajamas
- toilet articles (soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, towel etc.)
- sunscreen
- **water bottle (a refillable, reusable bottle— not the throw-away kind)**
- plastic bag for dirty clothes
- pen and writing paper

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- small day pack
- camera and film
- flashlight
- stamped, addressed envelopes

PLEASE DO NOT BRING: (Anything in this category will be taken from student and kept by staff until departure)

- candy, gum, or food of any kind
- knives, hatchets, or any other weapon
- fireworks
- radio, CD player, electronic games, cell phones, or any other electronics.

DO NOT bring MONEY unless your teacher says it is OK to bring some for Blue Ridge merchandise.

Make sure all items are marked with your name. Only old clothes are needed. New clothes may be ruined by heavy outdoor use.

The Blue Ridge Outdoor Education Center is not responsible for articles left behind.