



On Nov. 8, 2016, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 99, authorizing funds from the Oregon Lottery to provide all fifth- or sixth-grade students in Oregon access to a week of Outdoor School.

Outdoor School is a field science program. These programs take students in fifth or sixth grade from their school classrooms to the outdoors to learn.

Camps may have a wide variety of activities available including water activities (rafting, boating, swimming, ocean access, etc.), rope courses, climbing walls, shooting, bumper cars and a religious orientation. There are also camps in Washington where the Oregon Tort Cap does not apply.

#### Best practices:

1. Any site used for outdoor school should be visited prior to camp:
  - a. Review all activities that students may participate in including the venue for the activity
  - b. Proof of inspections of physical property (docks, playgrounds, ropes courses, etc.)
  - c. Document findings and document any changes when outdoor school is in session
2. All students should have a signed permission slip that clearly states all activities the student may participate in while at camp.
  - a. Include authority for medical treatment
  - b. Complete contact information
  - c. Checkoff for all activities authorized by student's parents or guardian
  - d. Proof of health insurance (consider student accident insurance to fulfill this)
3. Have all staff first aid and CPR trained.
4. Know specific health concerns of students and staff such as bee sting allergies and have a completed health history on all students.
5. All volunteers should be vetted according to District policy (background checks and fingerprinting).
6. Avoid any type of hazing activities including "spirit assemblies" that may be construed as hazing.
7. Underage (18 years) counselors will not have background information; vetting may be accomplished through the application process and recommendations from known adults (teachers).
8. All drivers should have current license and insurance verified and be informed that their insurance coverage is first in the event of an accident.
9. All staff and volunteers should be knowledgeable about poisonous plants and animals in the region and appropriate first aid.
10. For all water activities:
  - a. Know the demonstrated swimming ability of all students
  - b. Students should wear life preservers while in any boat
  - c. Be aware of rip tides and sneaker waves at the coast
11. If shooting/archery activities are allowed (not recommended by PACE):
  - a. Parents must specifically sign off on this activity
  - b. Hearing and vision protection must always be worn
  - c. Only trained instructors allowed to provide instruction
12. Sleeping arrangements need to take into consideration:
  - a. Staffing to ensure campers stay in their dwelling
  - b. District is responsible for 24-hour supervision under the legal doctrine of "in Loco Parentis."
13. What are the provisions for unusual or unexpected weather conditions including extreme heat, rain and wind?
14. What are the provisions for sun exposure?
15. Verify all rope courses have been inspected annually, all recommended repairs have been completed and all instructors are currently certified (PACE recommends not using high ropes courses).
16. Determine what actions will be taken for a student who is significantly disruptive.
17. Consider how you will manage electronic devices or just not allow them.
18. What are the provisions for special dietary needs?