FALL 2026 OUTDOOR SCHOOL

PARENT / FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

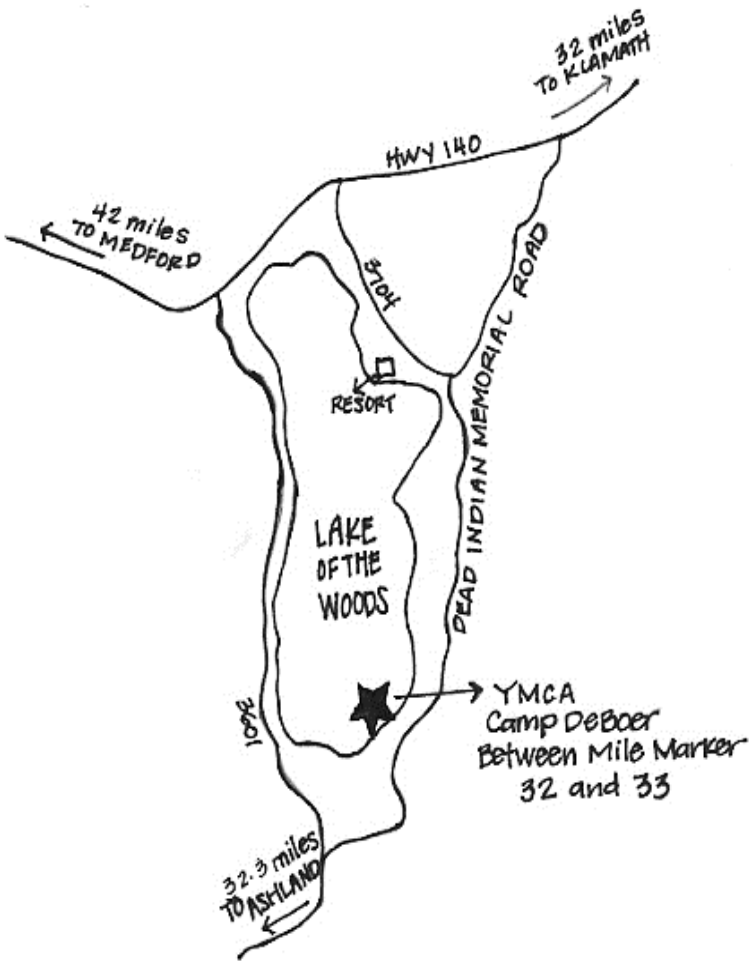
Outdoor School is hosted at YMCA Camp DeBoer which is owned and operated by the Ashland Family YMCA.

Directions to YMCA Camp DeBoer

Physical Address: 13430 Dead Indian Memorial Road, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

From Ashland:
https://goo.gl/maps/nkM5HxJJwaxugwL77

- From I-5, heading south, take Exit 14.
- Turn LEFT onto OR 66 E/Ashland Street, .7 miles to Dead Indian Memorial Rd.
- Turn LEFT onto Dead Indian Memorial Road approx. 32.4 miles.
- YMCA Camp DeBoer will be on LEFT side of the road, with signage to mark your arrival. Please park in designated parking.



From Medford:
https://goo.gl/maps/9X5kn5aWkipn4KkD8

- Take Rogue Valley Expressway approx. 4 miles to Crater Lake Hwy 62.
- Turn LEFT onto Crater Lake Hwy 62 approx. ½ mile to OR-140 E.
- Turn RIGHT onto OR-140 E approx. 36 miles to NF 3732.
- Turn RIGHT onto NF 3732, 1.5 miles to Dead Indian Memorial Road.
- Turn RIGHT onto Dead Indian Memorial Rd, approx. 2 miles.
- YMCA Camp DeBoer will be on RIGHT side of the road, with signage to mark your arrival. Please park in designated parking.

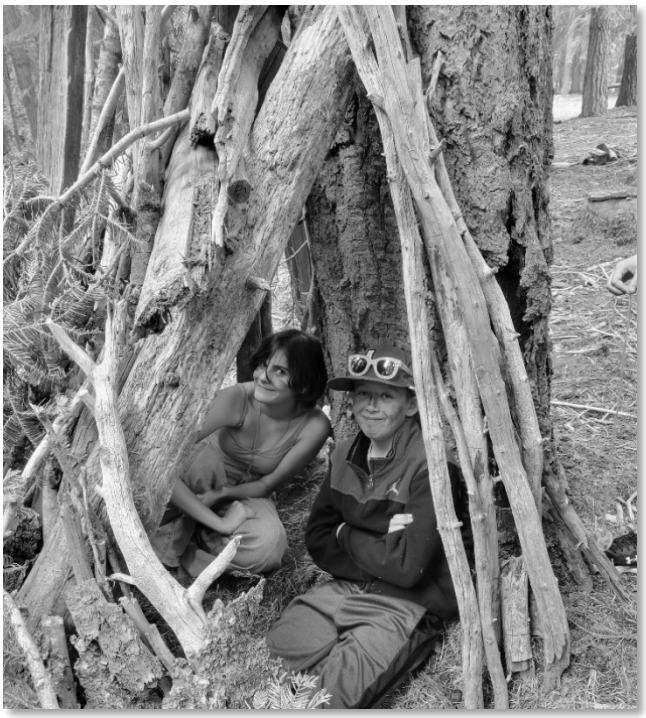
From Klamath Falls:
https://goo.gl/maps/WThdqw8rstEn6hFw6

- Take Hwy US-97 approx. 2 miles to OR-140 W.
- Take OR-140 W approx. 31 miles to Dead Indian Memorial Road.
- Turn LEFT onto Dead Indian Memorial Road approx. 4 miles. YMCA Camp DeBoer will be on RIGHT side of the road, with signage to mark your arrival. Please park in designated parking.

Families: Welcome to Outdoor School at Camp DeBoer

All students are welcome and encouraged to attend!

We're looking forward to Outdoor School!
Your child will be enjoying Outdoor School at YMCA Camp DeBoer! We are excited to spend a few days together under the giant conifers, along the shore of Lake of the Woods, where we'll share laughs, make discoveries, have fun with new friends, and learn about the natural world.



Camp DeBoer is a state-of-the-art facility.
Your child will be sleeping in a comfortable cabin with their classmates along with two qualified chaperones. In the cabins, there are private, individual rooms for using the restroom, showering, and changing clothes.

We'll eat nutritious, kid-friendly meals in our beautiful lodge while admiring the stunning view of Lake of the Woods and Mt. McLoughlin.

During the day, we'll be:

- Learning about shelters, survival, and Leave No Trace principles
- Identifying conifers, as well as animal tracks, pelts, and skulls
- Engaging our senses, and exploring wetlands
- Discussing wildfire, and applying our new skills in fire science

When we're not out in our learning groups, we'll play games, hike, make crafts, have a scavenger hunt, participate in team-building activities, and spend time in our cabins enjoying quiet activities. We'll wind down with an evening program, and a campfire under the stars with s'mores, songs and skits.

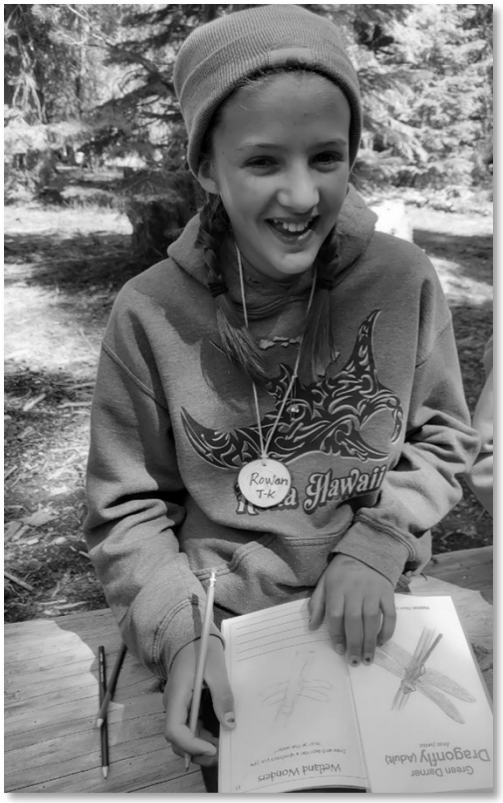
We're focused on quality programming, safety and belonging. The Camp DeBoer staff undergoes rigorous hiring and training, and together we create a welcoming, caring environment for our participants.

We provide hands-on, engaging lessons and activities that meet New Generation Science Standards and we employ gentle re-direction when it comes to small-group management.

We work closely with the classroom teachers and, if needed, parents/guardians should an issue arise. Our staff are CPR certified, and our infirmary is staffed by a health officer from the school.

Does your child have these items? We will be outdoors most of the day and evenings, every day, no matter the weather! These are some items that are essential. We do have a few items to loan. Please let your teacher know now if you are planning on having your child borrow these items from us upon arrival.

- 2 pairs of sturdy footwear, such as boots or tennis shoes that can get wet
- Sleeping bag, extra blanket and a pillow
- A water bottle
- A good rain jacket and a warm jacket
- Mittens/gloves, lip balm, flashlight



Please don't feel that you need to purchase these items brand new. You may want to explore a way to borrow or purchase these items used.

Dressing in layers is the best way to prepare for changing weather conditions. Located at an elevation of 5,000', Camp DeBoer can be sunny but also quite chilly during these months. **If you have any difficulty acquiring items, please let your child's teacher know** and we will do our best to assist you. We'll also have a few back-up toiletry items on hand at camp in case a child forgets something like a toothbrush or toothpaste.

Insurance: The Ashland Family YMCA does not carry accident insurance on its members or participants. All expenses incurred in the treatment of injuries due to accidents will be the responsibility of the participant's parent/guardian and their own insurance carrier.

Prior to Outdoor School, you will be ensuring a **Health Form** is on file with your school and signing both our **Release Form and Guidelines Form**. You will pack your child's **Medications and/or Supplements** in original packaging, and a health officer will ensure they are taken at the proper times. We are prepared to address all **Dietary Needs**, **Gender Identities,** and separation behaviors, such as **Homesickness,** as well as nighttime behaviors such as **Sleep Walking, etc.**

Cost: There is no cost to families. With the passing of Measure 99, which directs Oregon lottery funding to this program, all 5th and 6th graders in the state are able to participate in Outdoor School free of charge.

We are here to help: The entire YMCA Camp DeBoer Staff looks forward to helping you and your child prepare for their Outdoor School experience.

Please direct questions/concerns about anything in this packet to your child's teacher.

For Families: Liability/Photo/Other Release

Liability Release: Participant hereby expressly agrees that all camp activities be undertaken by the participant at the participant's sole risk. The participant agrees that the YMCA shall not be liable for any claims, demands, injuries, damages, actions, or causes of actions whatsoever, to the participant or the participant's personal property, arising out of or connected with use of any of the services or facilities at the YMCA building in Ashland, Oregon or other YMCA facilities wherever located and includes a release of the YMCA from either active or passive negligence by the YMCA, its servants, agents, or employees. The participant does hereby expressly forever release and discharge the YMCA from all such claims, demands, injuries, damages, actions, or causes of actions arising from the participant him/herself or any member of his/her family who is a minor, both in the minor's behalf and in the participant's behalf as a parent.

The participant specifically agrees to hold the YMCA harmless from any claims by said participant, or his/her family including minor children, and to defend the YMCA and reimburse them for any judgments, liens, costs, or expenses, including attorney fees and litigation costs, arising from said claims. The undersigned hereby assumes full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage while in, about, or upon the premises of the YMCA facility or in YMCA vehicles for programming purposes. **No cash, electronics, food, expensive jewelry, other valuables or irreplaceable keepsakes.**

Photo: At YMCA Camp DeBoer, we encourage teachers and staff to take photos of the activities as students are asked to leave electronics at home. We love to share pictures with classrooms, on our website and occasionally for flyers and promotions. We honor your privacy and ask for your permission to take photos and/or videos of your child while engaged in sanctioned activities at Outdoor School. If you wish for your student(s) to not be photographed, please indicate that below. I hereby authorize YMCA Camp DeBoer to record my child's likeness (or voice in a video) and use their name in connection with such recordings. I authorize YMCA Camp DeBoer to use, reproduce and exhibit recordings and photos for the purpose of promotion, education and other lawful purposes. I release and waive my rights to the ownership and compensation for such uses and understand that all recordings shall remain the property of YMCA Camp DeBoer.

Meals/Cultural Observations: You will be asked by your child's teacher to communicate information about food allergies and dietary restrictions. We accommodate vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free diets. If a student's diet is abundantly restrictive, we recommend they bring packaged meals from home in a cooler, which we'll then store in our walk-in and serve at mealtimes. Should we need to be prepared to accommodate any religious and cultural observances that may occur during the time your student is at Outdoor School, please inform your child's classroom teacher.

Sending a child home: If a child's behavior or health does not allow them to continue at Outdoor School, parents/guardians shall assume all costs associated with driving to camp to take them home.

☐ **Yes, I accept photo release** ☐ **No, I do not accept photo release**

I have read and agree to the above regarding student participant: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Guidelines: for families to sign with their child

- All school policies and rules apply while participating in ODS programs. If a rule is not stated, common sense, good judgment, respect, responsibility, caring, honesty, and safety apply.
- All people, are to be treated with courtesy and respect. No bullying or disrespectful behavior towards anyone, including YMCA or school staff. The use of obscenities, jokes or slurs relating to another's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical or mental abilities is not allowed. Also - plants, creatures, and all of nature deserve your respect and should not be damaged, injured, or harassed. Avoid dangerous plants or animals. Do not litter - put trash in its place.
- Follow your cabin agreements and be a good cabinmate! At **"lights out"** time, there is no more talking, whispering, shining flashlights at others, or giggling. Settle down and go to sleep.
- Stay with your group, be a good listener, and always wear your wood cookie nametag.
- Stay out of other cabins and be respectful of others' sleeping areas and belongings.
- Use the **RULE OF THREE**. Always be with an adult and at least one student buddy at all times. You may also be with two adults. Students will never be alone with an adult.
- Be ready for Field Studies with your woodcookie nametag, appropriate clothing for the current and forecasted weather, and closed-toed shoes.
- Treat your ODS materials with care and use them as directed, at the appropriate time.
- Unsafe activities must be avoided at all times (e.g. no climbing trees, running, sliding or jumping on rough, slick areas). Walk wherever you go. Remain in the boundaries of camp. You should never be near the road, or in the lake – even up to your ankles – unless you are at the waterfront in a activity supervised by YMCA staff.

Violations of these policies, particularly those relating to an individual's physical or mental health, will result in staff intervention and may result in removal from the program and will require parent retrieval. Students will go through an orientation to review these and other ODS policies.

_____ _____

Student and Adult signatures Date

For Families: Typical Day (varies by program)

Time	Activity
7:45am	Breakfast
8:30am	Morning meetings
8:30-9am	Chaperone huddle
9:15am	Brush teeth, get ready for FS
9:30am	Field Study
11:15am	Straighten up Field Study
11:30am	Cabin Time
11:45pm	Gathering
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Recess
1:30pm	Get ready for Field Study
1:45pm	Field Study
3:30pm	Pack up Field Study
3:45pm	Snack and Cabin time
4:15pm	Recreation
5:00pm	Cabin time and staff huddle
5:15pm	Gathering
5:30pm	Dinner
6:30pm	Evening program
8:30pm	Bedtime; Lights out at 9:30

Outdoor School Packing List

Please have your name on EVERY item you bring! YMCA Camp DeBoer is not responsible for lost or damaged items. Please try to pack everything in one or two duffle bags. We do have items to loan.

Think LAYERS! Dress in layers to be prepared for changing weather conditions. That might look like a shirt, then a sweatshirt, then a warm jacket, and a rain jacket as needed.

Located at an elevation of 5,000 feet, fall and spring seasons can be chilly at Camp DeBoer and everyone needs to **be prepared to spend the day and evening outdoors**! Raingear, layers, and sturdy footwear are essentials.

Food and electronics, expensive jewelry, cash, and other valuables are **NOT ALLOWED**.

- ☐ Jeans or long pants (2-3 pair)
- ☐ Shirts (3-4, at least 2 long-sleeved)
- ☐ Underwear (1 pair per day)
- ☐ Warm PJs/sweats (we'll have a pajama breakfast!)
- ☐ Socks (5 pair + a fun pair for departure day!)
- ☐ Warm hoodie, fleece jacket, or sweater
- ☐ Light jacket or windbreaker (for layering)
- ☐ Rainwear (poncho, raincoat, or heavy trash bag)
- ☐ Shoes – sturdy, comfortable (NO open-toed, open-back, or sandals!)
- ☐ BOOTS or old tennis shoes which can get WET!
- ☐ Hat with brim for sun protection
- ☐ Warm hat that covers the ears
- ☐ Gloves/mittens
- ☐ Warm sleeping bag
- ☐ Extra blanket
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Toothbrush, toothpaste, and body soap
- ☐ Washcloth and towel, shower shoes optional
- ☐ Hair care products, including shampoo
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Sunscreen and lip balm
- ☐ Sunglasses/glasses as needed
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp (+ batteries)
- ☐ Backpack or tote
- ☐ Water Bottle (not too big)
- ☐ Book or journal for rest time
- ☐ Medications (administered by school staff)

☐ Smile and good attitude! ☺