

**ED LAIRD SCOUT CAMP**

at the



**IRVINE RANCH  
OUTDOOR  
EDUCATION  
CENTER**

# **OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL**



**SPRING '25**

## **PRINCIPAL & TEACHER GUIDE**

**Owned and operated by  
Scouting America, Orange County Council**





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# WELCOME

Thank you for choosing the Ed Laird Scout Camp Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center! Our team is committed to providing the best outdoor, educational, and leadership opportunities in Orange County. We are excited to share our top-notch programming with your students! This guide is intended to better prepare you and your students for their camp experience. In the following pages, you will learn about our programs, menus, health & safety, and other important information. Please read through everything carefully and let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to creating lifelong memories with your students!

Anna Hennessy  
Academic Director

Cody Wright  
Program Director

Andrew Gregory  
Camping Director

Tori Harris  
Camping Director





# ABOUT US

## Mission

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center is owned and operated by the Orange County Council, Scouting America. The mission of Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. As part of Scouting America, we align ourselves with its mission and strive to serve all youth in Orange County through our quality outdoor educational and recreational programs.

## Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

## Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

## Our Qualifications

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center is an American Camp Association (ACA) Accredited Camp! This means that our camp meets, and in many cases exceeds, industry-accepted and government-recognized standards for camp operations.

ACA's nationally recognized standards program focuses primarily on the health, safety, and risk management aspects of a camp's operation. Teachers and parents can rest assured that your students are well cared for when they are at the IROEC!

# ABOUT US

## Our Team

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center hires dynamic, positive instructors each school year to teach and guide our outdoor education. We take great care to hire highly motivated staff to guide campers through this incredible learning experience. Their passion for the outdoors and demonstrated professionalism combine to enhance your student's adventure.

All staff are thoroughly vetted and undergo a criminal background check to ensure our campers' well-being and their guardians' peace of mind. All staff participate in extensive training spanning multiple weeks and are passionate about working with youth in the outdoors. Staff are trained as mandated reporters, in harassment prevention, in first aid and CPR/AED and Scouting America's Youth Protection training.

A couple key staff that your child will meet are:

**Program and Camping Directors:** The Program and Camping Directors oversee all aspects of programming at the IROEC from the academic programs to the recreational activities. They are also First Aid, CPR, and AED trained and have a certificate in Preventative Health Practices.

**Health Officers:** The Health Officers oversee medication, sick participants, and special needs. The Health Officers are ready to talk with guardians and teachers to get all the details ready and will be at the IROEC every step of the process. The Health Officers are First Aid, CPR, and AED trained, have a certificate in Preventative Health Practices, and are EMTs.





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

Based on your length of adventure, *three or five days*, please choose the program that you would like your students to enjoy!

Two months prior to your stay at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education center, you will receive a form to select your school's desired immersions and activities.

**This form must be submitted at least thirty days prior to your school's arrival. Note that program selection is not guaranteed.**

Schools attending for five days should choose to do at least two hikes. Schools attending for three days should choose to do one hike during their stay.

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center offers a wide variety of educational immersions and fun recreational adventures. We recommend choosing a mix of academic immersions and recreational adventures. Let's build the perfect program for you and your students.

## **The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center is a rain or shine facility.**

Depending on the severity of the weather, alternative programs may need to take place. The Program Director team will work with the teachers and facilitators onsite to choose alternative programs.

In the case of thunder or lightning, some programs must shut down during the storm and be closed for at least 30 minutes after the storm. During that time, students will be engaged in alternative programming.

If you have further questions about alternative programming, please reach out to our Program Director – Anna Hennessy – [anna.hennessy@scouting.org](mailto:anna.hennessy@scouting.org)





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Our Daytime Hikes & Activities

**We encourage every school to choose at least one hike (if not more) so your students can learn about their environment while experiencing it up close. Don't forget our evening hikes! (page 12)**



### **ART HIKE (Part of “The Art of Scientific Thinking”) NEW for 2024!**

Creativity is an essential part of the scientific mind. This immersion uses art to teach students how to move through the scientific method *intuitively*. With specially made journals in hand, students will hit the trail and engage in the world around them through sensory inventories, mapping, nature journaling, observational poetry, and story writing. Students will practice how to observe, ask questions, and create unique hypotheses. Whether they like science, art, or being physically active, this immersion has something for every student. (NOTE: If you have students with mobility restrictions, this immersion can be modified to remove the hike.)

NGSS: MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-PS1-3, MS-LS2-2



# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Our Daytime Hikes & Activities

### ECOLOGY & GEOLOGY HIKE

On the ECO Hike, students will have a chance to explore patterns across multiple ecosystems and the earth beneath us. Students will compare biotic and abiotic factors in a coastal sage scrub and oak woodlands, and discuss how the availability of resources influences plant and animal populations in these ecosystems. They will examine cliff faces and learn about the law of superposition. Students will play out the movement of tectonic plates and see geology in action! They will identify native plant species and observe how these plants have adapted to their environment. Finally, students will gain a deeper understanding of how food webs function and how energy flows through an ecosystem while enjoying the beautiful world around them.

NGSS: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS1-6, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-ESS1-4, MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-3, MS-ESS3-1

### OC ZOO WALK

The Orange County Zoo's focus is on animals and plants native to the southwestern United States. Animals on exhibit include black bear, mountain lion, bald eagle, kit fox, ocelot, beaver, great horned owl, porcupine, coyote, turkey vulture and more. The zoo also features a barnyard with domestic goats and sheep. This trip involves walking through Irvine Regional Park to the zoo.

NGSS: 4-LS1-2, 5-ESS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-LS2-2, 5-PS3-1, MS-LS4-1, MS-LS4-4, MS-LS4-5



**SEE "EVENING IMMERSIONS" FOR ASTRO HIKE AND NIGHT HIKE! (page 12)**



# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Immersion

### **THE ART OF SCIENTIFIC THINKING (Includes ART HIKE!) NEW for 2024!**

Creativity is an essential part of the scientific mind. This immersion uses art to teach students how to move through the scientific method *intuitively*. With specially made journals in hand, students will hit the trail and engage in the world around them through sensory inventories, nature journaling, observational poetry, and story writing. Students will practice how to observe, ask questions, and create unique hypotheses! (NOTE: If you have students with mobility restrictions, this immersion can be modified to remove the hike.)

NGSS: MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-PS1-3, MS-LS2-2

### **WACKY SCIENCE**

Students learn the basics of chemistry, physics, & engineering through hands-on experiments! Students will learn about chemical and physical reactions, the ways that non-Newtonian fluids can bend our understanding of matter, and how matter can undergo processes like sublimation and deposition using dry ice. Students experience explosions by creating acidic-basic reactions, and think like engineers while building a skyscraper of spaghetti that has to hold a marshmallow on top. Not an easy feat!

NGSS: 4-PS3-2, 4-PS3-4, 5-PS1-1, 5-PS1-3, 5-PS1-4, MS-PS1-1, MS-PS1-2, MS-PS1-4, MS-PS1-5, MS-PS1-6, MS-PS2-2, MS-PS3-3, MS-PS3-4, MS-PS3-5





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Immersion Cont.

### S.T.E.M. (UPDATED FOR FALL 2024!)

Our S.T.E.M. program brings scientific concepts to life through astrophysics, engineering, and robotics. Students will be immersed in hands-on activities that include an interactive gravity table to depict Einstein's Theory of General Relativity. They will build & launch their own bottle rockets to learn how designs affect vectors and trajectories, and round it all out by programming mini-robots to hone their logic and problem solving skills.

NGSS Standards: 3-5-ETS1-1, 3-5-ETS1-2, 3-5-ETS1-3, 4-PS3-2, 5-PS1-1, 5-PS1-2, MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-2, MS-ETS1-3, MS-PS1-4, MS-PS3-4, MS-PS4-2



### MINE

Combining the basics of geology, mining, and the California Gold Rush, students will learn the rich history of our beautiful state. Our camp offers a fully functioning mine-simulation complete with mining helmets, lanterns, shovels, and two digging areas laced with coal. We also offer sluice boxes where students can learn to pan for gold. Rock-a-palooza will excite students as they learn about rock formation. They will get to see and touch real samples of different minerals that they would not normally see in their own backyard. Students get to crack geodes that then become keepsakes while investigating how water can influence the formation of these geodes in the first place. All in all, the mine is a student favorite!

NGSS: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS3-1, 4-ESS3-2, 5-ESS3-1, 5-PS1-3, MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-3, MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-5, MS-PS1-3



# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Immersion Cont.

### **RANCH & SUSTAINABILITY (UPDATED FOR FALL 2024!)**

In this immersion, students will develop an understanding of how humans grow & use resources. They will play “architect” while designing their own sustainable home, build adobe bricks while learning about tensile strength, and learn how honeybees produce honey through role-playing! Students will identify insects in the garden and discover the role of beneficial insects in maintaining a healthy and biologically diverse agroecology.

NGSS: 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-4, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-2, MS-ESS3-3, MS-ESS3-4, MS-ESS3-5, MS-ETS1-2, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5, HS-ESS3-3, HS-ESS3-1, 3-LS-4, 2-PS1-2, 5-LS2-1, HS-ESS2-7, MS-LS2-5





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Adventures

### ARCHERY

Students will learn the proper way to take aim and fire a recurve bow with helpful instruction from our staff on the range. Students will also learn about the many safety protocols that they must abide by while on the range. Archery is a great activity for everyone, and is a different kind of team sport which can teach patience, self-control, and discipline.

### WRIST ROCKETS (New for Fall 2024!)

Students will learn how to safely shoot a slingshot with instruction from our trained range staff. Our reactive target range has a variety of unique and engaging targets, offering students an exciting challenge to test their skills.

### TIE DYE

Students will be given socks with the IROEC logo and will create their own special souvenir by mixing colors to make their own pattern. Students will also learn how native groups in the southwest make dyes from natural materials growing here at camp. Socks are washed, dried, and returned to students before the end of camp or delivered to their school following camp when necessary.

### LOW ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE

Our low ropes challenge course provides our students with engaging and exciting activities geared towards important life skills such as leadership, trust, collaboration, and effective communication. The course is equipped with many elements up to three feet off the ground, ensuring there is an activity perfect for your group. Students will be guided in both the safe use of the low ropes elements and insightful discussions with our experienced Instructors, striving to promote individual and collective growth for all!





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## BB GUN

Located next to our Archery Range, students can learn proper safety and handling of BB guns and practice their sharp shooting skills. Staff will instruct each group on the safety features of all equipment and help participants practice correct handling. After the safety talk, students will be able to get rounds in on the targets; maybe even shoot a bullseye!

## ZIP LINE

Take a scenic trip over the chaparral on our 325-foot quad zip line! Our trained staff provides the necessary zip line gear, procedures, and encouraging words for all students to find the power from within. Rest assured, each student's choice will be welcomed in a safe and supportive environment!

PLEASE NOTE: to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, all riders must meet the 50lb-275lb weight requirement and fit properly into all gear.

## CLIMBING TOWER

Reach new heights and a terrific view on the climbing tower! Multiple levels of difficulty exist on our tower, ensuring a challenge anyone can complete. Under the watchful eye of our trained Instructors, students will be empowered to climb our multi-faced climbing tower using an auto-belay device. The team belay, especially, is a great opportunity for the group to come together as a team and accomplish a goal! PLEASE NOTE: to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, all climbers must meet the 30lb-275lb weight requirement.





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Evening Immersions

### NIGHT HIKE

One of the most unique programs our camp has to offer, this hike allows students to explore nature in the crepuscular hour. No flashlights please! The setting sun and the temperature at this time of day is great for hiking and gives students an opportunity to explore the trails outside of camp. During the hike students can test their senses with fun activities and see what it feels like to hear like a deer. Students will also learn about local wildlife, circadian rhythms, and nightlife adaptations.

NGSS: 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, K-LS1-1, MS-LS4-1, MS-LS4-2, MS-LS4-4

### ASTRO HIKE (Updated for Fall 2024! Pairs well with S.T.E.M.)

Take to the skies during this evening immersion. Instructors will lead the students on a to-scale planetary walk of the solar system talking about the vastness of our universe and, if the skies permit, pointing out the planets above them. The planetary walk is the start of their hike to a better view of the stars where they will listen to constellation stories and learn about star navigation while testing their knowledge of moon phases. The evening wraps up with a virtual exploration of the universe lead by trail group leaders before heading back to their bunkhouses. (NOTE: If you have students with mobility restrictions, this immersion can be modified to remove the hike.)

NGSS: MS-ESS1-1, MS-ESS1-2, MS-ESS1-3, MS-PS2-4, 5-ESS1-2

### LINE DANCING

You'll be surprised to see you students come out of their shells during line dancing! Students are taught a traditional square dance, popular line dances, and, if time permits, free dance party session to their favorite school-friendly hits. In this unique activity where students strengthen their bonds with each other, there is no doubt that new memories will be created on the dance floor!





# PLANNING YOUR STAY

## Final Evening

### CAMPFIRE

The best way to end your Outdoor Science School adventure is by gathering with your school in our amphitheater by the warm glow of our campfire. At the campfire instructors will lead songs, tell stories, and perform skits. Trail groups will also have the chance to get on the stage and show off a skit they've learned. The evening wraps up with a story and yummy, gooey s'mores!



## Final Day

### REFLECTION

On the last day of program, each trail group will get to spend some time with their instructor on a short walk to reflect on their OSS experience. They will get a chance to talk about what they have learned over their time at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center and how they have grown.



# CAMP SCHEDULE

Our goal is to pack lots of adventure into your stay at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. Every school and group that comes to camp has different students with different needs. If you have special program needs or requests, we are more than happy to work with you to make sure the experience is just right for your students.

Sample Schedule			7:00-7:45	Rise and Shine	7:00-7:45	Rise and Shine
			7:45-8:00	Morning song and competition	7:45-8:00	Morning song and competition
			8:00-8:45	BREAKFAST	8:00-8:45	BREAKFAST
Day 1	10:00-10:30	Arrival and Check-In	9:00-9:45	Academic Activity - Wacky 1-2	8:45-9:00	Reflection Activity
	10:30-11:15	Bunkhouse Orientation	10:00-10:45	Academic Activity - Wacky 3-4	9:00-9:30	Departure/Tsunami
	11:15-11:45	Get to know your Trail Group	11:00-11:45	Adventure Activity - Tie Dye		
	11:45-12:00	Dining Hall Orientation/Song/Competition	11:45-12:00	Afternoon Song and Competition		
	12:00-12:45	LUNCH	12:00-12:45	LUNCH		
	12:45-1:45	Teacher Time	12:45-1:45	Teacher Time		
	2:00-2:45	Adventure Activity - Low Ropes	2:00-2:45	Academic Activity - STEM 1-2		
	3:00-3:45	Academic Activity - Mine 1-2	3:00-3:45	Adventure Activity - Archery		
	4:00-4:45	Academic Activity - Mine 3-4	4:00-4:45	Academic Activity - STEM 3-4		
	4:45-5:15	Bunkhouse Time (Get into warm clothing)	4:45-5:15	Bunkhouse Time (Get into warm clothing)		
	5:15-5:30	Evening Song and Competition	5:15-5:30	Evening Song and Competition		
	5:30-6:15	DINNER	5:30-6:15	DINNER		
	6:30-8:30	Evening Activity - Astronomy Night	6:30-7:45	Evening Activity		
	8:30-9:00	SNACK at Bunkhouse	7:45-8:55	Campfire & S'MORES		
	9:00-9:45	Getting ready for bed	9:00-9:45	Getting ready for bed		
Day 2	9:45-10:00	Quiet Time	9:45-10:00	Quiet Time		
	10:00	Lights Out	10:00	Lights Out		



# CHECK-IN PROCESS

## Teachers

All teachers are to proceed to the main parking lot to park vehicles and gather their belongings. Head over to the Gateway to Adventure where a team member will meet you for check in. Please be prepared to turn over all medications to the Health Officer. After check-in is complete, teachers will gather for a brief orientation followed by optional tours of the property. Then, head to the Mountain Lion Den and take a break before heading to Harrison Lodge for lunch. Teacher rooms will be ready after lunch on arrival day.

## Students

1. Instructors will meet school buses and welcome students at the entrance to the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center.
2. School buses will be guided to their drop-off location.
3. Once all students have exited the bus, instructors and students will unload the luggage.
4. Students will proceed to check-in which includes:
  - a. Student Wellness Check
    - i. Students meet with staff to go through a medical recheck. The medical recheck includes the BSA Pre-event Screening and asking about any allergies, medications, and bumps or scrapes they have.
    - ii. Each student will be given a sticker with their trail group number and bunkhouse assignment.
  - b. Lawn Games
    - i. Students will be participating in field games with instructors until they all have completed check-in.
5. After check-in is complete, students will break out into their trail groups for orientation and group expectations.

NOTE: Parent drop-off for schools is done on a limited basis. Please contact us at least one month in advance if this is the case for your school.



# TEACHER HOUSING

Teachers and administrators stay in our Bungalow Building, otherwise known as the Mountain Lion Building. The teachers' housing is just a short walk from Harrison Lodge and the students' housing.

The Bungalow Building includes six (6) standard hotel-style rooms, each with two (2) full-size beds and a private bathroom. This building also includes an ADA accessible suite. The suite is a 2-bedroom unit that includes a queen size bed, two twin size beds, a private bath and a small sitting area. The Bungalow Building is air conditioned.

Lodging in the Bungalow Building includes access to the Mountain Lion Den, a communal room where guests will find a living/dining room area complete with a kitchenette, fireplace, and television.

**All overnight academic trips are guaranteed two bungalow rooms to accommodate up to 4 teachers and administrators.** If the teacher gender ratio does not align with the number of rooms (i.e. 3 females and 1 male), they will be provided a third room when available. If a school has specific needs for medical personnel or student aides, please reach out to see if they can be accommodated in the bungalow rooms.

Please note, we reserve the standard Bungalow rooms at the time of your reservation with the suite added last. Requests for suite will be granted on a case-by-case basis pending availability.

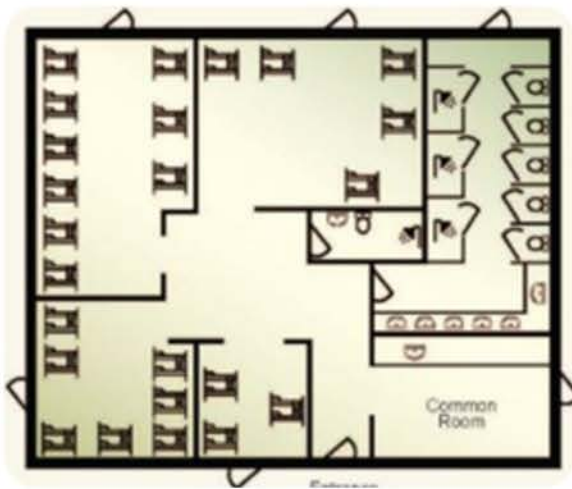
If a school would like more than two bungalow rooms for their teachers and administrators, requests should be made as soon as possible but no less than 30 days in advance. The additional room will be charged to the school's invoice.

**Two teachers or administrators must be on site for the full duration of Outdoor Science School.**



# STUDENT HOUSING

Each IROEC bunkhouse is a single-story, 2500sqft, ADA compliant building with four primary sleeping areas and holds a maximum capacity of 48 campers. Boys and girls are assigned to separate bunkhouses with bunkhouse assignments completed by school staff. Two chaperones of the same gender are placed in each bunkhouse for overnight supervision. Quiet time is from 10pm until 7am. **All bunkhouses are shared facilities and may be shared with other schools.**





# DINING AT CAMP

The dining hall, Harrison Lodge, is where we eat our meals and share fellowship with one another. Students are given the dining hall procedures preceding their first meal by the instructors. This includes how to select desired foods and how to clean up.

## Dining Procedures

Before the first meal, the instructors will go over the following dining hall procedures.

- Stay seated at all times, unless approved by an adult/instructor.
- Wash/sanitize hands before getting food.
- Take a tray and silverware.
- Select from the salad bar.
- Choose a hot plate.

\*Vegetarian meals are available, arrangements to be made 2 weeks prior to your stay.

- Utilize the condiment area.
- Take tray back to trail group table.
- Listen for further instructions for seconds and clean up.





# DINING AT CAMP

## Camp Menu

There's nothing more comforting than home-style food eaten with friends. We recognize the important role that food plays in developing the ultimate camp experience, and we know that your students will love every bite! There is a wide variety of food options at every meal, including a salad bar. Below is a one-week sample menu to help you prepare for your stay with us.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
B R E A K F A S T	Pancakes Sausage Links Cube Potatoes  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option	Scrambled Eggs Bacon Tater Tots  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option	Waffle Sausage Patty Cube Potatoes  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option	French Toast Sausage Links Tater Tots  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option	Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty Biscuit  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option	Waffle Bacon Cube Potatoes  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option	French Toast Sausage Patty Tater Tots  Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk  Meatless Option
L U N C H	Pulled Pork Sandwich Coleslaw Chips  Salad Bar Water  Veggie Burger	Pepperoni Pizza Fruit  Salad Bar Water  Cheese Pizza	Sloppy Joes Coleslaw Chips  Salad Bar Water  Veggie Burger	Baked Mac & Cheese Chicken Tenders Fruit  Salad Bar Water  Baked Mac & Cheese	Italian Style Breaded Chicken Breast Sandwich French Fries Fruit  Salad Water  Veggie Chicken Burger	Beef Burrito Rice, Beans & Potato  Salad Bar Water  Burrito w/ Rice & Beans	Cheeseburger French Fries Fruit  Salad Bar Water  Veggie Burger
D I N N E R	Chicken Penne Pasta w/ Alfredo Sauce Garlic Bread Seasonal Vegetables  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert	Pasta Bolognese Garlic Bread Seasonal Vegetables  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Hardshell Beef Tacos Mexican Rice  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Churro Snack	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Seasonal Vegetables  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Teriyaki Chicken Rice Broccoli  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Tri-Tip Roasted Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Roasted Chicken Quarter Leg Mashed Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables  Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert
	Penn Pasta w/ Alfredo Sauce	Meatless Marinara Sauce	Meatless Tacos	Meatless Marinara Sauce	Teriyaki Stir-Fry Veggies	Veggie Beef Strips	Veggie Chicken Patty

Please note, arrangements for vegetarian meals must be made two weeks prior to your stay.

Menu is subject to change.



# DINING AT CAMP

## Dietary Restrictions

We understand the challenges facing the community of people who struggle with food allergies or have food sensitivities. However, due to the handcrafted nature of our food, and our use of shared cooking and preparation areas, we cannot ensure that our food is free from any allergens.

The food ingredients we use may have been manufactured on shared equipment processing milk, wheat, egg, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, and other allergens. We strive to reduce the risk of these allergens, but products containing these allergens are all made in our kitchen.

Our facility is unable to provide vegan, kosher, halal, or other meals adhering to religious guidelines, and we do not “carb-count.” Our kitchen does not serve seafood and is “peanut-aware,” meaning that none of the foods we serve contain peanuts or peanut products, and our food service staff will not bring nut or peanut products into the kitchen.

The range of tolerance or reactions to the presence of food allergens varies greatly from person to person. Decisions on the number of precautions you should take or risks you may expose yourself to, are always best made by you in consultation with your physician.

We can provide vegetarian options for all meals. Please make your request while booking.



# DINING AT CAMP

## Sending Food to Camp

If you or a student wish to provide your own meals during your stay at camp, we will work towards ensuring the highest level of safety and convenience regarding your meals. When providing your own meals at IROEC, please follow these guidelines:

Create a daily meal menu with reheating instructions so that our food service staff can ensure you receive the appropriate meals.

Label ALL food containers with your first and last name, the name of the group you are with, and which meal it should be served at (Ex. "John Smith, ABC Elementary, Tuesday Dinner"). Then, place your name on ALL bags/utensils/menus to ensure that your food is properly delivered.

These meals are stored in a designated refrigerator in the kitchen that is cleaned and sanitized prior to your arrival. This refrigerator only contains dietary restricted meals.

Meals will be heated by the food service staff at mealtimes so that students will be able to enter the service line and ask for their meal with ease. Due to Orange County Health Department regulations, the IROEC can only heat, and not cook, any outside food brought into camp.

Due to potential allergens within our facility, you may wish to provide your own disposable utensils, plates, trays, or cups.

Any containers, utensils and other items may be returned upon request at the conclusion of your program.



# TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

## Prior to Arrival

### SCHOOL PRESENTATION

We want to make sure that you and your students are prepared for a fun and safe experience at camp. One way our staff likes to help with this is through a virtual Pre-Camp Presentation. This presentation is an opportunity for parents/guardians to meet some of our staff and learn all they need to know about their student's camp experience. Email our program director, Tori, at [torih@ocbsa.org](mailto:torih@ocbsa.org) to schedule your school presentation. (Time slots are limited. Please allow ample time for planning.)

### PARENT COMMUNICATION

As camp is approaching, share the packing list with parents and remind them to fill out their student's health information on UltraCamp. If parents have specific camp questions, please have them reach out to [torih@ocbsa.org](mailto:torih@ocbsa.org).

### TRAIL GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

During the day, student groups are led by trail guides (16 students: 1 instructor) who will help them experience nature and science first hand. Trail groups, at times, will be paired. This means Trail Group 1 and 2 will sometimes be at the same activity. Please keep this in mind when assigning your students. The number of trail group leaders will be assigned according to the number of participants confirmed on your contract. Please fill out the Trail Group and Bunkhouse Assignment form at least two weeks before your arrival to ensure we have proper ratios.

### BUNKHOUSE ASSIGNMENTS

On the same form as the trail group assignments, please assign the students to their rooms. Each bunkhouse is separated by gender and can accommodate 48 students. Please note that schools may share bunkhouses.

**\*\*The Trail Group and Bunkhouse Assignment Form is due at least two weeks in advance of your arrival.\*\***



# TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

## At Camp

At the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center, we rely on teachers to assist with a few things; supervision during meal times, caring for any students who cannot participate in our program (due to medical, discipline, etc.), check-ins, campfire, evening bunkhouse visits, and Teacher Time. Two teachers are required to be onsite and available during the entirety of your program to support student needs.

Visitors are not allowed unless they are approved by the school's district and sign in at our office.

### DRESS CODE

The IROEC strives to provide a safe and professional appearance to our participants and staff. Clothing with offensive or inappropriate designs or logos is not allowed. Attire should be appropriate for school as well as an active outdoor program. Closed toes shoes are required.

### MEDICATIONS (VERY IMPORTANT!)

Prior to arrival, medications should be collected at school by the school nurse or administration. Upon arrival at camp, teachers and/or school administration must meet with the IROEC Health Officer to deliver any student medications. Medications include all prescription and over-the-counter medications (including vitamins & supplements) sent by parents. It is extremely important that all medications are handed off to the Health Officer and do not remain with the students so that no medications are mismanaged.

Medications must be in their *original container* (bottle or package) with the *student's name* and the prescription label. Medications out of the containers and loose in bags will not be accepted.

If a teacher becomes aware of any students that have medications on their person or in their bags, teachers should take the medication and turn it into the Health Officer.



# TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

## TEACHER TIME

Teacher Time is typically after lunch and usually lasts about an hour.

Teacher Time activities can include the following:

- Field games in designated recreation areas
- Table-top games
- Teacher-led lessons such as journaling
- Teacher-led hike through the camp or Irvine Regional Park

Requests for recreation items and areas can be made during your orientation. School representatives will have an opportunity to meet with camp instructors at the beginning of Teacher Time on the first day.

## COMMUNICATION BINDER

Located in Harrison Lodge is the Communication Binder. This binder is updated daily with information regarding the students. This includes, and is not limited to, behavior, medical, early/late arrival/departure, and number of participants on property. The binder is there to also help the flow of communication between the instructor, leadership, and school representatives.

## ONSITE SUPPORT

All teachers from your school must attend each meal while your school is on property. Teachers also need to check-in at the bunkhouse each evening before students get ready for bed. This involvement helps in multiple ways

- Provides recognizable faces for the students
- Combats homesickness
- Models active leadership
- Provides mediator for potential schedule adjustments or modification

Teachers are expected to check-in with their students and support the IROEC instructors. This support includes providing strategies for students that need extra help and being a part of behavior agreements (if needed). Depending on a student's needs, a teacher may be called to assist with behavior challenges or missing home.



# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

We expect students to be on their best behavior while visiting our camp. For our discipline system to work effectively, we need the cooperation of both the student's guardians and teachers. A Code of Conduct, signed by the student and their guardian in UltraCamp, is required for every student attending camp. Students who pose a threat to themselves or others or misbehave repeatedly will face expulsion.

Our discipline policy has three strikes:

## **STRIKE ONE**

The student is informed of their poor choice and a discussion is held on how they can improve their behavior. Teachers are made aware.

## **STRIKE TWO**

Teachers are contacted and their feedback is solicited. The student has a conversation about their behavior and the consequences if they do not improve. The parents are contacted at this point and made aware of the prior behavior and the consequences for any further negative actions.

## **STRIKE THREE**

Any student who receives a third strike will either be sent home and placed exclusively in the custody of the visiting school's teachers until the parent can arrive.

Any infraction which puts a student or staff member's safety in jeopardy will result in the student's immediate expulsion. If expelled from camp, the student will remain under the school's care and the guardians must arrange immediate transportation of the student.

The school may pursue additional consequences of follow-up as reflected in the school's policy.

No refund or credit will be granted to an expelled student.



# STUDENT PACKING LIST

Please make sure your student's name and the name of their school are easily visible on all pieces of luggage. Students must carry their own bags, so pack accordingly!

## What to Bring

- **Bedroll:**
  - One pillow and one sleeping bag rolled up and placed in a garbage bag for weather protection. Sheets and a warm blanket are also acceptable. Bring an extra garbage bag for going home.
- **Suitcase/Duffel Bag/Backpack:**
  - We recommend placing your items inside a large Ziploc or garbage bag within your duffel in case of rain.
- **Clothing:**
  - Lightweight, closed toe shoes OR hiking shoes
  - Long pants (recommended for hikes and harnessed activities)
  - Shorts with an inseam of 5" or longer
  - Underwear - include extras
  - Socks - include extras
  - Pajamas
  - T-shirt - should cover shoulders and abdomen
  - Long sleeve t-shirt (at least one)
  - Jacket (weather appropriate)
  - Raincoat or poncho (if the forecast calls for rain)
- **Personal Items**
  - Towel and Washcloth
  - Soap and Shampoo
  - Chapstick and Sunscreen
  - Hat
  - Sunglasses
  - Shower Sandals
  - Brush or Comb
  - Toothbrush and Toothpaste
  - Book or Journal
  - 2 Pencils
  - Camera (Optional)
- **Money for Trading Post (Optional)**
  - Snacks - \$10-20
  - T-Shirts - \$20
  - Souvenirs - \$10-20

# STUDENT PACKING LIST

## What NOT to Bring

If an item is not permitted at your school, it is not permitted at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. The following items are not allowed to be brought on site.

- Cell Phones
- Other electronics i.e. tablets, smart watches, ear buds, etc.
- Personal sports equipment
- Valuables – jewelry
- Food Items
  - Snacks
  - Drinks
  - Candy
  - Gum

If your student is found with any of the following items, the student will be expelled from our program.

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Matches
- Lighters
- Pocket knives
- Weapons
- Pets or other animals



# WHY CAMP?

Maybe you have students or parents that are nervous about camp, and that is okay. It can be scary to send your student away from home or to go away from home for the first time.

Here are some great links about the benefits of camp that you can share with your students and their families:

"Benefits of Camp" *American Camp Association*  
<https://tinyurl.com/nhkuzfa3>

"The Importance of Camp" *Young People's Ministries*  
<https://tinyurl.com/2pvbhv7t>

"Top Five Reasons Kids Should Go To Camp" *San Diego Family*  
<https://tinyurl.com/z8z8tvce>

