

Dear Parent,

Thank you for participating in a school supported program at The Ozark Natural Science Center (ONSC). For nearly 30 years, we have enjoyed sharing our Ozark big backyard with over 60,000 visiting children, just like your child will soon be! Together, we have hiked our scenic trails, gazed at a star-filled sky, and laughed around the campfire all while providing a great educational experience that helps children to better achieve in school.



ONSC is more than just a field trip. While here, your child will:

- Apply hands-on science skills that will be used back in the classroom
- Explore, discover, and learn in a safe outdoor environment
- Build independence skills
- Strengthen friendships
- Create lifelong memories

For many of you, this will be your child's first night away from home; for others, your child may be used to sleepovers. Given that we see so many children with so many different overnight experiences, we go the extra mile to make sure your child feels safe and secure while here.



Our safety policies include:

- Children will never be alone with another child or adult. Most of the time is spent in a teacher created field group that is full of classmates.
- ONSC staff is trained and prepared to handle any emergency that may happen; although, most situations have only required a Band-Aid.
- All adults, including ONSC staff, parent chaperones, and teachers will undergo background checks. Only properly screened adults are permitted.
- Trail hikes will not exceed student capabilities. Your child will only hike about a mile at a time.



When your child returns home:

After the program, there will be lots to share! Here are a few conversation starters:

- How many animals did you see?
- How was the food?
- What was the night hike like?
- Would you like to explore in the woods again?
- How was the lodge? Was it comfortable?



Preparing Your Child for ONSC

The time has finally come to prepare for this great adventure. Here are 3 things you can do to help make sure this is the best experience for your child.

1. Be excited with your child
2. Complete the Student Participation Form and return it to your child's teacher
3. Follow the packing list below

ONSC Packing Checklist

One complete change of clothing for each day your child will be at ONSC, including:

- Sack lunch to eat along the trail on the first day
- Long pants or jeans (no shorts or capris)
- T-shirts
- Long socks (above the ankle)
- 2 pair of used, comfortable, close-toed shoes/boots (1 pair may get wet)
- Sleepwear
- Underwear
- Weather appropriate jacket (sweatshirts aren't enough during winter)
- Sleeping bag or twin sheets & blanket
- Pillow
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Towel, soap, shampoo, deodorant & other toiletries
- Plastic or cloth bag for dirty clothes
- (Optional) Money for the store. Your child will turn this in for safe-keeping upon arrival at ONSC.



Please pack the following for your child's use on the trail:

- Extra layer, such as a sweatshirt or jacket
- Reusable water bottle (32 oz. capacity is recommended; avoid large bottles)
- 2 or more pencils
- Raingear (jacket or poncho)
- Gloves or mittens during cold weather
- (Optional) disposable camera

A backpack will be provided for your child to use while hiking at ONSC



If Your Child Has:

Medications

If your child needs medications while at ONSC, indicate this on their Participant Form. You should receive a copy of the form you submitted via the email address you provided. You may edit your child's form if medications change or if other medical conditions arise. Your child's form

will be available to edit up to one week prior to their trip to ONSC.

Also:

1. Send medications in the original container
2. Provide detailed dosage instructions
3. Make sure your child's name is clearly visible
4. Give the medication to your child's teacher or school nurse PRIOR to your child's trip to ONSC

*Note, all medical information is kept confidential and locked up until needed. Your child's school district policy for student medications will apply at ONSC.

Dietary Needs or Restrictions

ONSC can meet many dietary needs and restrictions. Please indicate all needs on the Student Participant Form. If you have any questions you can contact ONSC's Food Service Manager at least 2 weeks prior to your child's visit.

Loretta Crow

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For any additional help please feel free to reach out:

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