

GLEN HELEN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER STUDENT WELCOME LETTER



We're so excited that you'll be coming soon to Glen Helen for Outdoor School! You're probably wondering just what to expect and whether you'll have a good time, so we'll try to answer some of your questions here.

Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center is an outdoor classroom in the Glen Helen Nature Preserve, with over 1000 acres and 16 miles of trails to explore and make your own! There are two streams, as well deer, beavers, crayfish, and many other creatures to observe and encounter during your adventure here. You'll have science lessons during the day and activities like capture the flag and crafts in the afternoon - you'll even get to go on a night hike and stay in the dormitories with your teachers, classmates, and friends.



We look forward to meeting you, learning with you, and to having exciting adventures together!

Will we learn things at the Outdoor Education Center?

Absolutely! You learn all about life sciences in your classroom - here, you get to *live* in it! We'll be learning more about math, social studies, science, and language arts while exploring a 1,000-acre outdoor classroom. We'll also play games and learn about ourselves and the world around us, all while having fun!



Who will teach us?

You will attend Outdoor School with your classmates and teachers, but will be on-trail and learning from Naturalist Teachers who are specially trained about the Glen, nature, science, and how to share it with students just like you.

What are the rules at Outdoor School?

Rules are very similar to the ones you have at school - we need to use kind words and actions; be respectful of others, the space, and nature; and make good, safe choices.



What happens if I get sick, get homesick, or need daily medication?

If you get sick or injured, we'll call your adults at home and see that you get medical help. If you get homesick, we'll help get your mind off of home and focused on the exciting things to do in the Glen. If you regularly need medicine from home, your teacher will give it to you. All of your Teacher Naturalists are trained in First Aid and CPR too, just to keep you safe!

What should I bring along?

Included in this packet is a suggested list of clothing and materials you will need. The most important stuff includes: good walking shoes that you don't mind getting dirty, extra pairs of socks, layers to keep you warm, a bedroll or sleeping bag, your toiletries, a towel, and a backpack and water bottle. Remember that whatever you pack, you will be responsible for carrying to and from the dormitories at the start and end of the week!



What should I leave at home?

Please leave all electronics at home. It is hard to keep everything safe on the trail and we'd hate for your phone to fall into the creek! Without your phone or other electronics you can really focus on nature, your community, and working together. If you'd like to bring a disposable film camera, you are allowed to do so. Please also leave all food, snacks, and candy at home.



What if I have other questions?

You can check out our website for student resources and a welcome video at www.glenhelen.org/os-resources. You can also call the OEC at 937-767-7648 or by sending an email to Kelsey Mazur, Assistant Director, at kmazur@glenhelenassociation.org – we are very happy to help!