



Teacher's Field Trip Checklist

- ✓ **Help Protect Our Bats!** This fatal disease in bats has already killed over a million bats in eastern North America, and is spreading west. Avoid spreading the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats! **When you visit Oregon Caves, plan ahead not to bring any items that have been worn or used in any cave, mine, or bat hibernation site east of the Rocky Mountains after 2005, or in any cave in Europe.** This includes shoes, camera bags, and clothes. Even if the item has been washed, there is still a risk. Do not bring it.
- ✓ **What are the logistics?** Field trips last 3 hours in duration. Your group may arrive any time after 8:30 am but the education program ends by 12:30 pm. Park rangers will be waiting for your bus in the first (lower) parking lot. More details are available on the last page of this document.
 1. During the visit, your class will:
 - explore the cave (1 hour, 10 minutes)*
 - eat lunch (20 minutes)*
 - engage in a forest hike program (45 minutes)*
 - participate in the field trip conclusion (10 minutes)*.

*Please note: these times are approximates.
- ✓ **What about lunch?** Students will drop their lunches off inside coolers. Rangers bring coolers to the visitor center. Lunch is either outside (weather permitting) or in the back of the Visitor Center.
- ✓ **How many adults can come?** We require one adult per group but do not allow more than two. This program can accommodate four groups of 15 people, including chaperones. Therefore, **this program's maximum capacity is 56 students and 4 chaperones.** Additional chaperones cannot be accommodated. Please be selective with your chaperones and ensure that they are physically capable of this moderately strenuous tour.
- ✓ **How many people can be in one group?** Group size is limited to 15 people total with no more than 2 adult chaperones.
- ✓ **Have your groups already determined before you visit.** Up to 30 minutes of valuable field trip time can be wasted if you don't do this beforehand!
- ✓ **How many stairs are there?** Cave tour programs are moderately strenuous and consist of over 400 stairs with walking uphill for 5- 10 minute durations. The entire field trip program consists of walking at least 1.5 miles, 400 stairs, and uphill hiking.

- ✓ **Who can go?** The field trip experience is for the targeted grades. Siblings of students that are not in the class cannot be accommodated.
- ✓ **What should we wear?** Students are required to good walking shoes and to bring a warm jacket. The cave is COLD - 44°F (7°C) - and forest hikes are taken rain or shine. Students may get dirty on the fieldtrip. Encourage them to wear old clothes. Do not allow students to wear clothes that have been in caves or mines east of the Rocky Mountains or in Europe since 2005.
- ✓ **What should stay home?** Flashlights, cameras, electronics, and headphones are not allowed during the field trip. Chaperones (not students) may bring cameras and take pictures in a designated area.
- ✓ **What are the rules?** Please review the following with your students before they visit.
 1. **Listen** when the Ranger talks.
 2. **Always stay behind the leader** and stay with the group.
 3. **Avoid injuries:** do not throw sticks, rocks, snow, etc., at any time.
 4. **All natural features are protected:** do not collect rocks, flowers, feathers, etc. Take only memories; leave only footprints.
 5. **Do not feed the wildlife** such as birds, chipmunks, etc. Human food can make wildlife sick and cause them to forget to find their own food. They can bite you, and feeding them results in their becoming pests for other people.
- ✓ **Can we visit the gift shop?** The field trip does not include time for visiting the gift shop nor is it recommended. If your school has allotted extra time after the field trip activities are completed, your students may visit the gift shop. There must be at least one adult accompanying each group of four children, with a maximum of 8 students at a time in the gift shop.
- ✓ **Where do we park?** Buses should park on the north side of the parking lot (see attached map). Buses should circle the parking lot counter- clockwise and pull into the designated bus parking area facing the outlet. Buses should NOT enter the driveway beyond the kiosk. Cars and vans may park in the same lot.
- ✓ **What do I do next?** Send the following forms to the monument using the contact information below (forms will be emailed to teachers upon request and can be found on the monument's website at <http://www.nps.gov/orca/forteachers/reg.htm>):
 1. **Academic Fee Waiver Form**
 2. **Statement** indicating how you plan to use the field trip to supplement your curriculum (such as a lesson plan)
 3. **Proof** that your group is an educational organization (such as a letter of accreditation or notice of educational tax exemption status on a letterhead)

Copy and distribute "Chaperone Check List" to your chaperones. The Education Park Rangers will contact you and confirm your visit to Oregon Caves.

- **E- mail:** orca_educ_program@nps.gov
- **Phone:** 541- 592- 2100 ext. 2261
- **Fax:** 541- 592- 3981
- **Address:** Oregon Caves National Monument, ATTN: Education Coordinator, 19000 Caves Hwy, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Oregon Caves Field Trip Map for Teachers

