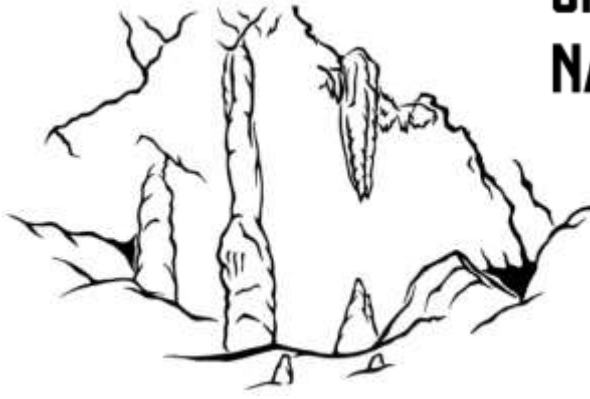


# OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE



## CURRICULUM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM FIELD TRIP PACKET



## ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Welcome to the Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve Education Program! We would be happy to host your group for a field trip. Your time here will be informative, interactive, and exciting for your students. You will find all the information you need to plan your field trip in this packet. If you have any questions after thoroughly reading through this packet, you are welcome to contact the Education Coordinator: 541-592-2100 x2261.

Understanding geology, the study of Earth and its changes, is essential to appreciate the world around us. The program increases students' appreciation for the natural world by encouraging discovery and exploratory learning. Our program covers the rock cycle, cave formations, and processes such as erosion and weathering. Field trips to the Monument give students a chance to discover geology with knowledgeable Rangers.

We offer curriculum-based educational programs meeting Oregon and California science standards set for grades 3-5. Other ages are welcome to visit for educational purposes and will receive a cave tour that will be catered to their learning needs. While taking the students on an hour and a half exploration of the cave, the



Ranger talks about the geological changes that happens beneath (and above) our feet and how different processes such as deposition and erosion shape and create the cave. The National Park Service strives to encourage students to protect, preserve, and enjoy this valuable resource.

Please consider taking your group on a hike through the forest to take advantage of the learning opportunities on the surface; activity guides will be provided to teachers who wish to lead a forest hike. Education rangers may be available for your hike as well. Please inquire during the reservation process if this is an activity that you would be interested in. Surface activities with related curriculum links will remain on the website for teacher access and use.

## AGENDA

When you arrive, please keep your students on the bus. A Park Ranger will come and give a brief orientation to students and chaperones before the cave tour begins. You will then need to walk your group up to the Visitor Center from the lower parking lot (about 900 feet).

During your visit, your class can explore the cave (70 minutes per group), eat lunch (20-30 minutes), and optionally go on a teacher-led forest hike (45 minutes).

The field trip does not include time for visiting the bookstore or gift shop. If your school has allotted extra time after the cave tour is completed, your students may visit the gift shop. There must be at least one adult accompanying each group of four children. This will be strictly enforced.

## LOGISTICS

- **TIME:** Our staff is available for educational cave tours from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. You are welcome to stay longer at the monument and explore our hiking trails or other resources.
- **DURATION:** Each tour lasts 70 minutes, but only 15 people may go on each tour, so the duration of your field trip will depend upon the number of students in your group. Plan to be here for at least 2-3 hours.
- **CAPACITY:** We are only able to accommodate a maximum of 60 people per day, including chaperones. If you would like to bring more than 60 people, you will need to choose two different days to visit. Students will explore the cave in groups of no more than 15 including 1-2 chaperones.
- **CHAPERONES** are required! The number of chaperones allowed for each group will be:
  - College students - 1 Chaperone per 14 students
  - High School students - 2 Chaperones per 13 students
  - Elementary & Middle students - 2 Chaperones per 13 students
  - For example: an elementary school group of 20 students is accepted for a fee waiver. The 20 students may be accompanied by 4 Chaperones at no cost. Additional chaperones must pay the standard tour fee to participate on a cave tour.
  - A chaperone is defined as a teacher, teacher's aide, or parent helper.
  - Please be selective with your chaperones and ensure that they are physically capable of completing this moderately strenuous tour.



## HELP PROTECT OUR BATS!

Before visiting the monument, we need ALL visitors to help protect our bats. A fatal disease in bats known as White-Nose Syndrome has already killed millions of bats in eastern North America, and is spreading west. Avoid spreading the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats! Inform all students and chaperones before your visit to Oregon Caves that they must plan ahead not to bring any items that have been worn or used in any cave, mine, or bat hibernation site in the United States or Canada since 2006, or in any cave in Europe or China ever.

This includes shoes, jewelry, clothes, and camera bags. Even if the item has been washed, there is still a risk.

**DO NOT bring it!**



## BOOKING YOUR FIELD TRIP

**Please plan ahead!** You must send in the forms at least 3 weeks prior to your visit to reserve your field trip date at Oregon Caves. Due to available staffing at the Monument, accommodations may be limited to specific dates and/or student numbers. All requests are taken on a first-come-first-served basis. ***Your reservation is not considered complete until you have received a confirmation email from our Education Coordinator.*** Contact the Education Coordinator if you have not received a confirmation email within a week of submitting.

The 2018 education season will begin March 26 and run through November 2.

Setting up your field trip is as easy as 1-2-3!



1. Download Curriculum-Based Education Registration Form and Fee Waiver Form from the website.
2. Fill forms out completely. Attach appropriate documentation (see Fee Waiver Process).
3. Send filled forms and scanned documentation back to us via e-mail: [Jamie\\_Cleaver@nps.gov](mailto:Jamie_Cleaver@nps.gov)

You will be able to pick three possible dates that work for your group to visit. We are able to accommodate up to 60 people per day (including chaperones – see Logistics for more information). If you wish to bring a larger group, you will need to visit on two separate days.

## **FEE WAIVER PROCESS**

While everyone is always welcome to visit a National Monument, we do have certain guidelines about who may take advantage of our Fee-Waived Educational programs. Academic fee waiver requests must be received at least three weeks before field trips and cannot be granted on-the-spot. We cannot guarantee any group a place in the education program until all paperwork had been received and approved. Staff will communicate via email to confirm when fee waivers are granted.

In order to be approved for a fee waiver you must qualify. Fee waivers are directed at educational institutions who are visiting Oregon Caves to enhance their classroom curriculum. **To apply for a fee waiver, you must fill out the Fee Waiver Form (found on our website) and provide 3 additional documents.**

1. Proof that your group is an educational organization, such as a letter of accreditation or an educational tax exemption letter. **A tax-ID number or statement of non-profit status is NOT sufficient.**
2. A copy of your lesson plan that includes national, state, or district standards.
3. A statement indicating how visiting the Oregon Caves is relevant to your lesson plan.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL FIELD TRIP

- The tour is considered moderately strenuous. There are over 400 stairs, a walking distance of nearly a mile, and low ceilings which require stooping and bending. The tour is not recommended for students or chaperones that have back, heart, respiratory, balance, vision, or knee issues. The full tour is not wheelchair accessible. Please contact the Education Coordinator if you have any specific concerns about your student's needs.
- Students are required to wear good walking shoes and to bring a warm jacket. It is COLD in the cave: 44 degrees Fahrenheit (7 degrees Celsius). Students may get dirty on the field trip. Encourage them to wear older clothes. Do not allow students to wear clothes that have been in any caves or mines since 2006 in the United States or Canada, or in Europe ever.
- Items **NOT** allowed on the field trip include: flashlights, cameras, electronic devices, and headphones. Students must go through the cave tour without any backpacks, bags, purses, phones, food, drinks, gum, or candy. Chaperones (not students) may bring a camera and take pictures at the Ranger's discretion.
- Siblings of students that are **NOT** in the class cannot be accommodated. The field trip experience is for the targeted grades.
- Instruct students to bring a sack lunch. Students will be able to drop their lunches off in coolers which will be kept at the Visitor Center. Lunch will be outside at picnic tables. Your group will be expected to clean up after themselves.
- Rangers will lead cave tours with up to 15 people at a time (including students and 1-2 chaperones.) Please have your groups determined before arriving at the monument so that we can serve you most efficiently. Up to 30 minutes of valuable field trip time can be wasted if you skip this step!
- Copy and distribute the "Chaperone Checklist" to your chaperones so that they know what to expect. Chaperones are a vital part to the success of your field trip – please have all teachers and chaperones model respectful behavior for students and keep their designated students with them at all times.
- Be aware that we will be serving the public during the same time as your field trip, and ask students to be respectful of other people's experiences at a National Monument & Preserve. Keep students clear of parking lots except for when unloading or loading the bus.

## THE RULES

Please review the following rules with your students before the visit:

- Listen when the Ranger is talking
- Always stay behind the leader and stay with the group
- Avoid injuries: do not throw sticks, rocks, snow, etc. at any time. Stay on designated trails.
- All natural features are protected: do not collect rocks, flowers, feathers, pine cones, etc. Follow "Leave No Trace" guidelines: Take only memories, leave only footprints.
- Do not feed wildlife such as birds, chipmunks, deer, 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.



## GETTING HERE

### FROM I-5

- Take exit 58 to merge onto NE 6th St/OR-99/Redwood Hwy
- Continue to follow Redwood Hwy (3 miles)
- Turn right at US-199 to Cave Junction (28 miles)
- Turn left on OR-46 (a gas station is on the corner)
- Follow OR-46 for 20 miles to the Monument

### FROM CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA

- Take a left at US-101 (4 miles)
- Take exit 794 to merge onto US-199 toward Grants Pass/I-5 (49 miles)
- Turn right at OR-46 (a gas station is on the corner)
- Follow OR-46 for 20 miles to the Monument

*The last 10 miles are narrow, steep and winding. Car-sickness is common.*

*It is extremely important that you stay in your own lane. There are many blind corners.*

*Watch for traffic crossing into your lane and watch out for wildlife.*

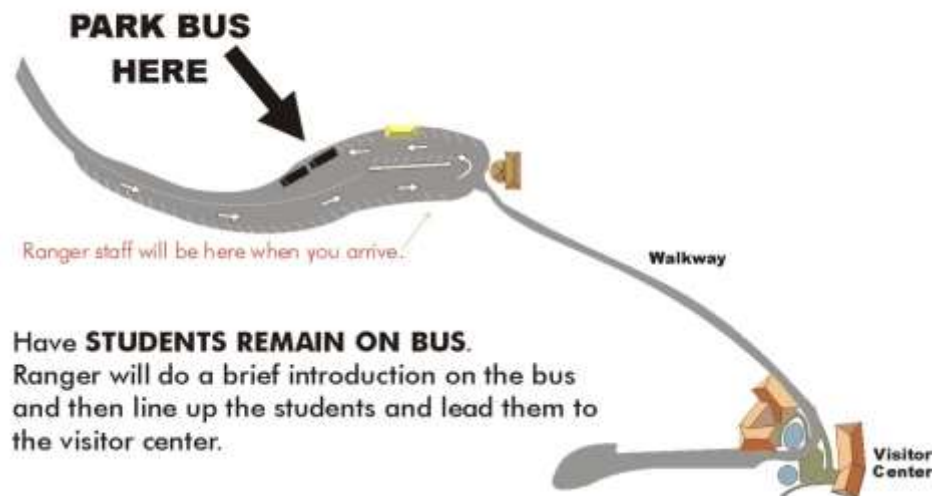
Buses should park on the north side of the parking lot. Buses should circle the parking lot counter-clockwise and pull into the designated bus parking area facing the outlet. Buses should NOT enter the driveway beyond the kiosk. Cars and vans should park in the same lot.

Cell phones typically do not have service within the last 13-

15 miles of Caves Highway (OR-46). If you are running late, **please** call the Visitor Center at 541-592-2100 x2262 from Cave Junction to advise them of your updated arrival time. It takes up to 45 minutes to get to the Monument from Cave Junction.

Please note: If you use GPS or get directions not provided by NPS you will be given directions to Oregon Caves that is the shortest distance--by use of Forest Service roads from Williams, Oregon. This route is **NOT** recommended. The road at times is one-lane, not paved, and sometimes not clearly marked. You will need a vehicle with 4-wheel drive. Although this route is shorter, it will ultimately take you longer to reach Oregon Caves.

## OREGON CAVES PARKING LOT



**Please copy and distribute the following page to any adults attending the field trip as chaperones:**

# OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE



## Chaperone Checklist

Thank you for volunteering to assist your students on a field trip to Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve. You are a vital part of the education program. We appreciate if you will provide support to the students and the Park Rangers during the field trip. The following information will help you know what to expect and how you can help.

Chaperone responsibilities:

- **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 in the U.S. or Canada since 2006, or in any cave in Europe or China, ever.** This includes shoes, camera bags, and clothes. Even if the item has been washed, there is still a risk. **Do not bring it!**
- **Safety first!** Depending on where you enter the cave, the tour route may consist of over 400 stairs and is considered moderately strenuous. You also may have to walk uphill for 5-10 minutes before you enter the cave. The tour is not recommended for any person who has heart, back, respiratory, vision, balance, or knee conditions.
- **Students first!** Remember we are here for the students. Please refrain from answering the Ranger's questions, and encourage students to figure out the answers.
- **Listen up!** When the Ranger makes a stop in the cave s/he will ask for the student's attention. Please be courteous. It is distracting to try to speak over others who are conversing during the program.
- **Spread out!** If there is more than one chaperone on the tour, please space yourselves between students to help monitor and manage them and stay focused on the program.
- **No cameras!** Students are not allowed to take cameras on an educational tour. A chaperone may take a camera, but only one group picture is allowed in the cave.
- **Leave no trace!** Remember to leave only footprints and take only memories.

Please call us in advance if you have any questions or concerns. We anticipate a wonderful day sharing a very special place with your students.

Warm Regards,

Education Rangers

Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve

# Oregon Caves Field Trip Map for Teachers

