



# Los Angeles County Outdoor Science School

*"The best education on earth"*

## Common Questions

Welcome to another excellent year at the Outdoor Science School! For some of you this is a brand new experience and for others there is the anticipation of another great week learning science in nature's classroom. In both cases, welcome and thanks for all you do in order to make this experience available to your students. Please allow me to clarify some frequently asked questions.

### **What is expected of me as a teacher?**

As participating teacher-leaders, you are responsible for organizing the trip and working with the Outdoor Science School staff to insure a successful stay at the Outdoor Science School. Your responsibilities include:

- ✓ **Attend OSS with your students.** Each school must provide one (1) certificated teacher for each classroom of students. If your class size is about 30 students, then you must supply a teacher for every 30 students, or fraction thereof. For example, if you bring 45 students, then you would send two teachers. It is expected that teachers remain at the Outdoor Science School throughout the week—they are not released to return home at night.

*Note:* There is a great bonding that occurs between the teacher and the students while at the Outdoor Science School, however, it is not required that the student's actual teacher attend OSS. Family responsibilities, time commitments, or other issues may require that a teacher from a different grade level attend OSS with the students. This is acceptable.

- ✓ **Organize and prepare for the trip.** You will need to orient students, distribute and collect registration forms, review the forms and collect additional information as needed, and review individual student needs as indicated in the registration process. Frankly, it is a lot of work, but remember that this is one of the greatest educational experiences your students will ever have.
- ✓ **Recruit cabin leaders.** You need to recruit a cabin leader (of the appropriate gender) for every 8 - 10 students that participate. Try to recruit one extra cabin leader of each gender as well. For example, if you bring 35 boys and 29 girls, you will need 4-5 male cabin leaders and 3-4 female cabin leaders. Having an extra cabin leader of each gender can be helpful if you find that one needs help with cabin leader duties—two can be paired in a cabin in this

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case. Cabin leaders assist as leaders, role models, and chaperones for the students. Cabin leaders sleep in the cabins with the students. They must be of the highest standard of behavior, cooperation, and enthusiasm. Cabin leaders may be high school juniors or seniors, or may be parents. You should meet each potential cabin leader personally and know that you can trust them to cooperate, follow the rules, and contribute to a great week at Outdoor Science School. The OSS staff will train and help cabin leaders be successful, but you must screen them carefully.

- ✓ **Help in the Infirmary.** As the certificated teacher representatives of the school, you will have responsibility for any medications that students must bring to OSS. You will also take turns staffing the infirmary. The OSS staff is well trained in health and emergency procedures, but visiting teachers will maintain a schedule so that someone is always available in the infirmary. Training will be provided in the simple infirmary procedures.
- ✓ **Participate with Students.** Teachers are encouraged to participate in the hikes and activities as schedule and interest dictate. It is common for visiting teachers to arrange a schedule among themselves to participate in the various hikes and activities—some prefer to go on every hike and others do not.

#### **Who teaches my students?**

The Outdoor Science School naturalist staff provides the instruction. Visiting teachers do not provide the trail instruction, but are encouraged to join students on the trail as often as they would like and join in the hands-on activities and lessons. Visiting teachers will lead an activity of their choosing with the students for a short time during the week—this allows the OSS staff to conduct a staff meeting. The OSS naturalist staff is all well-qualified, with college degrees and experience teaching students in the outdoors. After the beauty and wonder of the outdoor classroom itself, they are our greatest assets—you will really like them.

#### **Can parents come up to visit?**

No. Parents are encouraged to visit the Outdoor Science School during another week when their child is not participating. Parents may want to visit OSS and make sure that they feel comfortable with the facilities and program before sending their child to attend. We are happy to have parents visit, just not while their own child is there. Long experience shows that these visits are disruptive to the educational program and foster homesickness.

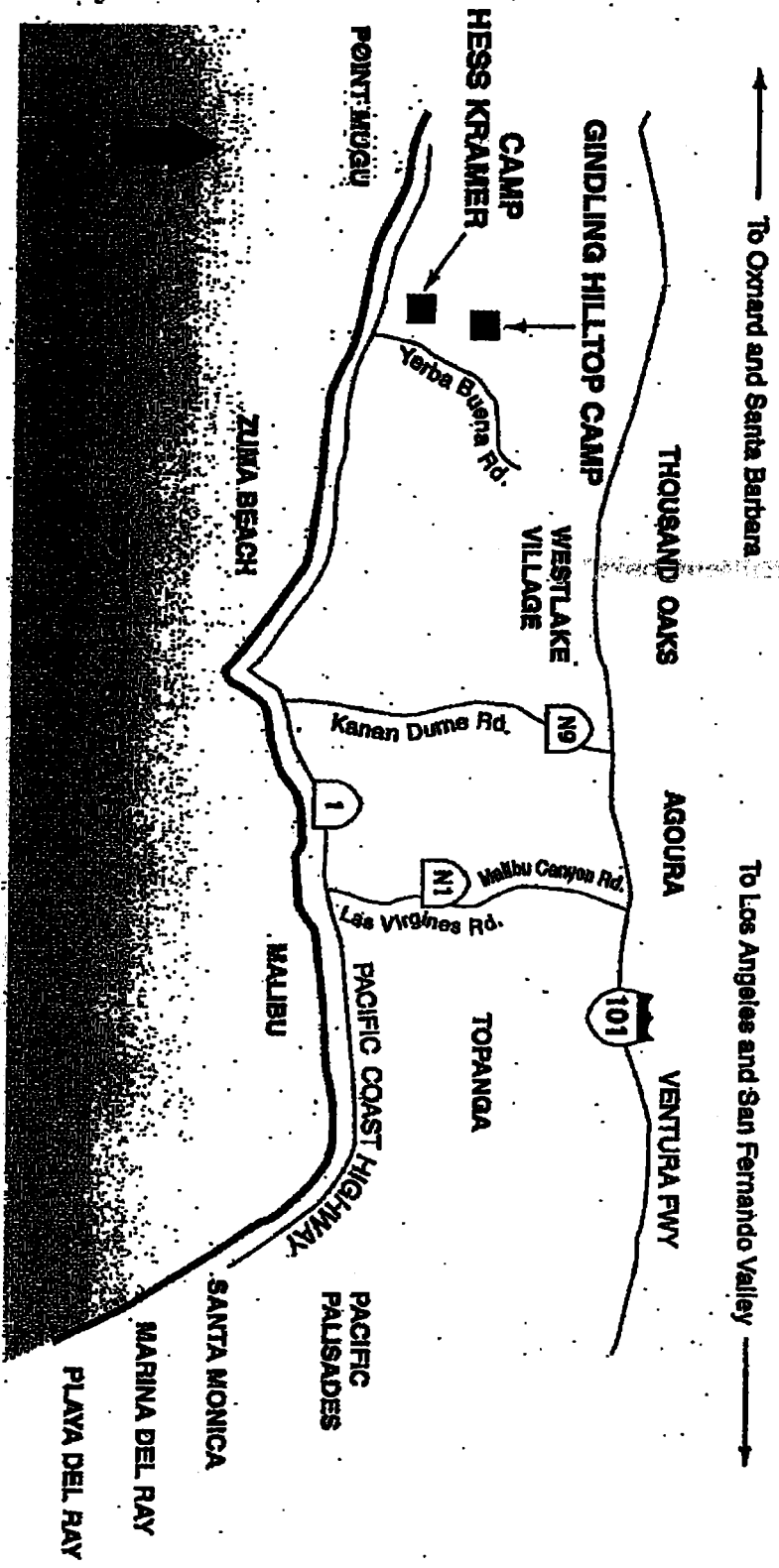
#### **Where can I ask questions?**

Please visit the website: [www.outdoorscienceschool.org](http://www.outdoorscienceschool.org), where you can learn a lot about OSS. Most importantly, keep in regular telephone contact with the lead teacher at the site where you will be attending. They are your best source of answers and preparation advice. The Outdoor Science School office at LACOE can help you reach them. We are very glad you are coming and want you to be successful!

As always, thanks for all you do to make Outdoor Science School a success! Have a great year.

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## How To Get To Los Angeles County Outdoor Science School at Malibu



**Malibu Outdoor Science School**  
 11495 East Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, CA 92065-9796

**From Los Angeles:**

Take the Santa Monica Freeway (10) West until it turns into Pacific Coast Highway. Travel North past Pepperdine University. Continue another 15 miles (2 miles past Leo Carillo Beach). Turn right onto Yerba Buena Road. (Corner of PCH and Yerba Buena is Neptune's Net Restaurant) Drive up the road, entering Camp Hess Kramer at Gate 2 on your left. For Gindling Hilltop Camp, enter Gate 4 on the left - the road winds 1.5 miles up to Hilltop.

**From the Valley:**

Take the Ventura Freeway (101) West. Exit at Kanan Road. Turn left, cross over the freeway and continue through the canyon until you reach Pacific Coast Highway. Turn right and head north on PCH for 10 miles (2 miles past Leo Carillo Beach). Turn right onto Yerba Buena Road. (Corner of PCH and Yerba Buena is Neptune's Net Restaurant) Drive up the road, entering Camp Hess Kramer at Gate 2 on your left. For Gindling Hilltop Camp, enter Gate 4 on the left - the road winds 1.5 miles up to Hilltop.

