

“Go where you may within the bounds of California, mountains are ever in sight, charming and glorifying every landscape... but within this general simplicity of features, there is great complexity of hidden detail.”

--John Muir

# Mount Hermon Outdoors Science School



## Mission Statement

The mission of Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School is to promote the study of God’s creation as a window through which students can explore their dependence on God’s Word and learn to cope intelligently with a full range of environmental issues. A part of this learning includes teaching students to develop critical thinking skills and responsible actions as stewards of our God-given natural resources. Further, increasing our understanding of God's creation becomes a powerful tool through which we can experience the omnipotence and omniscience of God, deepen our dependence on Him, and affirm the validity of His Word. Ultimately, it is Mount Hermon's desire that participation in this school will deepen trust in our sovereign and loving God and make a lasting difference for the sake of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is also the desire of the outdoor science school to provide an atmosphere and environment whereby all students can experience the different areas of emphasis: Scripture, Special Creation, Science, and Standards.



# Introduction

We are excited to have you join us for a great week of Homeschool Outdoor Science. We know that a lot of work went into getting your family to come and we want to say thank you! It is going to be a wonderful week of learning about God, science and having lots of good wholesome fun... so let's get started!

This manual contains information to help you as you prepare for your time here at Outdoor Science School. Included in this manual you will find packing lists for you and your student(s), health and medication forms, driving directions, important contact information as well as lots of other useful information. Please take the time to read it carefully. Much of what we do at Outdoor Science requires that the proper preparation has taken place in order to have the most enjoyable and education time.

As you look through the manual write down questions you have. Please feel free to contact us ahead of time or bring any questions with you to get answered. We are glad to help!

## About the Program

Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School offers an exciting, academic, hands-on science program based on the California Science Framework and personal curriculum needs. Students in K-12th grades actively participate in one week of outdoor science exploration in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Numerous opportunities are given for students to increase their awareness and understanding of our physical environment in relation to God's creative hand while encouraging good stewardship of our natural resources.

During your Homeschool week at Outdoor Science School you and your students will have the opportunity to learn about the abundant diversity found in the four distinct ecosystems located in Mount Hermon. Learning takes place through hands on experiences, where students are really able to get up close and personal with the topics they are studying. We focus on interdisciplinary learning as well as use Scripture, language arts, mathematics, history and social studies to bring science to life. The study of science is not complete without the understanding of God's masterful plan with creation, and His truths bind our entire curriculum together. All in all, Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School helps to expand on the concepts students have already learned while broadening and challenging student's educational and spiritual growth.

Our Naturalist (teachers) are college graduates and have a loving relationship with our Lord. They come from a variety of educational backgrounds and have distinct passions that make them dynamic teachers in the field. They are also trained in Red Cross CPR and First Aid and have been background checked. Feel free to meet them on our web site... they really do the best job saying who they are! [www.outdoorscience.com](http://www.outdoorscience.com)

We are sincerely excited to spend a week learning and having fun with your family!

Suzy Clark  
Director



# Parent Packing List

We are eager for your outdoor science experience at MOUNT HERMON to be most enjoyable and profitable!  
(Note: **Please mark all items**, with your **full name** to aid in identification in event of loss. Mount Hermon's lost and found number is **831-430-1280** in case you need to locate something after your week.)

## **PARENTS** BE SURE TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- Warm clothes – dress in layers. Weather will likely be cool in the day, cooler at night. Temps range from 30-45 at night, and 50-70 during the day, with a good chance of rain during February. EVERY cabin has heat and blankets.
- 2 pairs of comfortable walking or hiking shoes, one that you don't mind getting wet or muddy
- Warm stocking cap or hat
- Rain gear/umbrella
- Beach Towels if you want to go to the beach
- Workout clothing for the Field House Gym
- Daypack/water bottle
- Watch/alarm clock
- Electronics such as Laptop/Camera/Ipod
- Flashlight or two, fresh batteries
- Needed school supplies (IE extra Pencils/pens for students)
- All paraphernalia for very young children – play yards, blankets, toys, diapers, wipes, baby backpack, etc.  
NOTE: Mount Hermon can provide play yards for you. Please let us know.
- Bible/ quiet time materials – drop your kids off at class and go spend some time alone!
- Cash/checks/credit cards/ID (T-shirts \$10 & \$30 Hooded Sweatshirt, Draw String Backpacks \$5)
- First Aid, vitamins, medications (a thermometer is a good idea!)
- Toiletries kit
- Bicycle & gear-great road and mountain biking around here

### **Electronics FYI:**

**Camera:** It is always a Great idea to have a camera on hand to catch those memorable moments...Don't forget the film, batteries and/or the charger!

**Laptop:** We DO have wireless internet access in the main lobby, and central grounds.

**Cell Phone:** highly recommended for safety/emergency. We do have good cell service here, esp. AT&T. Don't Forget the Charger!

## **Food for Thought –**

Feel free to stock up for the week before you come on all essential food items. Felton and Scotts Valley are 5 and 10 minutes away, and have a variety of grocery stores options. There is a Costco and Trader Joe's in Santa Cruz, 15 min. away. You will have free time opportunities to leave the camp if you like. All cabins have fully stocked functioning kitchens.

**COFFEE DRINKERS PLEASE NOTE:** There is a quality coffee shop (Mountain Roasting) in Felton (just down the road), 2-3 good ones in Scotts Valley on Mount Hermon Rd. (10 min drive), including a Starbucks. You may bring your own coffee and tea. There is a coffee maker in each of the cabins.



# STUDENT PACKING LIST

*Outdoor Science is a school environment. With this in mind it will be important that you have the following items so that you will have the most fun and education time possible!*

*We look forward to a great week with you!*

\*2 Pencils, sharpened → **Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are a must**

\*1 Quart/Liter Water Bottle or larger

\*Daypack (regular size backpack)

\*Long pants--jeans and/or sweats for classes (poison oak/ protection/ warmth)  
(Note: shorts may be worn at certain activities, weather permitting.)

\*Rain gear (rain may occur any day of the year) – this item is mandatory! Inexpensive ponchos are OK. WE HIKE RAIN OR SHINE!

Warm stocking cap or hat

Outdoor clothes - warm, synthetic materials – dress in layers

Extra Socks

Warm sweatshirt and jacket -- nights and mornings are cold!

Flashlight (not a heavy one) – fresh batteries.

Two pairs of comfortable, sturdy shoes (hiking boots are great) – sandals okay for pool only

Extra pair of old shoes for creek class (they'll get wet)

Sunscreen – it might be nice and sunny!

Pajamas

Toiletries (ie soap, toothpaste, etc)

Laundry bag? (trash bag works)

Bible & Quiet time materials

## For Sale:

**Checkout our cool t-shirt & drawstring bags online at:**

<http://www.mounthermon.org/outdoor/tshirt/index.html>

T-Shirt & sweat shirts are for sale throughout the week

- T-shirts are available in YM-XL and cost \$10
- Bags come in a variety of colors and cost \$5

*Make checks out to Mount Hermon*

## Optional:

- Camera & film. Write your name on it!
- Watch/Alarm Clock (electric OK) – parents may have
- Writing materials for letters, etc. (Don't forget stamps!)
- Chapstick/ Bug spray – not many mosquitoes.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES ATTENDING OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL**  
**(831) 430-1239**

**HEALTH NEEDS & EMERGENCIES**

Thank you for completing the Health and Medication Form **prior to arrival**. Accurate health information is most essential. *Please notify us if you are exposed to any communicable disease during the two weeks prior to science school attendance.* PLEASE NOTE that a physical examination is **advised** within a three month period prior to arrival to science school. Camper's Insurance, a limited plan supplemental to your family's health/accident insurance, is included in the camp fee. Doctors and fully equipped hospitals are within 1 to 7 miles from camp respectively. Our staff should be notified of any specific allergies or requirements on the Health and Medication Form.

**WHEN TO ARRIVE**

**Please plan to arrive at science school at between 11:00 - 11:30 on Monday. If you find that you will arrive late, please call us at 831-252-3288.**

**HOW TO REACH MOUNT HERMON**

•**From the San Francisco Bay Area:** Take any major route south (280, 101, 17/880, or 680) to Highway 17/880 South towards Santa Cruz. Go over the mountains on Highway 17 South, to the second Scotts Valley exit: "Mount Hermon Rd." Turn right on Mount Hermon road and proceed 3.5 miles (you will pass through Scotts Valley and through a hilly area) to the stop light at Graham Hill Road. Turn left onto Graham Hill Rd. and proceed approx. 1/8 mile. Turn left at Conference Drive (you will see a Mount Hermon sign) and cross over a bridge, continue approx. ½ mile to the main Conference Center. The Outdoor Science School staff will be on your right waiting to check you in and lead you to your cabin. If it is raining, park at the post (office on your right) and walk into the large APC building to the left of the post office for check in. If you have questions, call the number at the top of this form.

•**From the Monterey Bay Area:** Take Highway 1 north into Santa Cruz, and take the last exit marked Highway 17 North toward San Jose. Travel approximately 4 miles, then exit at the first Scotts Valley exit marked "Mount Hermon Rd." You will be funneled onto Mount Hermon Rd. going west. Continue west for 3.5 miles, through Scotts Valley, to the stop light at Graham Hill Rd. Turn left onto Graham Hill Rd. and proceed approx. 1/8 mile. Turn left at Conference Drive (you will see a Mount Hermon sign) and cross over a bridge, continue approx. ½ mile to the main Conference Center. The Outdoor Science School staff will be on your right waiting to check you in and lead you to your cabin. If it is raining, park at the post (office on your right) and walk into the large APC building to the left of the post office for check in. If you have questions, call the number at the top of this form.

**MAIL**

**LETTERS TO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS** may be mailed to the following address:

(CHILD'S NAME),  
 Homeschool Outdoor Science  
 PO Box 413,  
 Mount Hermon, CA 95041

- **Please be sure that mail arrives before Friday.** You will likely not receive mail that arrives on Friday. You may send mail the week before, and we will hold it for you.



# HEALTH INFORMATION

**This form will provide you with additional, detailed information regarding Health and Safety. Please call (831) 430-1239 if you have any questions. This is very important, and should be thoroughly understood before arrival. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU CARRY A CELLPHONE WITH YOU IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!**

## 1. STUDENT MEDICATION

Some families will have a child or two who need to take regular medication. Please keep this in a safe place in your cabin, especially if you are sharing a space with another family and their small children.

Be sure students with **Asthma inhalers** take their inhaler with them prior to hiking or strenuous activity.

**Thursday's Extended Hike:** On Thursday, participating students will be on a longer hike from 9 am till approx. 3 pm. If you will not be with your child and they need to take medicine please put it in a zip lock bag with the student's name on it, give the bag to the child's naturalist with instructions.

## 2. MEDICAL FORMS

Please download the *Health and Medication Form* and the *Emergency Contact Form* and bring the forms with you—turn them in at check-in when you arrive. Please make copies and fill out one Health/Med form for each child, and one Emergency form for the family. These forms will be invaluable in case of emergency. Thank you!

**ON CALL STAFF from 10 pm-7 am:** If something is needed or if there is an emergency between 10 pm and 7 am, there will be an on-call number to dial from a cell phone or from one of the Mount Hermon payphones—one near the bookstore, and one near the post office. The number is **831-252-3288**

**Thank you and please contact us for more information or help regarding safety concerns.**



