

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School strives to accommodate students of all abilities. **If you have a student with a special need in your classroom, please review the information below and contact the director or program coordinator at least one month before your attendance date.** (831) 722-8222 or (831) 466-5715. We will most likely want to communicate with the student's parents/guardians and, together with you; we will work out a plan to ensure a safe and positive experience for your student.

**Tour Prior to Attendance:** Students and their parents/guardians may benefit from visiting the site prior to their school's attendance week. Please have the parents contact the Outdoor Science School to set up a tour during which they can view the site, ask questions and clearly communicate their child's needs to the director, program coordinator or program assistant.

### Will my student need an aide when they are at the Outdoor Science School?:

<p><b><u>If a student has a full time aide at school, then a full time aide will also be required at the Outdoor Science School.</u></b> This includes evening and early morning duty and may also include overnight duty depending on the circumstance. A full-time instructional aide will be <u>required</u> at Outdoor Science School to support students with the following needs...</p>		<p>An instructional aide <u>may</u> be required for students with the following intervention(s) at school...</p>
<p><b><i>MEDICAL/PHYSICAL</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serious medical conditions that require injections, complex medications or extra equipment</li> <li>- Assistance with personal hygiene, toileting, showering, dressing</li> <li>- Physical assistance walking, use of a wheelchair or not able to participate in a 2.5 hour hiking activity without assistance</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>BEHAVIORAL</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suspended more than once this year and/or suspended in the past month</li> <li>- Recent (in the past year) history of hurting self or others</li> <li>- Recent (in the past year) history of eloping or fleeing</li> <li>- Currently or in the past month:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On suicide watch</li> <li>- Hospitalized for mental health concerns</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b><i>INTERVENTION AT SCHOOL</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Behavior plan</li> <li>- IEP</li> <li>- 504 Plan</li> <li>- SST support</li> </ul>

### Overview of specialized care that the OSS program can and can't provide for students:

<p><b><i>CARE PROVIDED by the Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School program to all students:</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>CARE NOT PROVIDED by the Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School:</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ A health supervisor on campus full time to administer medications, provide first aid/emergency response care, and health care including: basic diabetes care, glucagon/Baqsimi administration, Diastat/diazepam administration during seizure, epi-pen administration</li> <li>→ An on-site health office with beds and a private bathroom</li> <li>→ Modification of instruction and trails traveled</li> <li>→ Respectful behavior accountability for all students</li> <li>→ The Corralitos fire station is 4.8 miles (approx. 10 minutes away from) the Outdoor Science School</li> <li>→ Watsonville Hospital is 10.6 miles (approx. 21 minutes away from) the Outdoor Science School</li> <li>→ An all-terrain push-wheelchair is available for trail access (must be operated by an instructional aide)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Injections; Catheters; Feeding tubes; Changing an insulin infusion site</li> <li>→ Assistance with personal hygiene, showering, toileting or dressing</li> <li>→ Supervising students not able to participate in regular hikes/activities</li> <li>→ Pushing students in wheelchairs</li> <li>→ Intensive individual care</li> <li>→ Physical restraint of individuals</li> <li>→ Suicide or mental health assessment</li> </ul>

*The Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School reserves the right to make decisions about student participation in the interest of student safety. If a student is unsafe while at the Outdoor Science School including but not limited to; eloping, engaging in or threatening self harm or harm of others, unresponsive to school or Outdoor Science School staff, they will be dismissed early from the program.*

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CONT.)

If you are unsure whether or not your student may need extra accommodations at the Outdoor Science School, please call the program to discuss your student's needs. (831) 722-8222 or (831) 466-5715

### Differences to consider between your school and the OSS program:

	<i>School</i>	<i>Outdoor Science School</i>	<i>Implication</i>
<b><i>Hours of Care Provided</i></b>	Approx. 7 hours of care provided per day	24 hours of care	Consider that more medical care or behavioral attention may occur at home, but not at school. That extra support will be needed at the Outdoor Science School in the evenings, mornings and sometimes overnight
<b><i>Classroom Environment</i></b>	Usually inside, desks, flat paved surfaces	Outside, no desks, no walls, hills, uneven surfaces	Students who have a history of elopement are at a greater risk. Students with limited mobility may need additional interventions
<b><i>Physical Exertion Capabilities</i></b>	Walk from class to class, sit/stand, PE. Active ~ 45 min/day	Walk for 6+ hours per day over rocky, uneven terrain, sit on the ground and get up. Active from 7 am to 9:30 pm	Any student who needs extra assistance due to limited physical exertion capabilities may need an instructional aide or school designee to support and supervise them if they are unable to participate in all activities.
<b><i>Direct Supervision</i></b>	Certificated teacher, instructional aide, yard duty supervisor	Instructor for most of the day. High school cabin leader and residential program specialists at night and in the cabins.	High school cabin leaders do not have the specialized skills to support students with health needs or behavior support needs. Instructors must meet the needs of up to 25 students on the trail; it is outside of their capacity to safely provide individualized care to one student.
<b><i>Access to EMS and Hospital</i></b>	Hospital/EMS may likely be within 10 min	EMS is 10-20 minutes away. Hospital is 20-25 min away. Students may be 10 min walking distance from a road while out on trail.	Further distance from hospital/EMS may need to be considered for students with specialized medical needs.
<b><i>Health Staff</i></b>	Varies at sites. District nurse likely provides medical care oversight	Health supervisor/EMT on duty full time. All OSS staff are trained in wilderness first aid & CPR	Health staff are EMT certified, not Registered Nurses. District may need to provide an RN for certain specialized medical needs. Parents may need to attend as aides to support their child's medical needs.

**Although student accommodations are established on an individual basis, below are some common needs that arise and steps to make appropriate accommodations.**

<i>Student Need</i>	<i>Accommodation</i>
<b><i>Students with Limited Mobility</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our site includes wheelchair accessible cabins.</li> <li>- We have an all-terrain wheelchair on site which allows students who use a wheelchair to explore our wider and flatter trails with their field study group. In order to use this wheelchair, instructional aides must be comfortable pushing the student in the chair.</li> <li>- Students with limited mobility may participate in the ropes course activity. The only requirement for participation, for the health and safety of the student, is that they have feeling/sensation in their hips and legs and should be able to communicate if the harness is pinching uncomfortably.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Students with a recent injury</i></b>	- If a student is injured prior to Outdoor Science School attendance and needs to be on crutches or in a medical boot, we <u>require</u> a signed doctor's note indicating that the student is released to attend the Outdoor Science School during the dates of their attendance week and may travel up and down paved and unpaved hills and on trails in the forest with crutches or in a medical boot as tolerated.

<p><b><i>Students with Food Allergies and/or Restrictions</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our kitchen provides vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options at each meal based on the information on the registration forms and special dietary needs forms.</li> <li>- If a student has food restrictions that include specific ingredients (e.g., egg, soy, corn) <u>please have a parent/guardian contact us to discuss the menu for the week of their child's visit at least two weeks before their child will attend.</u> Depending on the severity of the restriction, we may require the parent/guardian to pre-prepare and label their child's meal replacements and send them with you on the bus on arrival day.</li> <li>- A parent/guardian requesting to send meal replacements may also be asked to submit documentation validating the need for meal replacements. This policy is in place in order to discourage parents with picky but otherwise typical eaters from sending meal replacements, as accommodating this need takes significant time and attention from our staff.</li> <li>- Peanut and tree nut allergies: Though we cannot guarantee a nut free facility, we have implemented the following preventative measures in order to minimize the risk to our guests with severe food allergies: We do not serve any peanut or tree nut products from our kitchen. A select few menu items may be produced in a factory that processes tree nuts. In this case, students with peanut/nut allergies will be given a peanut/nut free replacement. Ingredient information is available upon request. We inform our staff and the kitchen staff of students who have severe food allergies on arrival day. We have a written emergency action plan in place for managing an anaphylactic reaction.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Students with Diabetes</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please have a parent/guardian contact our office to speak with a health supervisor at least one month prior to your school's attendance date.</li> <li>- The health supervisor will complete a questionnaire with the parent/guardian over the phone or via zoom in order to understand the individual student's care plan.</li> <li>- The health supervisor will contact the parent/guardian at least once a day while their child is with us at the Outdoor Science School.</li> <li>- Our health supervisors are EMT certified and not authorized to give injections. If an adult is required to administer a student's insulin injections or to change pump tubing, then a qualified aide must be provided to do so.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Students Who Attend Only During the Day</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We allow students to attend during the day only under the following circumstances; medical need (doctor's note is required), behavioral need (school documentation, such as an IEP or section 504 plan is required), religious requirement (letter from the parents/guardians is required). We adhere to this policy in order to encourage students who may experience homesickness to use the support of our caring, trained staff and to grow and gain independence through the Outdoor Science School experience. (Please see our policies on homesickness). Also, organizing arrival and departure of students each day pulls the supervisor on site and yourself away from regular site duties.</li> <li>- If you have a student who needs to attend during the day only, please contact the director or program coordinator to discuss the specific circumstance and drop-off/pick-up plan at least two weeks before your participation week.</li> <li>- Students who attend during the day only must be signed in and out at the main office or health office at each arrival and each departure.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Autistic Students</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As mentioned on the previous page, if a student is required to have a full time aide at school, they will be required to have a full time aide at the Outdoor Science School.</li> <li>- If you have an autistic student please contact us at least two weeks before your scheduled participation week so we can discuss the specific needs of your student. We will ask about how best to support the student based on your experience in the classroom. Depending on the needs of the student, we may also want to communicate with the parents/guardians.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Instructional Aides</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instructional aides must be a school district employee or designee. Parents/guardians are considered a qualified aide if the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The school personnel (principal, teacher, school counselor, etc.) agree that the parent/guardian will respect the OSS policies and procedures and will be a positive contributor to their child's experience with an overall goal to allow as much independence as possible while the student is at the Outdoor Science School.</li> <li>- The parent/guardian who will act as their child's aide has cleared fingerprints through the district.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Instructional aides should be... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trained for their student's individualized care</li> <li>- Able and willing to accompany the student on all hikes and activities from 7am - 9:20pm</li> <li>- On campus for 24 hours a day. This may involved sleeping in a student cabin or separate quarters</li> <li>- Willing to follow all OSS rules for behavior</li> <li>- Willing to work with the OSS staff to ensure a safe and educational experience for their student.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>