

Education Programs and Field Trip Planning Packet 2013

National Historic

Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

22267 Oregon Highway 86
Baker City, Oregon

(541) 523-1843
oregontrail.blm.gov



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Main Exhibit Hall

About The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is a 509 acre site that holds many opportunities for educational activities during a class visit. The Interpretive Center building includes a 12000 square foot permanent exhibit about the westward migration of the Oregon Trail pioneers, the Native Americans who lived along the route, and the mountain men, explorers, and missionaries who braved the frontier.

Two to three special exhibits are featured each year in the Flagstaff Gallery, including a special children's exhibit during the spring time. The Leo Adler Theater is used to show films about the westward trek as well as dramatic performances, lectures, and slide shows. An outdoor wagon encampment and amphitheater are used for demonstrations of pioneer era life skills.

The 4 mile hiking trail system is used for nature hikes, geology walks, and exercise. A short access trail between Highway 86 and the original Oregon Trail ruts is an opportunity to literally walk in the footsteps of pioneers. An outdoor gold mill shows the early day technology used by gold miners and the gold panning sluice demonstration area helps students understand the hard work of placer mining. Interpreters provide talks, activities and prepare handouts and materials to help make the most of your visit.

Please contact us if you need assistance in planning your visit:

- Check our website, oregontrail.blm.gov for downloadable education guides and class activities.
- Call 541-523-1843 and talk to one of our staff or volunteer interpreters for ideas on how to plan the best visit for your class.
- Visit the Trail Tenders website, trailtenders.org or call to inquire about "Interpreter in the Classroom" programs.
- The Oregon Trail Shop at 541-523-1844 or oregontrailshop.com has a variety of books and educational materials available.
- View our calendar at <http://www.trailtenders.org/events/calendar> to see when special interactive programs and activities are offered.



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BLM_OR_NH_Mail@blm.gov

How to Get Here

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86 – Exit 302 from Interstate 84

22267 Highway 86, Baker City, OR 97814



From Boise, Treasure Valley, Ontario:

Take I-84 to Baker City exit 302; turn right onto Highway 86 following signs to Interpretive Center and Hells Canyon. Proceed five miles to entrance drive for Interpretive Center, left turn onto driveway.

From Portland, Tri-Cities, Pendleton:

Take I-84 east to Baker City, exit 302. Turn left onto Highway 86 following signs to Interpretive Center and Hells Canyon. Proceed approximately five miles to entrance drive for Interpretive Center, left turn onto driveway.

From John Day, Bend, or central Oregon:

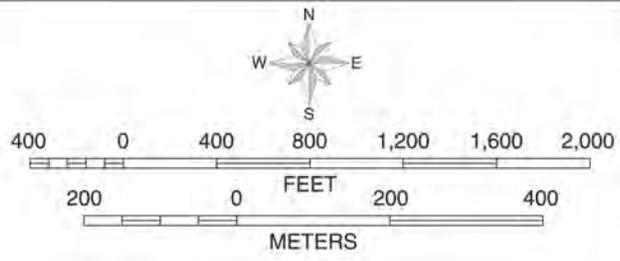
Take Highway 7 into downtown Baker City. Turn right at intersection of Main Street and Campbell Street. Follow Campbell Street to intersection with I-84, exit 304. You can either follow Campbell until it becomes Atwood Road and intersects with Highway 86, or enter the interstate and re-exit at Exit 302, approximately 2 miles. Take highway 86 approximately 5 miles to entrance drive for the Interpretive Center, left turn onto driveway.

From Halfway, Richland, Cambridge:

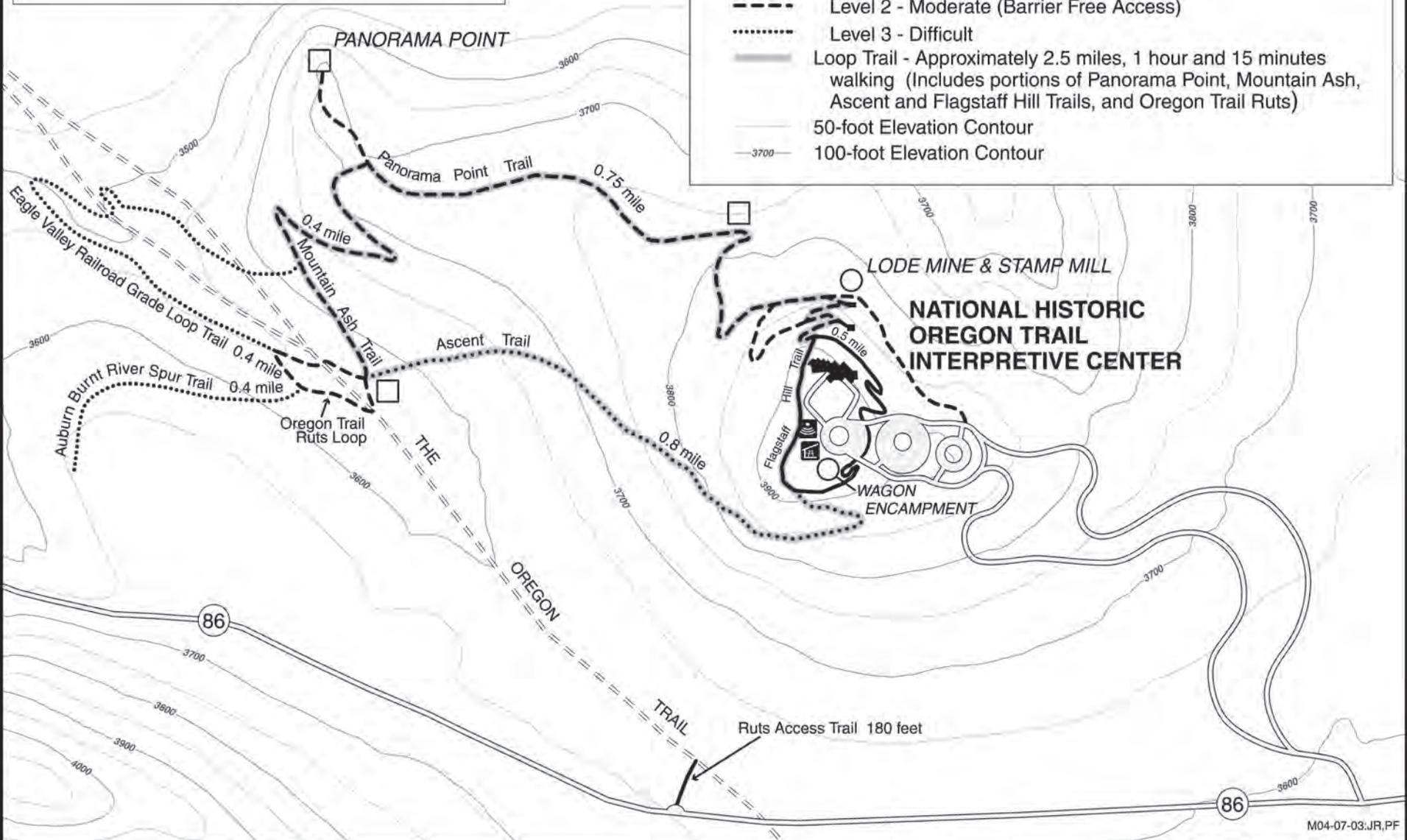
Take Highway 86 heading west towards Baker City. Milepost 7. Interpretive Center entrance drive is on the right.

BUS DRIVERS:

The driveway is one mile long and up to ten percent grade. Drop off for students is at the top of the parking lot. A limited number of parking spaces for oversize vehicles is available in the top lot, ***parking lot 2 is recommended for buses.***



- Amphitheater
- Picnic Shelter
- Living History Exhibit
- Shade Shelter & Bench
- The Oregon Trail
- Trail System Difficulty**
- Level 1 - Easy (Barrier Free Access)
- Level 2 - Moderate (Barrier Free Access)
- Level 3 - Difficult
- Loop Trail - Approximately 2.5 miles, 1 hour and 15 minutes walking (Includes portions of Panorama Point, Mountain Ash, Ascent and Flagstaff Hill Trails, and Oregon Trail Ruts)
- 50-foot Elevation Contour
- 100-foot Elevation Contour



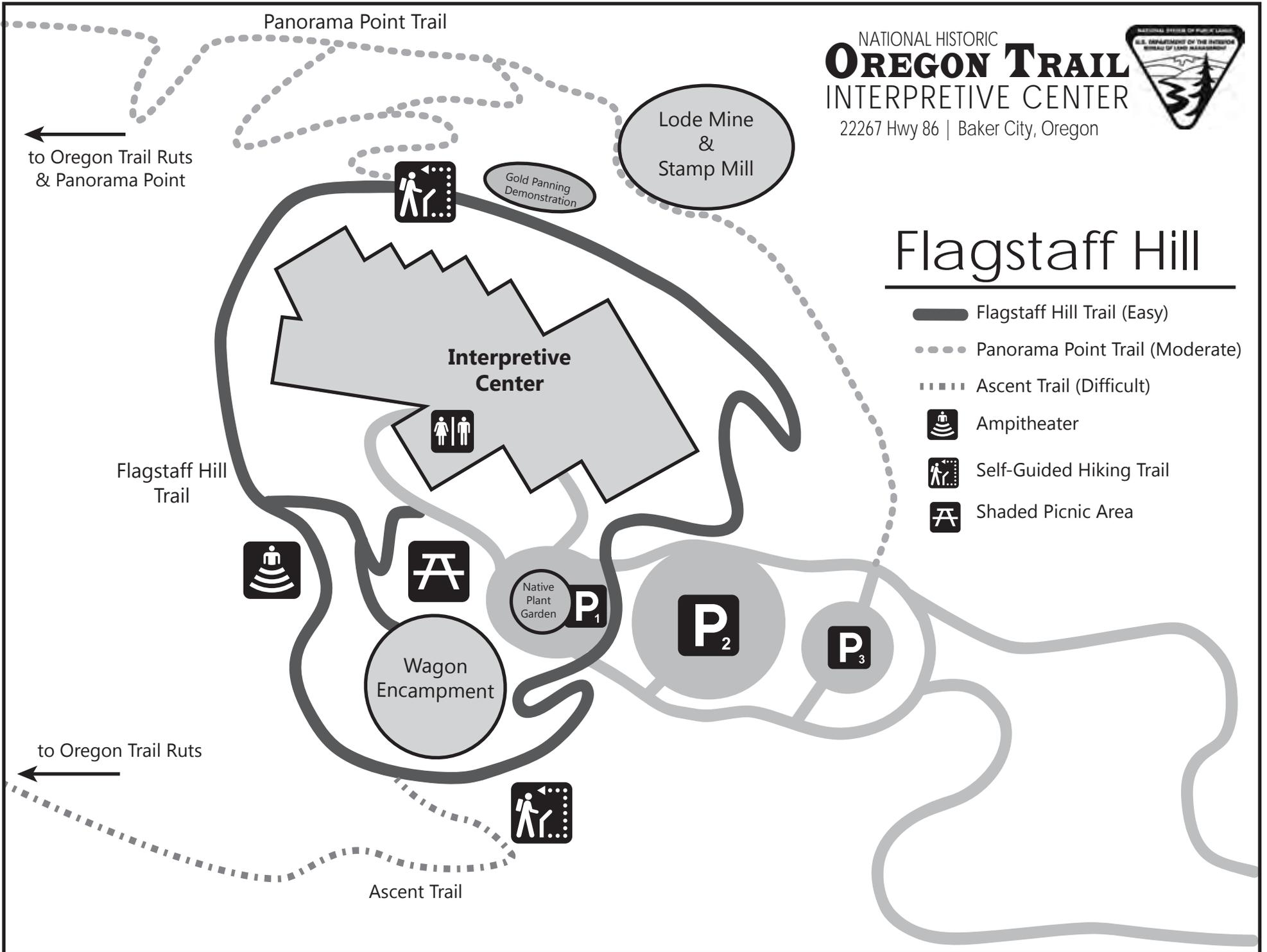
NATIONAL HISTORIC
OREGON TRAIL
INTERPRETIVE CENTER

22267 Hwy 86 | Baker City, Oregon



Flagstaff Hill

- Flagstaff Hill Trail (Easy)
- Panorama Point Trail (Moderate)
- Ascent Trail (Difficult)
- Amphitheater
- Self-Guided Hiking Trail
- Shaded Picnic Area



Educational Activities at the Interpretive Center

The Following activities are offered free of charge to any educational group or home school visitors:

Self-Guided Tours

Tour the permanent exhibits, special exhibits, and hiking trails. Content of exhibits is appropriate for ages 10 and up; younger students may require more adult interpretation to make the exhibits and trails relevant. A basic tour of the exhibits requires 30 minutes. Question sheets and scavenger hunts are available suitable for elementary age groups. Subjects will cover curriculum objectives in American history, Pacific Northwest history, art, humanities.

Junior Pioneer Guide

A 14-page booklet with simple activities to help younger students enjoy the exhibits and learn about the history of the Oregon Trail. Youngsters completing the booklet are eligible for an award.

Junior Naturalist Guide

A 12-page illustrated booklet that helps youngsters better understand the native plants, wildlife, and geology while using the hiking trails at the Interpretive Center.

Scavenger Hunt

A free booklet with 28 questions about the Oregon Trail that can be answered within the permanent exhibits at the Interpretive Center is available.

Scheduled Programs

As listed on the monthly calendar, scheduled programs include “Living History” re-enactors, musical programs, slide shows and lectures about the Oregon Trail pioneers, explorers, Native Americans, miners, and settlers.

Wagons Ho! An Interactive Oregon Trail Experience Exhibit **February 16 – June 4**

This interactive exhibit includes a full scale packable pioneer wagon, pioneer clothing try-on, matching games and map games, animal tracks & habitat activities, and language activities.

Films

The interpretive center shows a variety of films on topics of westward migrations, ranging in length from 15 minutes to 1 hour. Film titles are included on the monthly calendar.

Hiking Trails

Paved and unpaved trails lead hikers through native vegetation, past historic gold mining sites, to viewpoints, and to the Oregon Trail ruts. The trails are all at a grade of 5% or less, and total elevation change of 370 feet between the top and bottom of Flagstaff Hill. Different trail routes allow for varied hikes of ten minutes to over an hour. Guided nature hikes and geology walks are scheduled on the calendar.

Additional Educational Opportunities

The following activities may be available by arrangement or for a small additional fee:

Interpreter-Led Activities

This includes activities to learn about pioneer lifeways or nature such as simple arts and crafts style activities, mapping exercise, barter and trade activity, orienteering, or pioneer dancing.

Interpreter at the Ruts

Check the site map for the Ruts Access Trail. This pullout can be a pre or post visit stop for the school bus, a short walk for students, and they will be met by an interpreter who will show them the Oregon Trail ruts and describe how the landscape has changed since Oregon Trail days.

Gold Panning

A replica gold panning sluice box and spring allows students to try gold panning. The box is salted with real gold, and an interpreter will teach the technique of gold panning, giving students the opportunity to better understand the hard work and physical strain experienced by early day prospectors, and learn about geology.

Nature Hike

An interpreter uses the trails on site to introduce students to wildlife and natural vegetation and geology at the site. This can be adapted to best fit age groups, weather conditions, and group visit time.

Scat and Tracks

A hands on activity; using skulls, actual scat, casts of tracks, furs, and rubber stamps of tracks, an interpreter guides students through the basics of identifying and understanding wildlife.

Interpreter in the Classroom

Please contact us at 541-523-1843 and talk to one of our staff or volunteer interpreters for scheduling special programs or activities for your classroom visit.

These programs are offered to schools or groups within a 90 minute drive of Baker City, Oregon. Subject to availability, programs can run from 20 minutes to one hour. Check http://www.trailtenders.org/education/interpretive_programs for the most current list of available programs.

2013 Programs

Conversations by the Campfire:

Interactive conversations about the Oregon Trail, the overland emigrants, Baker Valley, and the natural history of Eastern Oregon, told by a costumed interpreter.

Traveling Trunk

See Oregon Trail-related items, reproductions, and hands on opportunities.

An Evening Chat

A grandmother travels west on the Oregon Trail, leaving her children and grandchildren behind. Her husband dies on the trail and she must continue. (this program can be interactive.)

Mountain Men

Learn about history and stories of the men that opened the west, traded with the Indians, and discovered the Oregon Trail.

Pack your Wagon

This is an interactive program on what to take to Oregon, what was necessary, and what wasn't....

Scat, Tracks, Skulls and Furs

See and touch realistic models of skulls, scat, tracks, and furs of animals of Oregon.

School Group Information Guide

Center Information: All Interpretive Center Facilities and Gift Shop are fully accessible. The exhibits are self-guided. A self-guided tour can be done in approximately one hour. Upon arrival we will provide an orientation and briefly explain the interpretive programs and videos that are scheduled for that day.

Special Events And Programs: Please view our website and calendar for information on Special Events and Programs. The Leo Adler Theater holds 140 individuals and is open to all visitors. If your group exceeds this number they may need to be split into smaller groups. Please discuss this matter with the Visitor Information Assistant when scheduling your visit

Location: Five miles east of Baker City, Oregon. From 1-84 take exit 302, State Highway 86 to the Interpretive Center entrance.

Summer Hours: mid-April to mid-October
9:00AM – 6:00PM. *Daily*

Winter Hours: mid-Oct to Dec
mid-Feb to mid-April
9:00AM – 4:00PM
Daily

Dec to mid-Feb
9:00AM – 4:00PM
Thurs—Sun

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Entrance Fees: All legitimate educational groups including teachers, bus drivers and chaperones are free of charge.

Trails: Four and one half (4 ½) miles of outdoor trails lead to Oregon Trail ruts and Panorama Point overlook. Most Trails are fully accessible. The Oregon Trail ruts can also be accessed from Hwy. 86. Oregon Trail maps are available at the information desk.

Special Information: Only service dogs are permitted inside the building. Leashed pets are allowed on outside trails, but must be kept under owners control. Fire protection restrictions prohibit smoking, except in your enclosed vehicle.



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School Group Information Guide (continued)

Scheduling: **Call the Center at 541-523-1843 at least 2 weeks prior to your visit. Please have the following information available:**

1. Name of school, address and phone number
2. Name of group leader, approx. number of chaperones, number of students, & grade level
3. Date of visit and approximate arrival & departure time
4. Request for Education Resource Guide (if needed)
5. Request for any Special needs

Please call us to confirm your visit at least one week prior

Contact Information: Bureau of Land Management
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
PO Box 987
Baker City, OR 97814

Phone: **(541) 523-1843** | Fax: **(541) 523-1834**
oregontrail.blm.gov
email: **BLM_OR_NH_Mail@blm.gov**

Meals: Vending machines (pop, water, candy, cookies and chips) and an outdoor covered picnic area are available on-site.

Lodging: Lodging is available in Baker City, and nearby communities. For further information please contact: Baker City Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau: (541)-523-3356
1-800-523-1235 or www.visitbaker.com



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Recommendations for a Successful Visit

Enjoy — Don't Destroy!

By using common sense and courtesy, what is available today will be there to enjoy tomorrow.

- Use walking feet.
- Use your inside voice.
- Respect the Center's property.
- Climbing or touching exhibits is not permitted, except in the Pack Your Wagon room.
- Food and beverages are only allowed in the acknowledgement room and outdoors.
- Follow the directions of the staff.
- Be courteous and aware of other visitors in the Center

BEFORE YOUR VISIT:

Decide which activities and programs you wish to visit. Coordinate this with the visitor services staff.

Divide student groups into smaller, adult-led subgroups before you arrive. Try to keep groups less than ten. Five per group is ideal.

Avoid planning for more than two groups congregated at one activity or portion of the exhibits at any one time.

Orient adult leaders and chaperones. Please distribute and review "*CHAPERONES – Recommendations for a Successful Visit*" with adult leaders.

1. School groups may start their Oregon Trail adventure at the Oregon Trail Rut access located off Highway 86.
2. Prior to indoor activities, have the students visit the restroom. This ensures no disruptions or wandering children.
3. A staff person will give an orientation at start of your visit.
4. Prior to entering the facility, please establish a time and place for your group to meet at the end of your visit.
5. P.A. system (public announcement) is available.
6. For safety and respect to others please do not block entry, exit doors, or lobby.
7. Adults and children should wear a tag identifying their school name. Children's names on tags are discouraged for safety concerns.
8. For first aid needs, inform uniformed staff immediately.
9. You may take photos; it is recommended that personal belongings (cameras, phones, etc.) not attached to the student should have a tag with school name. Many items have been left behind and lost.
10. Plan accordingly when visiting the Oregon Trail Gift Shop, as space is limited to twenty or fewer students at one time. Rotation of groups is recommended

CHAPERONES – Recommendations for a Successful Visit

Chaperones can be a great help in making the students' visit worthwhile – it doesn't take any special knowledge, just common sense and willingness to get involved.

Here are a few tips:

What will I be doing as a chaperone?

You will supervise a small group of students during the visit, helping them learn, assisting the teacher or interpreter when called upon, and making sure they behave appropriately.

What will my role be during the program?

Throughout the day, your job will be to monitor the behavior of the students, provide for their safety, and facilitate the learning process while insuring a fun visit for the students.

You may be asked to work with specific students and help guide them through activities.

You may want to ask the teacher for information about the program, including background information and vocabulary words, to familiarize yourself with the topic.

The more you are able to interact with the students, the better their experience will be.

What do I need to tell the students about behaving in the exhibits or on the trails?

Anything touchable will be within easy reach; anything we don't want touched is located well within the dioramas or within a case. Students should not climb into dioramas.

Do not do anything to damage the exhibits – thousands of people still want to see them after you've left!

Do not take drinks or food into the exhibits. Be careful about writing tools. If you need a clipboard for your assignment, ask at the info desk.

On trails, you may see wildlife – do not disturb or attempt to touch any wild animals, snakes or insects, and do not pick plants.

How can I help students get the most out of their visit?

Be sure you understand the plan for the day, as instructed by the teacher.

Ask the teacher whether the students have specific projects to work on, and how you can help with them during the visit. Ask the group's teacher for any material that will help you lead the students.

Interact and have fun with the students.

Be sure to ask questions of each student in your group, and see that all of them are getting involved. Encourage shy or quiet students to share ideas.

What else do I need to know?

Please leave additional small children at home or with a sitter if possible. They distract you from your duties as a chaperone.

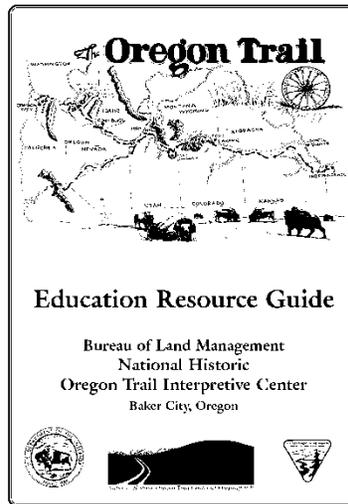
Avoid visiting with other adults at the expense of your chaperone duties. Remember that your primary job is to chaperone the students, not visit with other parents.

Students must stay with you, their chaperone, at all times. Their behavior is your responsibility. Be sure you know when and where to meet the rest of your group during and at the end of the visit.

Downloadable Educational Resource Guides

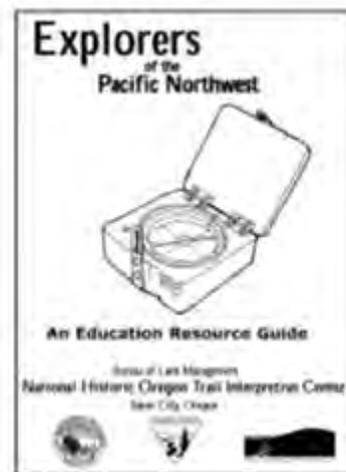
The Oregon Trail

http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/files/TBKS_opt.pdf



Explorers of the Pacific Northwest

http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/files/ED_GUIDE_FINAL.pdf



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Books
Videos and DVDs
Music CDs
Craft Kits, Toys and Gifts
Clothing
Reproductions

Located inside the
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Need help with transit costs?

Mini Grants of up to \$50.00 each are available to K-12 public, private and home schools to off-set the cost of transportation when visiting the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon.

Mini Grants are awarded by Trail Tenders Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Bureau of Land Management in its operation of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Interested school groups should inquire to:

PHONE: (541) 523-1844 | FAX: (541) 523-1855

oregontrailshop@wildblue.net

www.oregontrailshop.com