

# YAQUINA HEAD NATURAL OUTSTANDING AREA

## Guidelines for School Groups

Welcome to Yaquina Head Natural Outstanding Area. We hope that your field trip experience here is enjoyable and of value to you and your students. To accomplish this in large groups, however, we find that proper planning and field trip management will provide a more profitable experience while insuring the park and its resources are preserved and protected.

### Before Your Visit

- **Decide which sites/activities you wish to visit/accomplish - Let the education coordinator know.** See “Suggested activities for School Groups.” Although there are a lot of activities to choose from, the number of things you are able to accomplish will depend upon how much time you have to spend at the park. Realistically, you may only be able to accomplish two or three.
- **Divide your student into smaller, adult-led subgroups before you arrive.** By doing so, the students will have a better experience and it will minimize the chance of damage to the resources or student misconduct.
- **Try to keep group sizes less than ten, and ideally smaller than eight.** Have each group rotate through different parts of the site and participate in appropriate activities with minimal impact to Yaquina Head or other visitors.
- **Avoid more than two groups (15 students) congregated at one activity.** No matter how well-mannered the group, large groups tend to be noisy and harder to control.
- **Orient adult leaders and chaperones.** We ask chaperones to be aware of and responsible for their students at all times. Please distribute and review, “How to be a Great Chaperone” with adult leaders.

### Upon arriving at Yaquina Head

- **Check in at the fee booth.** A ranger will instruct you on where to meet for a required orientation.
- **Proceed to the designated orientation site.** A ranger will meet and orient your group.
- **Review rules and proper conduct.** Take a few minutes prior to leaving the bus, or once assembled outside. (See Rules and Guidelines)

# How to be a Great Chaperone

**You don't need a special knowledge to be a chaperone—just common sense and a willingness to jump in and get involved. Here are a few tips to help make your trip a good one:**

## ***What will I be doing as a chaperone?***

- ✓ You will supervise a small group of students during the visit, helping them learn, assisting the ranger 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 program 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 touching in the tidepools?***

- ✓ Encourage students to touch, but gently. When touching tidepool animals, wet your hands in seawater first. Most tidepool animals have a coating of slime to protect them. Touching them with a dry hand can damage their slime layer and harm their delicate surfaces.
- ✓ Do not pick up or remove the animals.
- ✓ Follow the guidance of the park education staff.

## ***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 student's teacher.
- ✓ Ask the group's teacher for any material that will help you lead the students.
- ✓ Ask the teacher whether the students have specific projects to work on, and how you can help with them during the visit.
- ✓ Interact and have fun with the students.
- ✓ Be sure to ask questions of each student in your group. There will always be a few who have all the answers.
- ✓ Encourage the shy or quiet students to share ideas, too.

## ***What else do I need to know?***

- ✓ Please leave additional small children at home. 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 to 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.

# Rules and Guidelines

Students must be under adult supervision at all times.

No running or going off trails unless otherwise instructed.

Use quiet voices, especially inside the Lighthouse and Interpretive Center.

No littering (adults please police areas if having a snack or lunch)

Be aware of, and courteous to, other visitors

## Tidepool Etiquette

Cobble Beach is part of the Marine Garden Preserve and therefore, is one of the best tidepool spots in Oregon. Remember, there are 134 steps to the beach! For your safety and the protection of the environment, please observe the following:

No walking on the mussel beds and try to walk only on bare rock. Rocky shores make for uneven footing, and seaweeds growing on rocks can be dangerously slippery.

Public access is restricted to certain areas. Please abide by the signs and stay in the designated area.

Animals and plants can be gently touched, but not picked up. When touching tidepool animals, wet your hands in seawater first. Most tidepool animals have a coating of slime to protect them. Touching them with a dry hand can damage their slime layer and harm their delicate surfaces.

No throwing rocks, etc. - It can hurt the many animals living in the tidepools.

No collecting except for driftwood.

Sneaker waves and sudden crashing waves can be hazardous. Be alert and keep an eye on the water.

If you move a rock, replace it gently where you found it.

Be sure to wear sturdy shoes. Sandals and flip flops can be dangerous.

### **IF SEALS OR OTHER WILDLIFE ARE PRESENT**

Talk quietly and not to the seals. No yelling or clapping.

Observe, but do not approach wildlife.

### **Remember**

*Courtesy and Safety*

*Respect for Other Visitors*

*Protection of the Park's Resources*

*Have Fun and Learn Something*