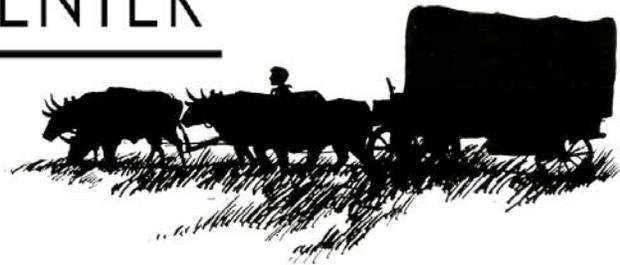




U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

NATIONAL HISTORIC **OREGON TRAIL** INTERPRETIVE CENTER

BAKER CITY, OREGON



2020 Field Trip Planning Guide



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

22267 Oregon Hwy 86 | Baker City, OR, 97814

blm.gov | 541-523-1843 | BLM_OR_NH_Mail@blm.gov

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Students participating in a ranger-led activity

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 12,000 square foot permanent exhibit about the westward migration of the Oregon Trail pioneers, Native Americans who lived along the route, and the mountain men, explorers, and missionaries who braved the frontier.



Students in the main exhibit hall



Students gold panning

Special exhibits are featured each year in the Flagstaff Gallery, including a special children's exhibit each spring. Films about the westward trek, as well as dramatic performances, lectures, and slide shows are presented in the Leo Adler Theater. An outdoor wagon encampment and amphitheater are used for demonstrations of pioneer-era life skills.

The four-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 stamp mill shows the early day technology used by gold miners. The gold panning sluice demonstration area helps students understand the hard work of placer mining. Interpreters provide talks and activities and prepare handouts and materials to help make the most of your visit.

Please contact us to assist in planning your visit!

Call 541-523-1843 and talk to one of our rangers for ideas on how to plan the best visit for your class and what options will be available on the day of your visit.

And check our [website](#) for downloadable education guides, lesson plans and activities.

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Interpretive Center Basic Information

Center Information:	All Interpretive Center facilities are fully accessible. The main exhibit hall can be toured (self-guided) in approximately one hour.
Special Events and Programs:	Please view our website for information on special events and daily scheduled programs. The Leo Adler Theater holds 140 individuals and is open to all visitors.
Location:	We are located five miles east of Baker City, OR, on Highway 86.
Hours:	Spring: 9:00AM – 4:00PM <i>Daily (mid-February – mid April)</i> Summer: 9:00AM – 6:00PM <i>Daily (mid-April – mid October)</i> Fall: 9:00AM – 4:00PM <i>Daily (mid-October – early December)</i> Winter: 9:00AM – 4:00PM <i>Thurs—Sun (early Dec – mid February)</i> Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day
Entrance Fees:	Bone fide educational groups are free of charge. One adult per 6 students are also free of charge. <i>Additional adults will be charged regular entrance fee</i> ; National Park passes do not apply.
Oregon Trail Shop:	Just off the main lobby, the Oregon Trail Shop offers books, videos, craft kits, reproduction pioneer items, toys and gifts for purchase.
Trails:	Four and one half (4 ½) miles of outdoor trails lead to Oregon Trail ruts and Panorama Point overlook. Most trails are paved and fully accessible. The Oregon Trail ruts can also be accessed from Hwy. 86. Trail maps are available online .
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.
Food and Drinks:	Vending machines (sodas and snacks) and an outdoor covered picnic area are available on site.

How to Get Here

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Oregon Highway 86. Take exit 302 from Interstate 84.



[22267 Oregon Hwy 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, and 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:

Begin driving on Highway 7 leading to Baker City. Next, turn right at intersection of Main and Campbell Streets, continuing to Interstate 84. Enter the westbound interstate and take Exit 302 in approx. 2 miles from Baker City. Turn right onto Highway 86 and continue driving for approximately 5 miles to the Center entrance.

From Halfway, Richland, Cambridge:

Begin driving on Highway 86, heading west towards Baker City to Milepost 7. Interpretive Center entrance is on the right.

NOTE TO BUS DRIVERS:

The driveway is one mile long and up to ten percent grade. Drop off for students is available at Parking Lot #1. *Parking Lot #2 recommended for bus parking.*

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Free Educational Activities

The following activities are offered free of charge to any educational group. Fill out the Reservation Request Form on page 8 and return it to us at least 3 weeks before your scheduled visit.

Ranger Welcome & Orientation

Shortly after your arrival, a park ranger will welcome your group to the Interpretive Center and will give a brief history of the Oregon Trail. Approximately 10-20 minutes.

Self-Guided Tours

Tour the permanent exhibits, special exhibits, and hiking trails on your own. Content of exhibits is appropriate for ages 10 and up; younger students may require additional adult interpretation to make the exhibits and trails relevant. Plan to spend approximately 45 minutes visiting the exhibits inside the Center; and up to two hours walking the trails.

Scavenger Hunt or Exhibit Bingo

The Interpretive Center has two activities for students to learn more about the Oregon Trail during their self-guided tour of the permanent exhibit:

- [Scavenger Hunt](#)- geared towards 3rd-5th graders.
- [Exhibit Bingo](#)- geared towards 1st-2nd graders.

Both activities can be completed individually or in groups of two to three students.

Please bring copies of the activities for your students; we will provide clipboards and pencils. Approximately 40-50 minutes.

Films

The Interpretive Center shows a variety of children's films on topics of westward migration and pioneer life. Films are geared toward 3rd-4th graders. Approximately 20 minutes each.

Special Exhibit: available January 24 – June 14, 2020

Wagons Ho! Experience the Oregon Trail This special exhibit includes a full scale, packable, pioneer wagon; math and language activities; pioneer clothing try-on; and map game. Lesson plans to use in the exhibit or in preparation for visiting are available on our [website](#). Approximately 45 minutes. Limit groups to 20-30 students.

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Additional Educational Opportunities

The following activities require pre-registration. *There is a fee of \$3 per student for up to 2 activities.* Fill out the Reservation Request Form on page 8 and return it to us at least 3 weeks before your scheduled visit.

Ranger-Led Hands-On Activity

Students will learn about pioneer lifeways and will make a craft to take home. *Choose one of the following activities:* candle dipping, ragdoll tying, and hard tack making (write in your choice on the reservation request form). Approximately 30-40 minutes. Limit groups to 12-15 students.

Ranger at the Ruts

A ranger will meet your group at the Oregon Trail ruts and describe how the landscape has changed since Oregon Trail days. Check the site map on our website for the location of the Ruts Access Trail. Approximately 30 minutes to 2 hours. Limit groups to 20-25 students.

Gold Panning

A replica gold panning sluice box and spring allows students to try gold panning. Students will have an opportunity and better understanding of the hard work and physical strain experienced by early day prospectors. *All gold is for educational purposes and must be returned to the sluice box.* Approximately 30-40 minutes. Limit groups to 12-15 students.

Ranger-Led Nature Hike

A ranger utilizes the trails to introduce students to wildlife, vegetation, and geology at the site. This hike can be adapted to best fit age groups, weather conditions, and group visit time. Approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour. Limit groups to 20-25 students.

Ranger-Led Educational Activity

Students will learn about pioneer lifeways and nature through an educational program. *Choose one of the following activities:* orienteering and mapping exercise; barter and trade activity; and scat, tracks, furs, and skulls identification (write in your choice on the reservation request form). Approximately 30-40 minutes. Limit groups to 12-15 students.

Reservation Request Form

School Group Name: _____

City/State: _____

Requested Date of Visit: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Arrival Time on Requested Day of Visit: _____

Contact Person for Group: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Number of Students: _____ Adults: _____ Grade Level(s) _____

Special Needs: _____

Educational Opportunities: Descriptions on pages 6-7. Indicate your choice(s):

Free of Charge (check all that apply)

\$3 per Student (choice of up to 2 activities)

___ Self-Guided Tour

___ Pioneer Activity _____

___ Scavenger Hunt (3rd-5th grade)

___ Ranger at the Ruts

___ Exhibit Bingo (1st-2nd grade)

___ Gold Panning

___ Children's Pioneer Film

___ Ranger-led Nature Walk

___ Wagons Ho! Exhibit (Jan 24 – Jun 14, 2020)

___ Hands-On Activity _____

RESERVATIONS: Please call, fax, or email this form **at least 3 weeks before** your scheduled visit to ensure space availability.

CANCELLATIONS: Please notify **at least one week** prior to scheduled date.

***Return this completed form to:**

Mail: 22267 Oregon Hwy 86, Baker City, OR 97814

Fax: 541-523-1834

Email: BLM_OR_NH_Mail@blm.gov

NHOTIC
 STAFF
 USE

Date Request Received: _____ Initials: _____ Date Visit Was Confirmed: _____ Initials: _____

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Ranger in the Classroom

Please contact us at 541-523-1843 or email us at BLM_OR_NH_Mail@blm.gov to schedule special programs or activities in your classroom. Selected programs are offered to schools or groups within a 90 minute drive of Baker City, Oregon, subject to availability. Program can be stand-alone or as a pre- or post- site visit. Programs run from 20 minutes to one hour; options include *The Traveling Trunk*, *Mountain Men* or *Scat, Tracks, Skulls & Furs*.

Every Kid Outdoor National Park Pass for 4th Graders

The Every Kid Outdoors program is a nationwide movement to help build the next generation of environmental stewards. Beginning each September 4th graders (including home-schooled and free-choice learners 10 year of age) can download a free voucher to gain unlimited, free access for themselves and their families to any federal lands or waters during that school year.

Teachers can also print out vouchers for their 4th grade students and bring them to the Interpretive Center with their class to exchange for the actual 4th grade pass. For more information, call us at 541-523-1836 or check out the Every Kid Outdoor website at everykidoutdoors.gov/educators.



View from the Wagon Encampment

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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 for everyone to enjoy tomorrow.

- Use your inside voice.
- Food and beverages are only allowed in the Acknowledgement Room and outdoors.
- Walk instead of running when indoors.
- Follow the directions of the Center staff.
- Respect the Center's property.
- Climbing or touching exhibits is not permitted, except in the Wagons Ho! exhibit.
- Be courteous and aware of other visitors in the Center

BEFORE YOUR VISIT:

- **Submit your Reservation Request Form at least 3 weeks before your scheduled visit.** Contact us at 541-523-1843 for questions or for suggestions.
- For the charged activities, we accept cash, check, or credit cards. Make checks out to: Bureau of Land Management.
- Divide student groups into smaller, adult-led subgroups before you arrive. Try to keep groups less than 20. Twelve per group is ideal.
- Prepare adult leaders and chaperones for the visit so they can better assist the students. See page 11 for more information.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Prior to activities, have the students visit the restroom. This ensures no disruptions or wandering children.
- Prior to entering the facility, please establish a time and place for your group to meet at the end of your visit.
- P.A. system (public announcement) is available.
- For safety and respect to others please do not block entry, exit doors, or lobby.
- Adults and children should wear some sort of identification with their school name. Children's names on tags are discouraged for safety concerns.
- For first aid needs, inform uniformed staff immediately.
- You may take photos and videos.
- If you plan to bring lunch for your group, our covered picnic shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- It is recommended that personal belongings (cameras, phones, backpacks, etc.) should have a tag with school name.

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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 a willingness to get involved and have fun. *Here are a few tips:*

What will I be doing as a chaperone?

You will supervise a small group of students during the visit, assisting the teacher or ranger when called upon, and ensure appropriate behavior.

What will my role be during the program?

- Monitor the behavior of the students, provide for their safety, and facilitate the learning process while insuring a fun visit.
- 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 in order 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 do not want touched is located well within the dioramas or within a case. Students should not climb into dioramas.
- Do not take drinks or food into the exhibits. Be careful about writing tools. Clipboards are available at the information desk if needed.
- On trails, you may see wildlife – do not disturb or attempt to touch any wild animals, snakes or insects, or 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.
- Interact and have fun with the students.
- Be sure to ask questions of each student in your group, and make sure that all of them are getting involved. Encourage shy or quiet students to share ideas.

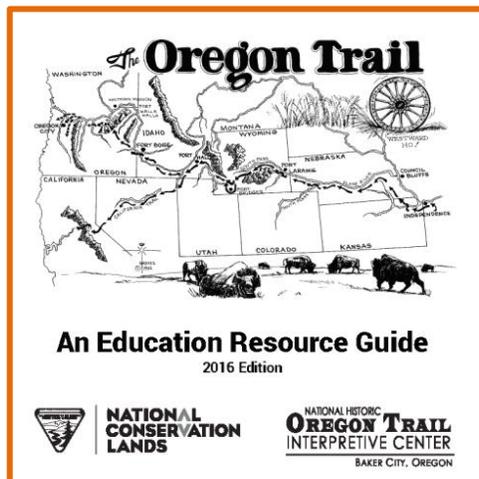
What else do I need to know?

- 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.
- The students assigned to you must stay with you 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.

Lesson Plans and Educational Resources

The following Lesson Plans and Activities are available for your site visit or classroom use:

[Oregon Trail Education Resource Guide](#)



The Oregon Trail Education Resource Guide (updated in 2016) is designed for use by teachers and other educators who are teaching Oregon Trail history.

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/learn_interp_nhotic_edguide.pdf

Many activities can be adapted to younger or older students. Teachers may make copies of any portion of the guide for classroom use.

[Download](#) the Teachers Supplement for 4th grade benchmark standards for each of the five-lesson plan activities included.

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/learn_interp_nhotic_teachguide.pdf

Available on our website:

Scavenger Hunt and Exhibit Bingo Cards

The [scavenger hunt](#) is a booklet with questions that can be answered within the permanent exhibit. The [exhibit bingo card](#) is a visual scavenger hunt. Both activities can be completed at the Interpretive Center and are available for download in advance on our website. The Center loans out clipboards and pencils.

Wagons Ho! Experience the Oregon Trail

Lesson plans in preparation for visiting the exhibit in Spring 2020 are available on our [website](#).

Available upon request, via email:

Explorers of the Pacific Northwest Education Resource Guide

The Explorers of the Pacific Northwest Education Resource Guide (148 pages) focuses on the explorers who blazed the trails to the Pacific Northwest. Guide includes background history, classroom discussion activities, site-visit activities, worksheets, coloring sheets, and references.

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