



OPAL CREEK

ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

2015 CATALOG

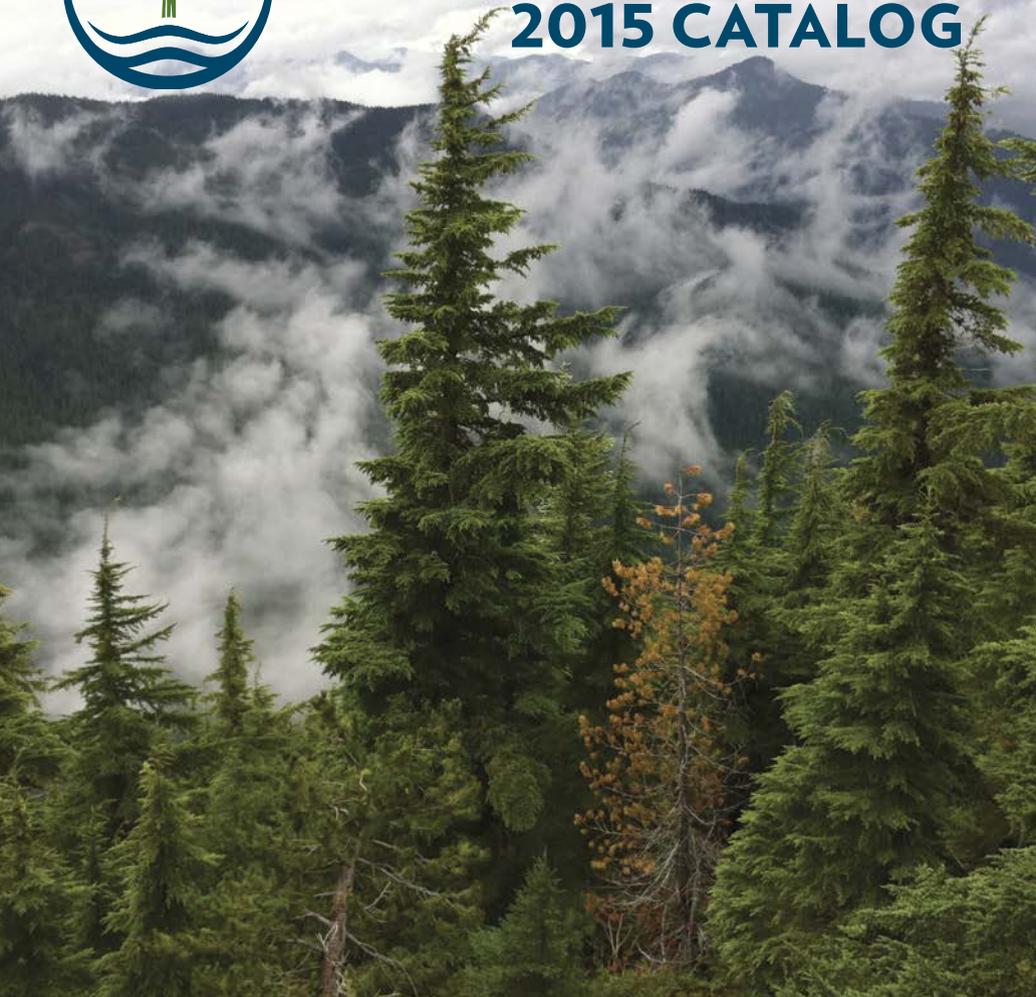




PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is located in the heart of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area, a spectacular 35,000-acre wilderness of ancient trees and pristine waters. At Opal Creek, you will walk among some of the largest and oldest stands of trees remaining in the Pacific Northwest. The plant biodiversity that still thrives in Opal Creek's watershed is but a small sample of the forests that once blanketed all the Western Cascades. Today Opal Creek is the largest uncut watershed in western Oregon. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center can help you fully experience this gem.

- ▶ Our base of operations is Jawbone Flats, a **historic mining town** that sits at the confluence of two mountain streams surrounded by dramatic ridgelines; in short, the ideal backdrop for serious relaxation.
- ▶ Our comfortable, streamside accommodations are well suited for large **family gatherings** or private, **quiet weekends**.
- ▶ Our **location** eliminates the need for extensive travel. We are located only 2 ½ hours from Portland, Eugene and Bend.
- ▶ Jawbone Flats is **"off the grid."** The electricity we use is produced through hydroelectric and solar power.
- ▶ Our wide variety of **workshops** range from youth writing to yoga retreats and family workshops.
- ▶ Opal Creek **Expeditions** continue to grow! These week-long adventures give 10-18 year olds an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in nature while learning the art of backcountry camping in the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wildernesses.

There is truly something for everyone at Opal Creek. The tall trees and crystal clear waters beckon with a promise to relax the busiest of minds. If you have experienced Opal Creek, you know what makes it special and worthy of many visits. If you have yet to visit, now is the time. Come explore this awe-inspiring wilderness.



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**Workshop and Expedition costs include shared lodging and meals, beginning with dinner the day of arrival and ending with lunch the day of departure.*

**“OPAL CREEK IS AWESOME, ESPECIALLY THE NIGHT HIKE!
I REALLY LOVE IT HERE AND I HOPE TO COME BACK.”**

— Student, Portland Waldorf School



A Brief History

The Opal Creek forest was first inhabited by Native Americans. Points and lithic scatters dating back at least 2,000 years have been found across the watershed. The site that is now Jawbone Flats is believed to have been a summer camp for the Santiam band of the Kalapuya Native Americans. The Whetstone Mountain Trail, which climbs the canyon, is believed to have been a frequent trade route for area tribes.

In 1859, miners arrived in the valley and discovered gold, but lead, zinc, silver and copper proved more fruitful. The Jawbone Flats mining camp was built beginning in 1929 by “Grandpa” James P. Hewitt, whose daughter Dolores married a member of the Atiyeh family, forever changing the fate of Opal Creek.

In 1992, mining ceased and *Shiny Rock Mining Company* donated its land to the fledgling non-profit *Friends of Opal Creek*. The organization was established in 1989 by George Atiyeh to lead the effort to secure permanent protection of the Opal Creek ecosystem. This effort culminated in November 1996, with the establishment, through federal legislation, of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. Today the Opal Creek forest has received international attention and is enjoyed by over 20,000 visitors each year.

In 2005, **Friends of Opal Creek** changed its name to **Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center** to represent the distinct education mission of the organization. Our work today is based upon our mission of promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

We invite you to join us in being inspired by the beauty and importance of the ancient forest preserved at Opal Creek.

PROMOTING CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN WILDERNESS.



Outdoor School at Opal Creek!

Each spring and fall, Jawbone Flats becomes home to school groups participating in our unique and unparalleled educational programs. Hundreds of students from across the Northwest enter this living laboratory to learn about the astonishing diversity of plants, mushrooms, lichen, macro-invertebrates, amphibians, and other organisms of the ancient forest.

Bring your students to Opal Creek to experience our hands-on educational programs, including:

- ▶ Interpretive hikes
- ▶ Outdoor and indoor labs
- ▶ Field studies
- ▶ Evening programs

And much more!

Our classroom is the largest remaining intact, low-elevation ancient forest ecosystem in Oregon’s Western

Cascades, and our teaching philosophy aims to both instruct and inspire. From the moment students step off the bus, our hands-on curriculum, individualized for each class, provides a unique way for students to apply the scientific principles and concepts they have been studying. Our program director, on-site coordinator and outdoor education instructors work directly with each teacher to integrate the Opal Creek experience into the broader school curriculum, and to ensure that the students’ time at Opal Creek leaves a lasting impression.

Our overnight outdoor school programs for 2nd-12th grade students and all university levels run from noon to noon. Outdoor Education Instructors are all college graduates, with experience in the sciences and education. Each of our instructors is Wilderness First Responder certified, and possess varied and vast knowledge in environmental sciences. Please contact our office at 503.892.2782 to discuss opportunities for your class.

“ I THINK OPAL CREEK AND WHAT THEY DO IS FANTASTIC. I LOVE THAT I’VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CLOSE TO NATURE AGAIN, AND TO LEARN MORE THAN I KNEW BEFORE.” — Student, Madison High School



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

WORKSHOPS

We offer a number of workshops for individuals, families and youth throughout the season. Our eclectic mix of programs covers the sciences, arts, and recreational activities.

Adult workshops range in topic from yoga, photography and writing, to our ever-popular fly-fishing and mushroom workshops. This season our biennial *Mosses, Lichens, and Liverworts* is back with a professional certification component; *Story Seekers: A Writing Retreat for Adults* extends to two nights; and we welcome yoga instructor Angelina Vasile to our line-up.

Family workshops are designed as an opportunity for the entire family to enjoy and explore the ancient forest together. These workshops bring together science, hands-on exploration, and the arts and include a variety of adventurous activities, designed for all ages. This season's Family Workshops include *Amphibian Adventure* and *Forest Crafting in the Cascades*.

Youth workshops include *Writing from the Wilds* and *Layers of the Forest: A Mixed-Media Painting Workshop*. These courses can be taken individually or together for a full week of creative outdoor fun.

All workshops are professionally taught and the price includes shared lodging plus meals from our fabulous kitchen.

To sign up for a workshop please visit our registration page:
www.opalcreek.org/2015-workshops

“GREAT PROGRAM. I STARTED WITH NEAR ZERO KNOWLEDGE AND FEEL A GOOD BASE HAS BEEN SET.”

— James, *Mosses, Lichens, and Liverworts* participant



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Mosses, Lichens and Liverworts of the Ancient Forest

APRIL 18-19

COST: \$175, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

Which forest dweller can turn rock into food? What plants store water for dry periods and can create soil in the upper canopy of ancient forests? Non-vascular plants such as mosses, lichens, and liverworts are drawing increasing attention for their importance as indicators of forest health, air quality and environmental integrity. From air quality indicators and natural water filters to nesting material for birds and mammals, mosses, lichens, and liverworts are invaluable to Pacific Northwest forest ecosystems. Join us for a journey through the little known non-vascular plant kingdoms of the Opal Creek wilderness. Opal Creek is home to hundreds of species, many of which are only found in the ancient forests of the northwest. This course is especially helpful for agency personnel who are conducting forest health surveys throughout the state.

A member of the Northwest Lichenologist Society and past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor, forest ecologist John Vilella returns to teach his favorite workshop of the year.



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

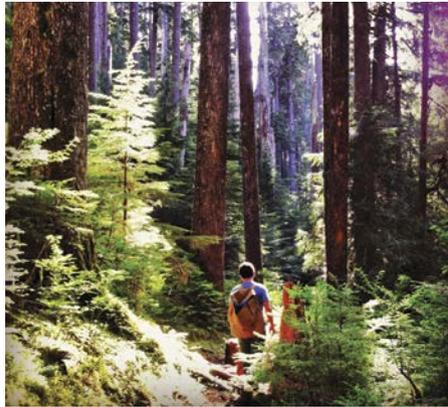
Family Workshop: Amphibian Adventure

MAY 9-10

COST: \$175 PER ADULT, \$80 PER CHILD 4-13. FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3, INCLUDES MEALS & PRIVATE LODGING IN A SHARED CABIN

Come spend Mothers' Day at Opal Creek! Relax, hike and enjoy home-cooked meals, including a special Mothers' Day breakfast.

Opal Creek's intact ancient forest and cool clean waters host the full diversity of Northwest amphibians, from the Pacific Giant Salamander, the largest terrestrial amphibian in North America, to the genetically unique tailed frog. This workshop will examine the dozen amphibians that reside in Opal Creek's exceptional habitat. Join our stellar instructors as we look deep into the clear pools and under the downed logs for these elusive critters. Tuition includes a copy of Opal Creek's self-published *Field Guide to the Amphibians of Opal Creek*, for use during the weekend and for all future amphibian investigation.



Story Seekers: A Writing Retreat for Adults

MAY 29-31

COST: \$225, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

At the heart of every story lies a tale of transformation, and the ancient forest contains them all. This workshop will explore the wild and tangled woods in search of stories of birth, death, love, desire, destruction, resilience, and healing. Our discoveries will be our guides as we write of the transformative experiences that have shaped us.

We will balance exploration, writing exercises, storytelling, and free time. You'll get face-to-face with the spongy forest floor, towering trees, a bluegreen river, and your own grittiest tales. Saturday you will have down time, and there will be an optional session to further develop your pieces. This workshop is a great opportunity for writers of all levels to generate new material in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Becca Deysach teaches creative writing and environmental studies for Prescott College and has a mindfulness-based coaching practice in Portland (www.cultivateclarity.net). When not holding space for others to tell their stories, you'll find her in the woods, cooking for friends, or riding her bike around town in search of strong coffee.



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Family Workshop: Forest Crafting in the Cascades

JUNE 13-14

COST: \$175 PER ADULT, \$80 PER CHILD 4-13. FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3, INCLUDES MEALS & PRIVATE LODGING IN A SHARED CABIN

Explore the outdoors, make crafts out of natural found objects, and learn about your environment in this brand-new family workshop that's sure to engage the whole family. We'll collect plants and flowers, then build and decorate your very own plant press to take home. Learn what tree cookies can tell us about our climate over time and make crafts out of them! We'll get our hands dirty as we create land art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, getting up close and personal with the many organisms that thrive in the ancient forest of Opal Creek. The wilderness provides endless opportunities for creative play for visitors of all ages, while offering knowledge and insight into the intricacies of an intact old growth forest. Come explore with us!



Adult Fly Fishing

SESSION 1: JULY 10-12

SESSION 2: JULY 24-26

COST: \$315, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

Join Jeff Gottfried (July 10-12) and Sam Vanderbeek (July 24-26) from Educational Recreational Adventures for an intensive weekend of fly fishing (and catching) in the Little North Fork of the Santiam, Battle Ax Creek and Opal Creek. The focus will be on tenkara, traditional Japanese fly fishing, a simple, yet highly effective technique for catching trout on small creeks and rivers. ERA is the only authorized tenkara guide service in Oregon, a member of the Tenkara Guides Network.

There will also be opportunities for classic western fly fishing. You will learn to cast, tie the basic knots, and identify aquatic insects and their life cycle. Join us and learn the basic skills you'll need to fly fish on your own or learn how to fly fish in a whole new way. All fly fishing gear necessary for the seminar will be supplied by ERA. Participants will gain access to ERA's ongoing fishing and outdoor adventure opportunities.

Educational Recreational Adventures conducts forest and aquatic education for all ages: www.edurecadv.org.



ANNAMIEKA DAVIDSON

Youth Workshop: Layers of the Forest: A Mixed-Media Painting Workshop

JULY 27-29

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$215, (SIGN UP FOR BOTH YOUTH WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$395) INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

Mixed-media painting is a fun and approachable technique that allows the artist to build up layers of imagery, much like the layers of foliage in the forest. In this workshop, teens will get to experience a range of drawing and painting techniques in the field and in the studio. We will make art directly in the forest, sketching the flora and fauna and painting landscapes in the open air. Returning to the studio, our sketchbooks will provide inspiration for collages of layered imagery, using mixed-media to add depth, color and form. All skill levels are welcome!

Annamieka Davidson is a fine artist based in Portland, Oregon. She brings energy and a love of art-making to her workshops, and students will feel encouraged and at ease. She earned her Bachelor's of Fine Art from the University of Oregon and writes about her life as an artist on: Annamieka.com



Youth Workshop: Writing from the Wilds

JULY 29-31

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$215 (SIGN UP FOR BOTH YOUTH WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$395), INCLUDES MEALS AND SHARED LODGING

Writing from the Wilds will give young writers an opportunity to renew their creative energy during mid-summer as they explore craft, narrative voice, story structure and more while roaming freely through the mind's wild terrain. Working with generative prompts and launching places, the workshop will inspire and support writers of all styles, levels and experience. It's the perfect opportunity for younger writers who wish for open space in which to write. Students will receive science instruction from Opal Creek's educators and come to understand and appreciate the forest that surrounds them. Travelling along footpaths alongside pristine creeks in the ancient forest is sure to inspire.

Dave Jarecki owns Breakerboy Communications, a writing firm that assists people, businesses and non-profit organizations in writing and communicating their stories. He lives in Portland with his wife, Courtney, their daughter, Lazadae, two hounds and three chickens.



PHOTO: GARY RANDALL

Photography in the Ancient Forest

SEPTEMBER 25-27

COST: \$750, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

Spend two days learning digital photography methods that will allow you to capture Opal Creek's natural beauty. Accomplished Oregon photographer Gary Randall will lead this workshop and explain camera function, composition and post processing in a relaxed atmosphere. Classroom instruction will introduce the course, then you'll hit the trails. The next day will be spent processing your work in Adobe Lightroom or Adobe Photoshop. A DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera and laptop computer with Lightroom or Photoshop installed is required. Gary will walk you through the process of creating and finishing photographs using manual camera operation while shooting in RAW format. This class is structured for all skill levels from beginning to advanced.

Gary Randall is an Oregon based landscape and travel photographer. His work has been published worldwide. Gary has been a digital photographer for over twelve years and a film photographer all of his life. www.gary-randall.com



Yoga in the Ancient Forest

OCTOBER 9-11

COST: \$295, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

Close your eyes, let out a deep exhale, and settle into the natural beauty of Opal Creek. The crystal clear waters and giant trees create the perfect environment for quieting our minds and opening our senses to the limitless wisdom of nature, both around and within us. This unique getaway will offer you a chance to deepen your movement practice and connection with your body, but also the space to rest and rejuvenate. Your experience will include four yoga sessions, many hours of free time to explore the incredible forests of Opal Creek, and an opening night Four Directions ceremony. Join us for a weekend of breath, meditation, sweet yoga asana (poses) and beauty. This workshop is open to all levels.

Angelina has been teaching healing movement for 14 years. Combining knowledge and love of Pilates, Forrest yoga, anatomy, psychology, nature and ceremony, her teaching is accessible and intelligent, gentle yet challenging. She's skilled with all ages/stages of ability and aims to teach how to deeply connect with yourself. www.angelinavasile.com



PHOTO: CARMEN TOMAS

Ancient Forest Mushrooms

SESSION 1: OCTOBER 17-18

SESSION 2: OCTOBER 24-25

COST: \$175 PER ADULT, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

The forest surrounding Opal Creek produces a large diversity of mushrooms every fall. Join us as we hike through the tall trees, learning about the amazing world of mycology that holds it all together. Look high and low for the curious organisms that come in so many shapes and sizes and help the forest grow and decompose. You will enjoy looking for mushrooms, learning to identify common species, and discovering their role in the environment. Throughout the day we will learn which species are edible and collect what we find, tasting them later that evening. We will also learn the best mushrooms to beautifully dye cloth. Please bring a piece of wool or silk clothing to dye, or a few dollars to purchase silk on-site. This workshop is very popular, and fills quickly, so reserve your space now!

Join past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor and forest ecologist John Villella for a weekend of education and exploration.



WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE COURSES

Opal Creek and Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) have teamed up to bring you three of the most highly regarded wilderness medicine courses in the industry – all taught in the heart of the ancient forest.

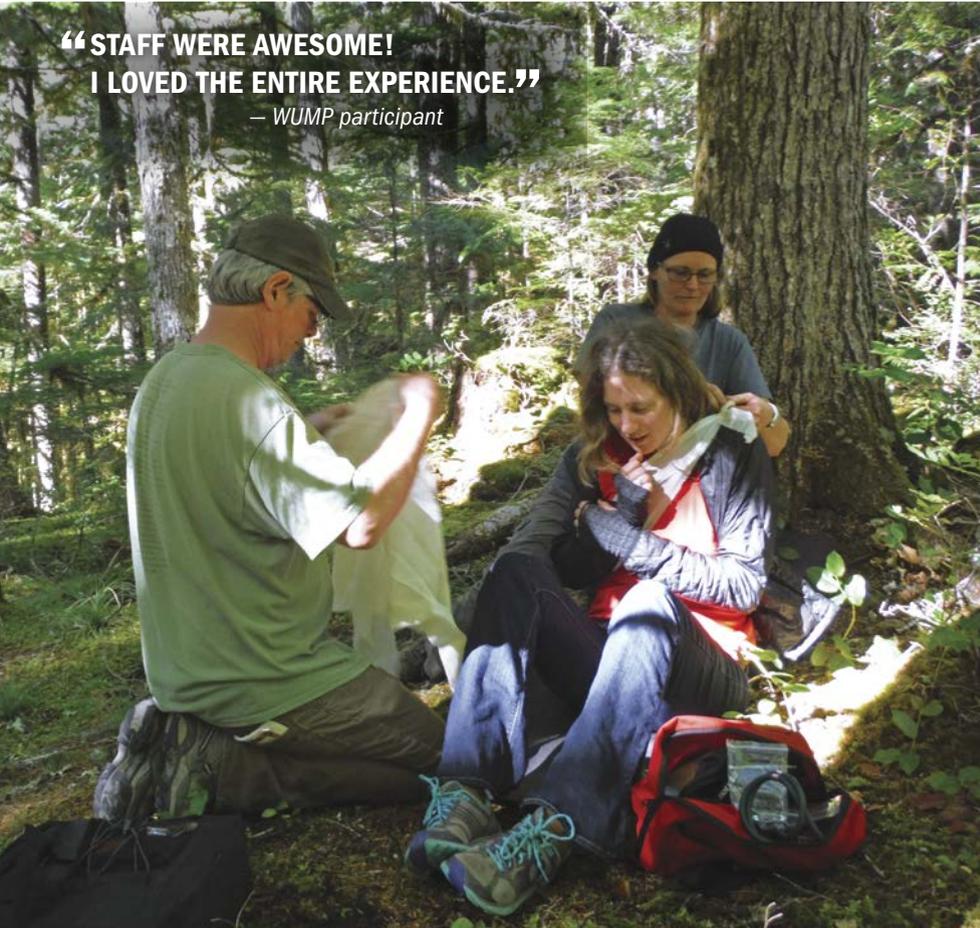
Get certified in the backcountry of the Opal Creek Wilderness and still have all the comforts of home. Our fully equipped cabins and lodge are an ideal backdrop for WMI courses, offering a warm and comfortable environment to sleep and study. Our highly praised kitchen provides all meals.

Visit WMI's website for complete class descriptions at www.nols.edu/wmi

**Shared lodging and meals begin the evening before courses begins.*

**“STAFF WERE AWESOME!
I LOVED THE ENTIRE EXPERIENCE.”**

— WUMP participant



Wilderness First Responder Recertification

SESSION 1: APRIL 10-12
SESSION 2: OCTOBER 2-4

COST: \$360, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

This three day scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision-making guidelines. It also provides wilderness medicine practitioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field.

Wilderness First Responder

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 8

COST: \$950, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

This course is fast-paced and engaging. You'll spend half your time outside the classroom practicing hands-on skills in realistic scenarios. The intensive 80-hour curriculum is nationally recognized and supported by the Wilderness Medicine Institute's Medical Advisory Panel, and is quickly becoming an industry standard for all outdoor professionals.

Wilderness Upgrade for Medical Professionals

JUNE 17-21

COST: \$850, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

This intense, hands-on course utilizes daily role plays, case studies and practical scenarios. Expect to spend plenty of time applying your knowledge. This five-day course is ideal for EMT's, nurses, physicians, certified athletic trainers and other medical professionals.





OPAL CREEK EXPEDITIONS

There is nothing like spending a week backpacking in the wilderness.

Jawbone Flats is the perfect base camp for outdoor adventure. Our unique expeditions combine backpacking skills with field science, giving your child hands-on experience ranging from camp cooking to sediment testing. Each trip approaches the watershed from a different ecological focus and maintains a strong emphasis on backcountry travel.

This season we've added a new session for teens 16-18 years old. *Bull of the Woods: Extended Expedition* is designed for youth looking to build upon previous backcountry skills and gain leadership experience while spending a full week immersed in the wilderness. Our three sessions of *Back to Basics* are tailored for 10-12 year olds looking to gain an introduction into backpacking. And for 12-16 year olds we offer four expeditions, including our unique *River Deep*, *Mountain High* and *Ridgelines and Waterways* which will bring campers to the McKenzie River for a half-day of rafting before returning home. We're thrilled to partner with the experienced and certified guides of High Country Expeditions for this opportunity: www.highcountryexpeditions.com

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

This spring we will host two orientation meetings for parents and backpackers to meet with our program director. We strongly encourage everyone interested in a 2015 Opal Creek Expedition to attend one of these meetings, especially first-time backpackers. We will discuss proper gear and backpack sizing, go over the camp itineraries and hiking routes, and address any questions or concerns you may have.

The orientation meetings will be held in the Alder Room, on the second floor of the Ecotrust Building at 721 NW 9th Ave. in Portland's Pearl District. The meetings are scheduled for:

Monday, May 4, at 6 PM

Wednesday, June 3, at 6 PM

Please call the Portland office at 503.892.2782 with any questions about these meetings.

All Opal Creek Expeditions follow Leave No Trace principles and maintain a student to staff ratio of 5:1. Our instructors are Wilderness First Responder certified and trained to handle backcountry medical emergencies.

Opal Creek provides some group gear for Expeditions. A complete gear list will be sent upon registration. If there are items you do not own consider renting equipment from local retailers.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center operates under a special use permit with the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests.



Back to Basics

SESSION 1: JUNE 28-JULY 3

SESSION 2: JULY 5-10

SESSION 3: AUGUST 2-7

AGES: 10-12 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 4

COST: \$435

Come learn the ABCs of backpacking in the largest uncut watershed in western Oregon. This backcountry adventure will focus on the skills needed to be a comfortable, competent, and happy hiker. We'll spend a day in Jawbone Flats planning and preparing, then we'll hit the trail to experience first-hand how to take care of ourselves and each other in the wilderness. Camp cooking and wilderness medicine, leadership and communication skills are all a part of the curriculum, and, of course, swimming in the crystal clear waters of Opal Creek! We welcome hikers of all skill levels to join us for this expedition, especially those who are just becoming interested in backcountry travel.



All Along the Watchtower

JULY 12-17

AGES: 12-16 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 7

COST: \$435

Throw your home on your back and head off on foot in search of the best vistas west of the Cascades. We'll put miles under our feet after only one day of planning and preparation, so come prepared with broken-in boots and backpacking experience. Hiking under the old-growth canopy, swimming in sub-alpine lakes and taking in mountaintop views will engage all your senses. We will cover lots of ground on a route that will take us to the tallest ridges and mountaintops in the Opal Creek Wilderness: vantage points that offer a glimpse at the magnificent Cascade mountain range. From these heights we'll have a birds' eye view of the stages a forest goes through recovering from fire. Along the way we'll focus on forest succession and the resilience of the landscape through which we will travel.



Oregon's Uncut Gem

JULY 19-24

AGES: 12-16 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5

COST: \$435

For a unique perspective on the Opal Creek Wilderness, join us as we circumnavigate one of the last uncut old-growth watersheds in the Pacific Northwest. We'll make our way along the valleys and ridges, investigating the connections between the lush forests and cool mountain streams, and gaining a first-hand understanding of the complex relationships of an old-growth ecosystem. We will study plant and animal life, and talk about the human history, particularly the conservation efforts, in the Opal Creek area. This trip is a chance to see the wilderness area in a way that few ever do, in its entirety.



River Deep, Mountain High

JULY 26-31

AGES: 12-16 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5.5

COST: \$435

As we travel through deep valleys and over steep ridges we'll discover the glacial and geologic forces that shaped the west Cascades and its waterways, and test water depth and temperature as we take a dip! Astonishing views of the Cascades, from Mt. Hood to the Three Sisters, will greet us as we traverse ridgelines and descend into valleys. On our last day we will head to the McKenzie River for a day of rafting with guides from **High Country Expeditions** and apply our understanding of the streams and rivers of Opal Creek to this larger waterway while spending a day on one of Oregon's favorite rivers. We'll cover lots of ground and lots of water, so bring good boots and good suits!



Ridgelines and Waterways

AUGUST 9-14

AGES: 12-16 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5.5

COST: \$435

Perfect your backcountry travel skills in this exploration of Opal Creek's deep valleys, vista-filled ridges, and pristine lakes. Emphasis will be placed on safe and successful backpacking techniques, including packing a backpack for an extended trip, essential gear, wilderness medicine, planning and preparing tasty and nutritious meals on a camp stove, and proper food storage techniques. We'll get to know the local flora and fauna up close and personal, and spend time in camp focusing on knot-tying and navigation skills. On our last day, after hiking the Opal Creek Wilderness, we will head to the McKenzie River for a day of rafting with guides from **High Country Expeditions** while learning about the larger water way of the McKenzie River.



Bull of the Woods: Extended Expedition

AUGUST 16-23

AGES: 16-18 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 6

COST: \$495

Hone your backcountry travel and wilderness leadership skills in this extended 7-day backpacking trip through the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness Areas. Hikers will perfect their backcountry cooking skills; practice basic wilderness first aid and proper foot care; navigate by map and compass; and learn successful food storage techniques. Expanding upon previous camping experiences will build your backcountry travel confidence, and each hiker will work with the trip instructors to share "leader of the day" responsibilities. Hiking over ridges, along river valleys, and into the sub-alpine lake region of the Bull of the Woods Wilderness, we'll experience a diversity of pristine old-growth forest valleys and expansive views in the heart of the western Cascades.



Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

SESSION 1: April 10-12

SESSION 2: November 6-8

COST: \$50.00

Join us at Opal Creek for a weekend of **clearing and cleaning trails**, and **basic maintenance projects** around our Jawbone Flats education center. Volunteer weekends require the ability to do hard, manual labor. Come prepared with appropriate clothes and gear, including your favorite pair of work gloves! We will be working outdoors rain or shine. The cost covers food and shared lodging for the weekend.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is a small non-profit that relies on volunteers. We appreciate all of the time and energy you have donated over the years and realize we can't do what we do without you!

If you have specific skills, equipment or experience that could be useful please contact us at opalcreek@opalcreek.org or call 503.892.2782.



PHOTO: WILLIAM COIT

“OPAL CREEK WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR ME, GETTING TO LEARN AND SEE NATURE FIRST-HAND MADE ME UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE WILDERNESS AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS. OPAL CREEK IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, AND I WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP KEEP IT THAT WAY. THANK YOU FOR LETTING US COME AND EXPERIENCE OPAL CREEK.”

— Student, Renaissance School Portland



Support our Mission. Become a Member!

Join us in promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

Now, while our children's lives are devoted to learning and building an understanding of the world in which we live, **is the time to place a strong emphasis on environmental education**, provide them with as much quality time outdoors as possible, and cultivate a love of nature so that they are prepared to stand up and act on behalf of our environment!

Benefits of Membership Include:

- ▶ 10% off select workshops and summer programs
- ▶ Members only early cabin reservation period
- ▶ A subscription to our newsletter

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.opalcreek.org/donate or call 503.892.2782. While we welcome donations of any size, a \$50 gift gives an individual the benefits of membership and a \$100 gift provides a family with benefits of membership. A monthly giving plan is also available. Please see our website's 'donate' page for details.



An Evening for Opal Creek



Join us on May 29th at 6:30 PM at Ecotrust (NW 9th and Johnson in Portland) for our annual fundraiser!

Buy your tickets and get ready for a good time! The evening will include live music, an open bar, rooftop access, a silent auction, and delicious food! We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets are \$50 and available at www.opalcreek.org/events. Call 503.892.2782 to purchase tickets over the phone or for more details.

“LICHEN, AND MUSHROOMS, AND AMPHIBIANS, OH MY! OPAL CREEK WAS AN AMAZING TRIP, AND I HAVE A COMPLETELY NEW RESPECT FOR NATURE. I CAN SEE WHY YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH OPAL CREEK, AND I THINK I DID TOO.”

— Student, Silverton Christian School



PHOTO: WILLIAM COIT

4th Annual Opal Creek Golf Tournament

September 11th, 2015

The Reserve Vineyards & Golf Club, Aloha, OR

Join staff, board, supporters, and golf enthusiasts at our 4th annual golf tournament benefiting Opal Creek! This year's tournament will be held on Friday, September 11th with a tee time of 1 o'clock. Individual or team registration will be available online at www.opalcreek.org/events. Your registration fee covers 18 holes of golf, a cart and driving range privileges, and a post-play event in The Reserve's clubhouse, which will feature a silent auction and include dinner and two drinks. Prizes will be given for the winning team and the longest drives. Additionally, participants will have an opportunity to purchase mulligans and take part in a putting competition pre-tourney.

There are several sponsorship opportunities for this event. If your business would like to be featured as a presenting or tee-box sponsor for our 2015 golf tournament, please contact Gabrielle at 503.892.2782 or ghaber@opalcreek.org.

Tickets are \$150 for individuals and \$600 for four-person teams. Purchase them online at www.opalcreek.org/events or over the phone by calling 503.892.2782. Sign up early and secure your spot in this growing event!

Sleeps and Eats

Our cabins can be rented individually without taking part in an education program, and are ideal for family vacations, private getaways, or business retreats. Please visit our website at www.opalcreek.org for more cabin photos and up-to-the-minute rental information.

Jawbone Flats accommodates groups from 2-50, in a variety of cabin styles:

“A FANTASTIC PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO RE-CONNECT WITH NATURE! WE ALL INTEND TO RETURN!”

— Cabin Renter



PHOTO: WILLIAM GOIT

► **Cabin 1:** Built in 1928, our smallest and most charming cabin is a rustic, one-bedroom refuge situated on Battle Ax Creek. This cabin sleeps two comfortably in a king-size bed, with a futon in the living area to provide extra sleeping room, and is equipped with a full bathroom, full kitchen and a deck with a view of Battle Ax Falls.

► **Cabins 4 and 5:** Our newest cabins, 4 and 5 were beautifully rebuilt in 1998 for spectacular spaciousness and comfort. In each cabin you'll find a back deck overlooking the Little North Santiam River, four large bedrooms, full kitchen and living area, and two full baths with showers. These cabins sleep up to 16 people each.

► **Cabin 7:** A mid-size, rustic two-bedroom cabin with loft sleeps up to ten in a combination of shared and private bedrooms. This cabin was remodeled in 2006 adding many beautiful improvements. It has a living area, full kitchen and full bathroom.

Cabin check-in is between 2 and 7 PM. All cabin kitchens are fully stocked with dishes, utensils, pots, and pans.

PRICING FOR CABIN RENTALS:

For all-camp rates and availability, please call the Portland office at 503.892.2782. There is a two-night minimum for all cabins. All pricing is flat-rate.

Season	Month	Cabin 1	Cabins 4 & 5	Cabin 7
Shoulder Season	April 3 – May 21,	Weekend	All days: \$300	Weekend
	September 7 – November 7	(Fri./Sat.): \$175 Midweek: \$125		(Fri./Sat.): \$225 Midweek: \$175
High Season	May 22 – September 6	All days: \$225	All days: \$375	All days: \$275



PHOTO: GARY RANDALL

MEALS

Our food service staff work with small farms, local cooperatives, and regional wholesalers to provide organic and local foods whenever possible. All meals are vegetarian and always hearty and healthy in nature. Due to the remote nature of Jawbone Flats, all meals must be arranged 3-4 weeks in advance.

- Breakfast:** \$12 per person
- Packed Lunch:** \$10 per person
- Sit-Down Lunch:** \$15 per person (10 adult minimum)
- Dinner:** \$18 per person

Meals are half-price for children ages 4-13 and free of charge for children ages 0-3.

GEAR SHUTTLE

Jawbone Flats is located 3.1 miles from the Forest Service parking area. We operate a gear shuttle for our program participants and cabin renters so that you can enjoy the breath-taking hike in through the old-growth forest with only a daypack.

Shuttles leave the parking area by reservation at **10 AM** or **5 PM**. Once you have made your program or cabin reservation, our Portland staff will work with you to schedule a shuttle at one of these times. We provide one complementary arrival and departure shuttle per cabin; there is a \$50 fee for each additional shuttle requested. If a member of your party is unable to walk in, please arrange with our Portland office to ride the shuttle in advance. Please call our Portland office at 503.892.2782 for more details.

“YOU ROCK! LOVE THE STAFF AND FOOD!”

— Scott, Mushroom workshop participant



Staff



Executive Director Katie Ryan joined Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in March of 2005. She brings over fifteen years of experience organizing and leading field education programs throughout Oregon, Washington, California, the Yellowstone region, and Canada. Before coming to Opal Creek, she was directing programs at OMSI's Cascade Science School in Bend, OR. At home in the mountains, she has dedicated her career to sharing these special places with students of all ages, believing 100% that people need to experience wild places in order to care about them. Having spent three years living full time at Jawbone Flats, Opal Creek has become one of her absolute favorite places to share. Katie worked as our Program Director building our ever growing programs from 2005-2009 and took over as Executive Director in October of 2009. She now lives in Bend, OR, with her husband Joe and dog Murphy. When not working on behalf of Opal Creek's amazing programs, Katie spends her time skiing, hiking, rafting, and just trying to be outside as much as possible.



Program Director Serena Becker discovered the mystery and beauty of Opal Creek when she joined the team in 2010. She brings with her years of experience as an environmental educator and project manager as well as extensive backcountry backpacking experience, including thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail in 2008. Serena has worked for the Audubon Society of Portland, Santiam Crossing, and Friends of Zenger Farm among other non-profit organizations. She enjoys spending time outside and sharing the wonders of Opal Creek with all those who find their way to the ancient forest. Serena holds a Bachelor of Arts from The Evergreen State College and is a certified Wilderness First Responder.

Instructional Staff

Our skilled and dedicated field instructors hold college degrees in the natural sciences or education, are Wilderness First Responder certified and receive training in outdoor teaching methodology and risk management procedures.

For a complete list, including our Facilities and Food Service staff, please visit our website at www.opalcreek.org

Board of Directors

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*Guidebook author and
freelance writer*

Stephen Hatfield
REI

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Ecotrust

Josh Kling
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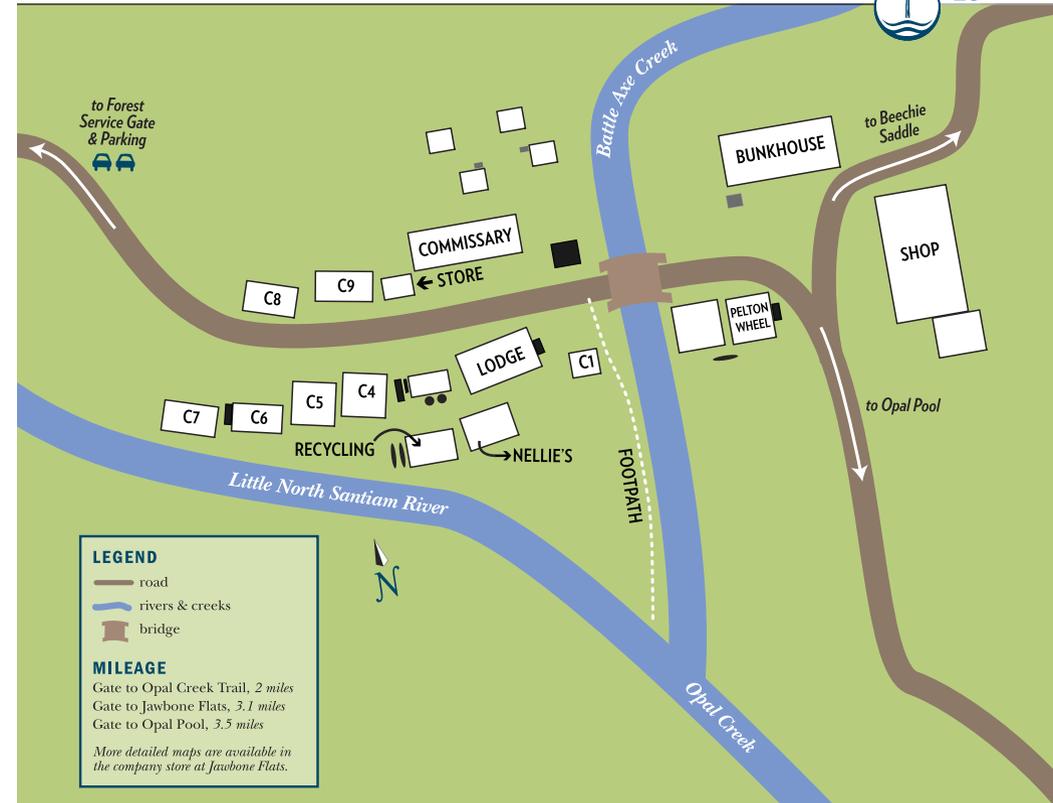
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David Yudkin
Hotlips Pizza



In and Around Jawbone Flats

There are a number of hikes, ranging in difficulty and length, throughout the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation and Wilderness Area.

Gate to Jawbone Flats: This gentle 6.25 mile round trip hike or bike ride along the old mining road will take you to Jawbone Flats, an old mining town and our base of operations. With an elevation change of merely 300 feet, you will enjoy hiking under a canopy of old growth trees, past historic mining and logging equipment.

Alternately, 2.2 miles in, you may choose to cross the Little North Santiam River and continue hiking east, following the river up-stream about 1 mile, until you reach Opal Pool, where you can cross the bridge over Opal Creek and arrive back on the old mining road. Take a left onto the old road and you'll arrive in Jawbone Flats.

There are a number of longer, more strenuous backcountry hikes, including Whetstone and Battle Ax Mountain, that radiate from Jawbone Flats. Please visit our "Company Store" in Jawbone Flats to purchase a wilderness map and discuss hiking opportunities with our knowledgeable staff.



COURTESY GOOGLE MAPS



Driving Directions

Do not follow MapQuest or Google Map directions: they are inaccurate. Typical driving times to Opal Creek are: from Salem, 1 hr; from Portland or Eugene, 2 hrs.; from Bend, 2.5-3 hrs.

From I-5:

- ▶ Take Exit 253 for Hwy 22 (Stayton/Detroit).
- ▶ At the end of the ramp turn left/east onto Hwy 22. Continue for approximately 22 miles.
- ▶ You will come to a flashing yellow light and on the right hand side of the road you will see the North Fork Crossing Restaurant.
- ▶ Turn left/north at the flashing light onto the North Fork Rd. The Opal Creek trailhead is at the very end of this road, approximately 20 miles.
- ▶ After 14 miles of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ After approx 1.5 - 2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools. Stay to the left on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4.5 miles to the Opal Creek parking area and trail head.

From Bend, Hwy 97 or Hwy 20:

- ▶ From either of these highways, make your way to Hwy 22 West.
- ▶ Follow Hwy 22 West to Gates, OR, approximately 96 miles from Sisters.
- ▶ Approximately 11 miles past Gates you will come to a flashing yellow light and on the left hand side of the road you will see the North Fork Crossing Restaurant.
- ▶ Turn right/north at the flashing light onto the North Fork Rd. The Opal Creek trailhead is at the very end of this road, approximately 20 miles.
- ▶ After 14 miles of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ After approx 1.5 - 2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools. Stay to the left on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4.5 miles to the Opal Creek parking area and trail head.

Alternate Directions

(During summer months only):

- ▶ Please note: This alternate route will save you roughly 30 minutes of travel time from the Bend area. However, Gates Hill Road is 16% grade both up and down, and is not maintained in the winter. Please drive with extra caution when using this road.
- ▶ From Gates, turn right/north onto Gates Hill Road, across from the Gates General Store.
- ▶ Gates Hill Road is a paved, approximately 3-mile road that lets out on North Fork Road, approximately 9 miles north from Hwy 22.
- ▶ Turn right onto the North Fork Road.
- ▶ After 5 miles or so you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ After approx 1.5 - 2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools. Stay to the left on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4.5 miles to the Opal Creek parking area and trail head.

At the Parking Area/Trail Head:

- ▶ Jawbone Flats is located 3.1 miles down the old gravel road past the gate.
- ▶ If you are staying with us and have scheduled in advance, your gear shuttle will meet you at the trailhead parking lot at 10 AM or 5 PM.
- ▶ All able-bodied participants must hike the 3.1 miles from the gate to Jawbone Flats.

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PHOTO: WILLIAM COIT