



OPAL CREEK

ANCIENT FOREST CENTER



2016 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; come experience this gem with us.

- ▶ Our base of operations is Jawbone Flats, a **historic mining town** that sits at the confluence of two mountain streams surrounded by dramatic ridgelines; the ideal backdrop for serious relaxation.
- ▶ Our comfortable, streamside accommodations are well suited for large **family gatherings** or private, **quiet weekends**.
- ▶ **Located** only 2½ hours from Portland, Eugene, and Bend, Opal Creek is right in your backyard.
- ▶ Jawbone Flats is **“off the grid.”** The electricity we use is produced through hydroelectric and solar power.
- ▶ Our wide variety of **workshops** range from ecological courses to yoga retreats and family workshops.
- ▶ Opal Creek **Expeditions** 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.

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.



Opal Creek History	4
Events	5
Outdoor School	6
Workshops	
Painting in the Ancient Forest.....	9
FAMILY WORKSHOP: Amphibian Adventure.....	9
Story Seekers: A Writing Retreat for Adults.....	10
FAMILY WORKSHOP: Forest Crafting in the Cascades.....	10
FAMILY CAMP: Watershed Adventures.....	11
Secrets from Rebekah’s Kitchen.....	11
Yoga in the Ancient Forest.....	12
Photography in the Ancient Forest.....	12
Ancient Forest Mixology.....	13
Ancient Forest Mushrooms.....	13
Wilderness Medicine Institute Courses.....	14
Opal Creek Expeditions	
Back to Basics.....	16
All Along the Watchtower.....	17
Oregon’s Uncut Gem.....	17
Jawbone Flats Basecamp.....	18
River Deep, Mountain High.....	18
Ridgelines and Waterways.....	19
Bull of the Woods: Extended Expedition.....	19
Volunteer Opportunities	20
Membership	21
Sleeps and Eats	22
Staff and Board	24
Jawbone Flats Map	25
Directions to Opal Creek	26

“THIS IS A WONDERFUL PROGRAM. OUR KIDS HAD THE BEST TIME. THE FOOD WAS AMAZING. I’LL BE BACK!!”

– Parent, Carus Elementary School

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



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.

PROMOTING CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN WILDERNESS.





Mark your Calendars!

MAY 19 Evening for Opal Creek

Twenty years ago Senator Mark Hatfield proposed a little piece of legislation called the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area Act. This year, the Opal Creek watershed will host almost 1,500 students of all ages in what has truly become a gem in Oregon's crown. Join us at the Ecotrust building in NW Portland to raise funds and support for countless more educational experiences in this unparalleled wilderness.

JUNE 25 Member Day at Jawbone Flats

All Hemlock, Cedar, and Pacific Yew members (please see page 21) are invited to a very special Member Day in the ancient forest. Give yourself the gift of a day in the woods, and join us for interpretive hikes and fun activities, live music, and a luncheon from our stellar kitchen.

SEPTEMBER 1 Opal Creek Golf Tournament

If you know how to swing a golf club, we want to see you at the 5th annual golf tournament benefiting Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center! This event gets bigger and better every year, with scramble-style gameplay, contests, dinner, drinks, and more. This year's tournament will be on Thursday, September 1, at the Reserve Vineyards & Golf Club in Aloha.

www.opalcreek.org/events or call 503.892.2782 to purchase tickets and for more details.

“ COULDN'T SAY MORE AMAZING THINGS ABOUT OUR INSTRUCTORS—THANK YOU SO SO SO MUCH! THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LOVE AND PASSION YOU PUT INTO THE PROGRAM!”

— Teacher, Portland Montessori



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 science 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. Science 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.





“SOME OF THE BEST OUTDOOR SCIENCE INSTRUCTORS IN MY 17 YEARS EXPERIENCE OF OUTDOOR SCHOOL.” – Teacher, Childpeace Montessori School

2,527

STUDENT NIGHTS
(number of students **x** number of nights in Jawbone)

1,413

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

42
SCHOOLS

11 (5 more than 2014) from counties in Oregon & Washington





WORKSHOPS

We offer a number of workshops for individuals and families 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 mushroom workshops.

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. This season's Family workshops include *Amphibian Adventure*, *Forest Crafting in the Cascades*, and our new summer program, *Watershed Adventures!*

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

www.opalcreek.org/2016-workshops

**“MY SON HAD AN AMAZING TIME –
IT WAS EVERYTHING WE HAD HOPED FOR AND MORE!”**

– Parent, *Amphibian Adventure*



Painting in the Ancient Forest

APRIL 16-17

COST: \$175; **SUPPLY FEE:** \$30. **INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING**

Retreat for a weekend of artmaking in a spectacular natural setting. You will be led through an immersive experience in mixed-media painting, while Opal Creek staff take care of the food & accommodations. Come prepared to get messy while you get your hands in the paint, in the dirt, and in the wild surroundings. You will spend time out in the forest collecting imagery and inspiration, drawing and painting along the trail. Returning to the studio, you will learn how to incorporate this imagery into lush, layered acrylic paintings that are uniquely yours. The mixed-media painting process lends itself well to experimentation and play, and beginners and professionals alike will find themselves making new discoveries in this nurturing workshop environment.

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 BFA from the University of Oregon and writes about her life as an artist on her blog: Annamieka.com



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Family Workshop: Amphibian Adventure

MAY 7-8

COST: \$175 PER ADULT, \$85 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 science instructors as we look deep into clear pools and under 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 28-29

COST: \$175; SUPPLY FEE: \$10. INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

The poet Mary Oliver writes, “Let me keep my mind on what matters... which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.” In this creative writing retreat, we will immerse ourselves in the wild landscape of Opal Creek so that we, too, may become astonished.

We will explore the ancient forest with our senses, allowing objects of intrigue to awaken the stories inside us. With the help of experiential prompts, we will generate pieces of writing that are as wild and alive as the woods and rushing waters that inspired them. By the end of the weekend, we will each have a creatively rendered record of our discoveries and story seeds to take home.

This retreat is an opportunity for writers, artists, teachers, and anybody else who wants to break through blocks and access the wild and creative force howling inside us all.

Becca Deysach, M.S., teaches creative writing and environmental studies for Prescott College and facilitates writing programs at Breitenbush Hot Springs.



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Family Workshop: Forest Crafting in the Cascades

JUNE 11-12

COST: \$175 PER ADULT, \$85 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 materials, and learn about your environment in this 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!



Family Camp: Watershed Adventures

AUGUST 10-12

COST: \$250 PER ADULT, \$125 PER CHILD 4-13. FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3. INCLUDES MEALS & PRIVATE LODGING IN A SHARED CABIN

Enjoy two nights as a family during this relaxing and engaging family camp based in Jawbone Flats. Summer is one of the best seasons to visit Opal Creek and what better way to experience the ancient forest than with an all-inclusive family oriented workshop! Activities will include: a guided hike into Jawbone Flats, cooling off as we test out the natural waterslide, searching for macroinvertebrates and amphibians in nearby streams, and more!



PHOTO: GARY RANDALL

Secrets from Rebekah's Kitchen

AUGUST 13-14

COST: \$175, INCLUDES MEALS & LODGING

Fill yourself with the comforting and delicious essence of the Jawbone kitchen. Taught by acclaimed Jawbone cook extraordinaire, Rebekah Yglesias, you will come away feeling more connected to the spirit of the food you eat, taking Hippocrates words "let food be your medicine and medicine your food" to a whole new level. Rebekah will guide you through several favorite lodge recipes, including dosas, a gluten-free sourdough lentil flatbread with various savory fillings and sauce. This workshop will include demonstrations of Jawbone kitchen secrets and the sharing of cherished recipes collected by Rebekah during her half century of cooking.

Rebekah Yglesias grew up at the stove of her Costa Rican-born grandmother stirring and listening to the merits of chiles, beans, rice, and of course cocoa. She landed her first kitchen assistant job at the age of 11 and quickly realized her lifelong goal would be to learn not only how to make delicious food, but nutritious as well. From 2008-2015 Rebekah was food service director at Opal Creek where she developed an acclaimed menu and strong rapport with local farms.



Yoga in the Ancient Forest

SEPTEMBER 15-18

COST: \$395, INCLUDES MEAL & SHARED LODGING

Unplug from the busy-ness, take deep, slow breaths, 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 five 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 and beauty. This workshop is open to all levels. It fills quickly, so reserve your space now!

Angelina Vasile has been teaching healing movement for 14 years. Her teaching combines a deep knowledge and love of Pilates, Forrest yoga, anatomy, psychology, nature and ceremony. Classes are 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: GARY RANDALL

Photography in the Ancient Forest

SEPTEMBER 16-18

COST: \$750, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

Spend three days learning the 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 end of the day will be spent processing your work in Adobe Lightroom or Adobe Photoshop. A camera with manual adjustment and RAW file capabilities and laptop computer with Lightroom or Photoshop installed is required as Gary walks you through the complete process of creating and finishing your photographs. 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. His love of Oregon and his passion for photography come together to showcase Oregon and its beauty. www.gary-randall.com



Ancient Forest Mixology

OCTOBER 8-9

COST: \$175, INCLUDES MEALS & LODGING

Join us in the woods for a one-of-a-kind experience with our favorite Portland drink experts! Combining a few of our favorite things—well-mixed cocktails and the old-growth forest in autumn — we'll treat you to guided hikes by our Opal Creek instructors, delicious hot meals by the renowned Jawbone Flats kitchen, and a two-hour hands-on mixology class with Merit Badge Co. Consider it your opportunity to study classic cocktails with more than a few twists.

Merit Badge owner Matt Mount has over 20 years of combined experience in the worlds of bartending, commercial distilling, cocktail classes and spirit education. With his roots now in the Northwest, he focuses on Oregon products and ingredients in his teachings.



PHOTO: STEVEN JOHNSON

Ancient Forest Mushrooms

SESSION 1: OCTOBER 15-16

SESSION 2: OCTOBER 22-23

COST: \$175, 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 you will learn to identify which species are edible and collect what you find, tasting them later that evening. The following day will be spent forging, and beautifully dying cloth with mushrooms. 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!

Taught by one of the Opal Creek watershed's most knowledgeable ecologist, and past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor, John Villella.



WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE COURSES

Opal Creek and the 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.*

“ALL OF THE STAFF AT OPAL CREEK ARE SO AMAZING! EVERY STAFF MEMBER I ENCOUNTERED WAS FRIENDLY, HELPFUL, AND KIND.”

— WUMP participant





Wilderness First Responder Recertification

SESSION 1: APRIL 1-3

SESSION 2: SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2

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 28 - NOVEMBER 6

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 15-19

COST: \$900, 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. Each trip approaches the watershed from a different ecological focus and maintains a strong emphasis on backcountry travel.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

We host two orientation meetings for parents and backpackers to meet with our program director. We encourage everyone interested to attend one of these meetings, especially first-time backpackers. We will discuss proper gear, go over the camp itineraries and hiking routes, and address any questions or concerns you may have. Orientation meetings will be at the Ecotrust Building at 721 NW 9th Ave. in Portland. Meetings will take place:

- ▶ Monday, May 2, at 6 PM
- ▶ Wednesday, June 1, at 6 PM

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.

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 26–JULY 1

SESSION 2: JULY 3–8

SESSION 3: JULY 31–AUGUST 5

SESSION 4: AUGUST 21–26

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, wilderness medicine, leadership, and communication skills are all a part of the curriculum, and, of course, swimming in the crystal clear waters of the Opal Creek Wilderness! 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 10-15

AGES: 12-15 - AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5.5

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 so come prepared with broken-in boots and backpacking experience. Hiking under the old-growth canopy, swimming in sub-alpine lakes, and taking in expansive 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 17-22

AGES: 12-15 - 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; gaining a first-hand understanding of the complex relationships within an old-growth ecosystem. Along the way we will explore plant and animal life, and learn about the human history of the area - including the conservation efforts that saved the pristine Opal Creek watershed. This trip is a chance to experience wilderness in a way that few ever do, in its entirety.



Jawbone Flats Basecamp

JULY 18-22

AGES: 10-12

COST: \$435

Jawbone Flats will be our launching pad for this week-long camp. Your child will enjoy the beauty of the ancient forest during the day, and the comforts of our lodge in the evening. The week will be spent unplugged, exploring the diversity of the forest ecosystem and the human history of the area. From mining, to stream ecology, and plant identification we will get to know the Opal Creek watershed. Activities will include: hunting in the newt pools, riding the natural waterslide, hiking to the remains of the 1930's mining operation in the heart of the forest, and much more! This week-long camp will be sure to engage all of the senses, and create memories that will last a lifetime.



River Deep, Mountain High

JULY 24-29

AGES: 12-15 - AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5

COST: \$435

As we travel through deep valleys and over steep ridges we'll discover the glacial and geologic forces that shaped the Western 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 down the valley to the Santiam River for a day of rafting with guides from **eNRG Kayaking** and apply our understanding of the Opal Creek watershed to this larger waterway fed by the creeks and streams traversed earlier in the week! We'll cover lots of ground and lots of water, so bring good boots and good suits!



Ridgelines and Waterways

AUGUST 7-12

AGES: 12-15 - AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 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, and wilderness medicine. We'll get to know the local flora and fauna up close and personal, and spend time in camp learning knot-tying and navigation skills. On our last day we will head down the valley to the Santiam River for a day of rafting with guides from **eNRG Kayaking** and apply our understanding of the Opal Creek watershed to this larger waterway fed by the creeks and streams traversed earlier in the week!



Bull of the Woods: Extended Expedition

AUGUST 14-21

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

COST: \$495

Hone your backcountry travel and wilderness leadership skills in this extended 7-day expedition through the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness Areas. Hikers will practice basic wilderness first aid; map and compass navigation; and backcountry cooking. This trip is designed to expand upon previous backpacking experience and build backcountry travel confidence. Each hiker will work with the trip instructors to take on "leader of the day" responsibilities during the trip. Throughout the week we will hike over ridges, along river valleys, and into the sub-alpine lake region of the Bull of the Woods Wilderness where we will experience a diverse landscape, witness the resilience of a forest, and be awed by expansive views in the heart of the western Cascades.



Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

SESSION 1: April 8-10

SESSION 2: November 4-6

Cost: \$50.00, INCLUDES MEALS & SHARED LODGING

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.

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 recognize 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 info@opalcreek.org or call 503.892.2782. Participants must be at least 18 years old.



PHOTO: APRIL ANN FONG



**“OPAL CREEK IS A TRULY
SPECIAL PLACE....I AM SO
HAPPY AND LUCKY THAT I
GOT TO GO.”**

— Ella, 5th grader, Emerson School

The time to make a difference is now.

With an Opal Creek membership, you are changing children's lives by supporting a one-of-a-kind experience in the old-growth forest that will stay with them for a lifetime. Someday soon today's children will be called on to stand up for the environment—and thanks to you, they will.

Membership levels:

- ▶ **\$50 Douglas Fir level** could subsidize a 2-night outdoor school program for a student from a low-income school.
- ▶ **\$100 Hemlock level** could provide regular service on 2 microscopes for students to use during lichen, mushroom, botany, and geology studies.
- ▶ **\$250 Cedar level** could provide hearty, from-scratch meals for 6 students on a 3-day outdoor school program.
- ▶ **\$500 Pacific Yew level** could provide a weeklong backpacking trip to a child who can't afford one.

To discover the perks of membership and make a tax-deductible donation today, please visit www.opalcreek.org/donate or call 503.892.2782.

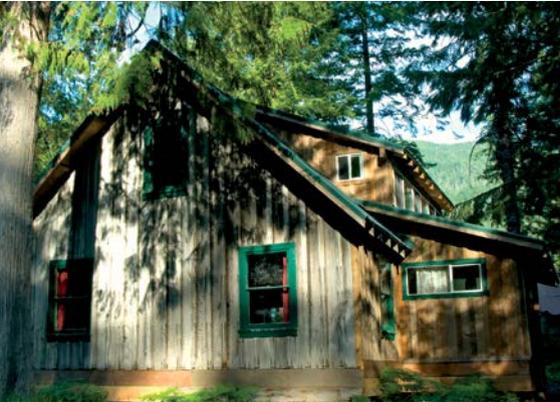


Sleeps and Eats

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 of up to 50 people, in a variety of cabin styles:

- ▶ **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.

All cabin kitchens are fully stocked with dishes, utensils, pots, and pans. **Pets are not allowed for overnight stays or in any building in camp.**

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
High Season	May 27 – September 5	All days: \$225	All days: \$375	All days: \$275
Shoulder Season	April 1 – May 26, Sept. 6 – Nov. 6	Weekend (Fri./Sat.): \$175	All days: \$300	Weekend (Fri./Sat.): \$225
		Midweek: \$125		Midweek: \$175



PHOTOS: HOLLAND STUDIOS

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 between the trailhead parking lot and Jawbone Flats are by reservation only. 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.

“THE FOOD WAS FABULOUS. THANK YOU, CHEFS! YOU HANDLED EVERYTHING REALLY WELL. I LOVE IT HERE.”

— *Patty, Yoga 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 Jay Davis joined the Opal Creek team in 2016. An adventurer by heart and experiential educator by trade he has been inspiring awe and beauty within natural areas since 2002. Jay brings to Opal Creek his creative mind, years of program facilitation, and the ability to wonder at the natural beauty of the land. Previously he developed educational programs for a farm & wilderness preserve in Northern California and served as a field educator at an outdoor school in Southern California, in addition to his many years supervising residential programs. Jay holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with an emphasis on Nature Center and Camp Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Master's of Science in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University-Mankato. He enjoys trail running, biking, water play, scrambling, photography, and interacting with all types of animals.

Science Instructors

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, food service, and office staff, please visit our website at www.opalcreek.org

Opal Creek Board of Directors

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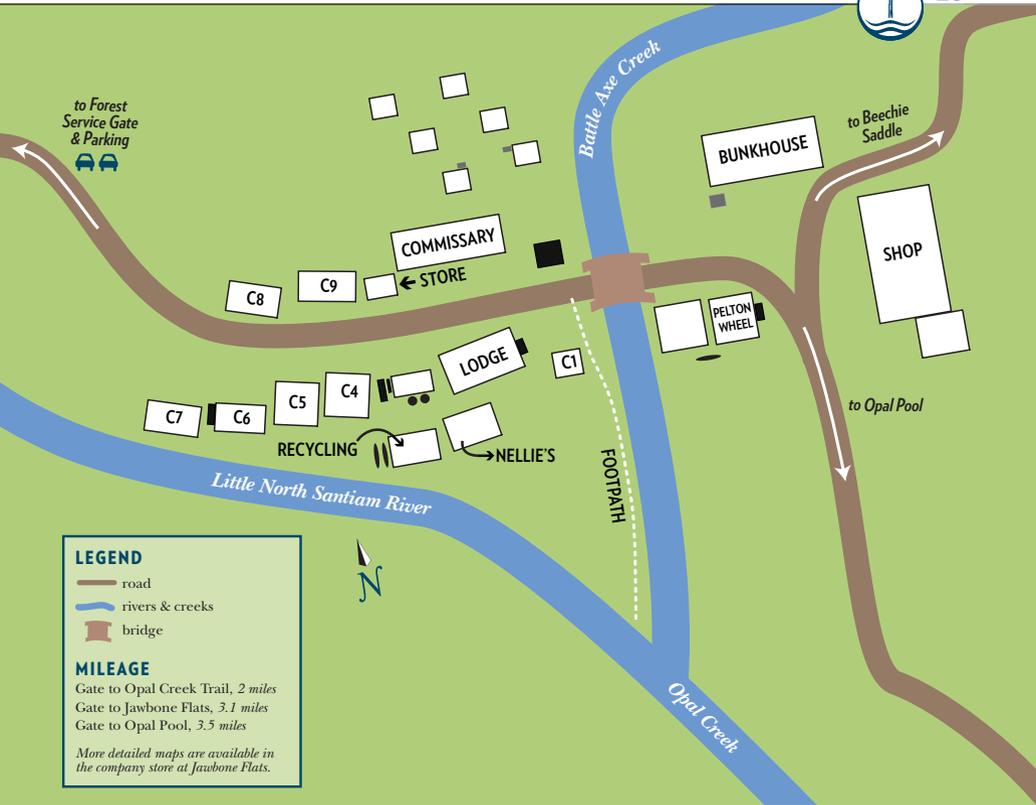
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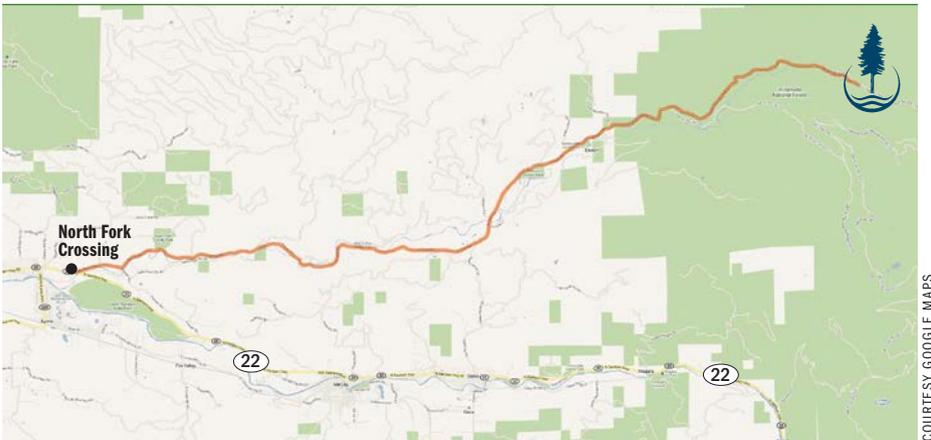
In and Around Jawbone Flats

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, a 1929 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.





Driving Directions

We recommend following Google maps to “North Fork Rd., Lyons, OR.” After this point you will lose cell service. Please follow the directions below when coming to Opal Creek. Typical driving times to Opal Creek are: from Salem, 1.5 hr.; from Portland or Eugene, 2½ hrs.; from Bend, 2.5-3 hrs.

From I-5:

- ▶ Take Exit 253 for Hwy 22 (Stayton/Detroit)
- ▶ Turn east onto Hwy 22. Continue for approximately 22 miles.
- ▶ **Turn left/north** onto North Fork Rd- at the second flashing yellow light. On the right hand side of the road you will see the North Fork Crossing Restaurant.
- ▶ **You are now out of cell range. The Opal Creek Trailhead is at the very end of this road, a total of 20 miles. This drive will take about 1 hour.**
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Please note: Forest Service Road 2209 is gravel and maintained on an irregular basis by the US Forest Service. Expect to go no faster than 15-20 mph on this stretch of road.
- ▶ After 1.5 -2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools/Shady Cove. **Stay to the left** on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4 miles to the Opal Creek/Jawbone parking area and trailhead.

From Bend, Hwy 97 or Hwy 20:

- ▶ Drive west on Hwy 22 to the town of **Lyons, OR.**
- ▶ **Turn right/north** onto North Fork Rd- at the second flashing yellow light. On the left hand side of the road you will see the North Fork Crossing Restaurant.
- ▶ **You are now out of cell range. The Opal Creek Trailhead is at the very end of this road, a total of 20 miles. This drive will take about 1 hour.**
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Please note: Forest Service Road 2209 is gravel and maintained on an irregular basis by the US Forest Service. Expect to go no faster than 15-20 mph on this stretch of road.
- ▶ After 1.5 -2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools/Shady Cove. **Stay to the left** on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4 miles to the Opal Creek/Jawbone parking area and trailhead.

Alternate Directions from Bend (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.

- ▶ Drive west on Hwy 22 to the town of **Gates, OR.**
- ▶ Turn right/north onto Gates Hill Rd, which is located across from Gates General Store in Gates, OR.
- ▶ *Please note: Gates Hill is a 3-mile paved road with 16% grade both up and down, and is not maintained in the winter. Please drive with extra caution when using this road.*
- ▶ **Turn right** onto North Fork Rd.
- ▶ **You are now out of cell range. The Opal Creek Trailhead is at the very end of this road, a total of approximately 11 miles. This drive will take about 45 minutes.**
- ▶ After approx. 5 miles of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ *Please note: Forest Service Road 2209 is gravel and maintained on an irregular basis by the US Forest Service. Expect to go no faster than 15-20 mph on this stretch of road.*
- ▶ After 1.5 -2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools/Shady Cove. **Stay to the left** on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4 miles to the Opal Creek/Jawbone parking area and trailhead.

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 your pre-arranged shuttle time.
- ▶ All able-bodied participants must hike the 3.1 miles from the gate to Jawbone Flats.

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PHOTO: BRIAN CAMPBELL