



Conservation Field Day Teacher Packet

TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Thank you for joining us for a Conservation Field Day to the Columbia River Gorge! We're looking forward to sharing an exciting day with your students! Please read the following packet **before** your field trip.

What will students learn on a Conservation Field Day?

Our Conservation Field Days are designed to augment your students' science and environmental education needs with experiential, place based learning. Students in grades **2nd-10th** will be immersed in inquiry-based learning from the moment they step on the school bus. We'll search for wildlife and their signs, visit some iconic locations and learn about the complex Geologic history of the Gorge and how that impacts the ecosystems, animals and people who have lived there for over 5,000 years.

Flood, Fish, and Formations: Grades 2nd-10th

Join us for a day of exploration and wonder as we hike to majestic waterfalls, learn about the geology that makes the Gorge so special and discover some of the animals that call this place home. With the Columbia River and towering basalt cliffs as our backdrop, we will start our day at Rooster Rock State Park where we will learn about the major "Floods" that formed the Gorge. We will then travel Horsetail Falls to get an up close look at the basalts that blanket the Gorge as we search for wildlife and learn about the plants that make up this lush forest. Finally, we will visit the Bonneville Fish Hatchery where we will learn about salmon and sturgeon and their importance in the cultures and lives of Indigenous people that live in the Pacific Northwest.

Learning Targets:

- Sedimentary, Igneous and Metamorphic rocks
- Geologic History of the Gorge
- The life cycles of Salmon and Sturgeon and the importance they play in Indigenous cultures.
- Native Plants
- Fire Ecology

Schedules

Approx Duration Group 1	Activity Group 1	Approx Duration Group 2	Activity Group 2
15 min	Intros, bathrooms at school. Load bus.	15 min	Intros, bathrooms at school. Load bus.
1-2 hours	Drive to rooster rock state park (bathrooms and geology talk)	1-2 hours	Drive to fish hatchery
1.75 hours	Horsetail falls hike and lessons	30 min	Fish hatchery Exploration Geology Talk, Salmon life cycle
20-30 min	Lunch at Robins Island	20-30 min	Lunch at Robins Island
30 min	Fish hatchery Exploration	1.75 hours	Horsetail falls hike and lessons
1- 2 hours	Drive back to school	1- 2 hours	Drive back to school

Capacity

We can hold up to 35 students in each group/bus for a total max number of 70 students and 2 buses for each field trip. Each group of 35 will do the same activities in a different order to ensure we are able to stay safe on the trails and provide the best experience possible for your students.

Lunch

Students will eat lunch at Robins Island right next to the Bonneville Dam. There is a covered area and picnic benches for students to eat lunch and a bathroom for students to use.

Restrooms

Students will have opportunities to use bathrooms at the Fish Hatchery, Bonneville Dam and Rooster Rock State Park. These facilities have flush toilets with sinks for hand washing.

Groups and Chaperones

Divide Your Large Group - Please divide your class into smaller groups. Please divide your students into groups before arriving. We ask for at least 1 chaperone for every 8 students.

Name Tags – All participants must arrive with **BOLD** durable nametags (it helps if their group name and number is also on the tag)

Attention lead teacher: please give the attached **letter to your chaperones** ahead of the program.

Welcome Chaperone!

Thank you for your help on the upcoming Conservation Field Day- your active participation is vital to ensuring the success of the program and we hope it will prove to be an experience that you and the students remember for a long time.

Portland Audubon has **five simple but important expectations** and they apply to everyone participating, both children and adults.

1. **Be Safe**
2. **Respect all things**
3. **Learn something new**
4. **Have fun!**
5. **Help Each other**

Your role as chaperone is to help ensure these goals are accomplished. The importance of safety during this program cannot be overstated. The rules and expectations are here to ensure the experience is safe, fun and educational for everyone. Our field trips are entirely outside. Please come dressed for the weather with comfortable walking shoes.

As a chaperone, we ask you to:

- Interact positively with the students! Encourage their curiosity and their active participation.
- Keep students together with their group and ensure they are using the buddy system.
- Remind students of any guidelines/instructions that instructors share. Be willing to assist Audubon Educators and volunteers as needed.
- Help our Educators by walking at the back of the group, helping students stay together and listen.
- Inform teachers and Portland Audubon staff if you notice any behavior that is concerning or if a student is disregarding our shared expectations.
- No cell phone usage. Besides taking a group picture, we discourage extensive phone usage on field trips and prohibit students from using cell phones.

Thanks again for your help, we couldn't offer these programs without you!

Bus and Parking Information

Attention lead teacher: Please hand the attached note to your bus driver on the day of the program.

Dear Bus Driver,

Thank you for helping us drive the students on this field trip! At each stop feel free to join in on activities if you wish or stay in the bus. We will check in with you at the beginning of the trip to ensure we get you back to the school by the time you need.

Locations you will drive to: Depending on if you are in group 1 or group 2, you will drive to different locations at different times.

Group 1:

[Rooster Rock State Park:](#)

[Horsetail Falls:](#)

[Robins Island:](#)

[Fish Hatchery:](#)

Group 2:

[Fish Hatchery:](#)

[Robins Island:](#)

[Horsetail Falls:](#)

Before Your Program:

Confirm with Educators

The week or so before your program, your educator for the program will reach out to confirm the time and program with you. Please be on the lookout for that email.

Create name tags and split students up into chaperone groups:

- The best name tags are written clearly and able to be moved if layers are taken on and off.
- Please divide your class into smaller groups. Please divide your students into groups before arriving. We ask for at least 1 chaperone for every 8 students.

Packing List for your Students

Please ensure that your students have the following items for the day:

1. Lunch and Snack
2. Full Water Bottle
3. Warm Jacket/ Layers (it can be sunny one moment and windy and rainy the next!)
4. Rain Jacket
5. Sturdy footwear, no sandals please
6. Backpack for your gear
7. Optional: Camera
8. A positive attitude and adventurous spirit!

Weather Policy

Field trips run rain or shine, and students are outside for the entirety of the day. While weather cancellations are a rare occurrence, they do happen occasionally. We do everything that we can to run programs safely and we make these decisions in real time as conditions change. At times we must make the hard decision to cancel a Conservation Field Day.

Extreme Heat Policy

On days where the forecast predicts temperatures above or in excess of 100 degrees we will cancel and reschedule the Conservation Field Day if possible.

Air Quality Policy

Since our Conservation Field Day spends the majority of the time outside we want to be mindful of air quality and extended exposure to wildfire smoke and other respiratory hazards. If the air quality index (AQI) is forecasted to be “Unhealthy” (151 or higher) the Conservation Field Day will be canceled and rescheduled if possible.

Wind Policy:

Because most of our program takes place in heavily wooded areas, we want to ensure the safety of all participants. In the event that there is sustained wind or gusts of 16-20 mph your Conservation Field Day will be canceled and rescheduled if possible. In that there are sustained winds or gusts of 10-15 mph, we may change or alter the program to ensure the safety of participants.

School Programs Cancellation Policy

For cancellations requested **two weeks or more in advance**, a full refund, minus a 10% administrative deposit, will be given. This deposit reflects the significant cost and effort our instructors and staff invest in our programs in advance of the program date.

No refund will be given for programs canceled with less than two weeks' notice.

Cancellation requests must be received via email two weeks prior to the class in order to receive a refund. Please email Tara Lemezis, tlemezis@audubonportland.org to cancel a program.

While cancellations on our part are a rare occurrence, at times we must make the hard decision to cancel a program due to inclement weather, instructor illness, or other unforeseen circumstances. If a program is canceled, we will make every effort to reschedule for another day. If we cannot reschedule, you may elect to receive full credit toward a future program, or a refund minus the 10% administrative deposit.

If City or State mandates a school closure due to COVID or other unforeseen circumstances, the field trip fee will be refunded in full.



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