



# Year 9 Experiential Learning Camp

Dear Parents / Guardians

As the Year 9 Experiential Learning Expedition is getting closer, please find below important information regarding preparation.

**Dates:** Sunday, 21 to Friday, 26 April 2024

## Venue

The Outdoor Education Group Camp Margaret River, Karridale; Blackwood River; Leeuwin- Naturaliste National Park. This venue has private camping, high ropes and activities on site. Hamelin Bay is five minutes away, Wilyabrup sea cliffs are 40 minutes away and the Blackwood River expedition area is 20 minutes away.

## Camp Theme

This program revolves around community living, where the students are responsible for their groups throughout the camp. It is the main preparation for their 10-day expedition in Year 10. The program is run by The Outdoor Education Group, with the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School staff being included in their groups as active members of the small community. The basics of campcraft will be reinforced, with students living in tents and cooking on barbecues or stoves for the duration of the camp. The adventure activities are used equally to teach the students new skills and reinforce their own self-concept within a group.

## Camp Objectives

The Experiential Learning Camp aims to:

- Heighten awareness and respect for:
  - self, through outdoor challenges
  - others, through group experiences and sharing decisions
  - the natural environment, through direct experiences
- Promote increased self-esteem, motivation and confidence by providing opportunities for attempting challenging (physically and mentally), unfamiliar activities in a supportive group atmosphere
- Foster interdependence by:
  - continuing to develop an ability to create and maintain healthy relationships with others
  - providing experiences of reliance on others and responsibility for others
  - working toward developing an organised, self-sufficient group that meet challenges as a team
  - developing and practising group decision making skills
  - developing group strategies around problem solving and resolving conflicts
  - promoting reflection and critical thinking around social relationships on camp compared with everyday situations
- Teach and develop the following Experiential Learning skills and concepts;
  - basic camping and cooking skills
  - safe practices and habits in the outdoors
  - basic abseiling, rock climbing, roping and belay safety skills
  - basic canoeing skills
  - basic navigation and bushwalking skills
  - group dynamics in problem solving and conflict situations
- Instil and encourage environmental awareness and sound environmental practice
- Foster recreational activities which are responsive to the natural environment
- Promote reflection on camp experiences and facilitate relating experiences / lessons learned on camp to life at school and home



### **Camp Outline**

- Acknowledge and learn about Traditional Custodians; Noongar people
- Students camping in groups and are responsible for camping, cooking, timings etc.
- Full day abseiling and rock climbing at Wilyabrup sea cliffs
- Half day high ropes course
- Half day of co-operative games, low ropes course and Indigenous session
- Two and a half day expedition component incorporating:
  - One full day canoeing with camp-out on Blackwood River
  - One and a half days bushwalk with camp-out near Blackwood River

### **General Information**

General information about The Outdoor Education Group can be found [here](#)

Specific details around our camp can be found [here](#) or by logging in to the Parent Portal, which is on the top right.

**School:** Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School; **Password:** bcgsoeg24

### **Consent/ Medical Forms: OEG (Operoo) and Consent2Go**

There are **two** separate permission forms to be completed, they will be sent to you via email.

1. *A Participant Consent and Medical Form*, is required by The Outdoor Education Group, using Operoo. You will receive an email from Operoo in Week 6
2. *BCGS Consent2Go Form*. A Consent2Go invitation will be sent out in Week 6

*We would appreciate your prompt attention to completing these forms as it is essential that all student details and medical information is current.*

**Both of these forms must be completed by Monday, 25 March** (start of Week 9).

### **Information Sessions**

A **student** information session will be held at School on Friday, 15 March during HAT Period.

A second **student** session will be held at School on Friday, 19 April during HAT Period.

A **parent** information session, will be held on Tuesday, 16 April from 5.00pm to 6.00pm, in the School Chapel. This information session is a great opportunity to discuss the program as well as what to bring, and what to expect. There will be an opportunity for questions.



### **Packing and What to Take**

A Packing List for the BCGS Year 9 Camp can be found on the School website [here](#)

This outlines the correct type and quantity of clothes required for the camp. It is vital that you pack according to the packing list, as all items need to be fit for purpose for this camp, which may include rain, cold or heat. It is important that students do not take mobile phones or anything that isn't on the packing list. There are four recommended items which are required on all BCGS Camps, from Kindergarten to Year 12 so, in most cases families will only need one set of recommended items. These items may also be shared between families if required at different times. In addition, many items on the packing list can be borrowed or purchased second hand, you don't need to purchase everything new!

- If you require medication(s), bring two lots (you must have one as a spare). They must be in two prepared Webster Packs and handed to the teacher when you arrive at school on Day 1.
- All belongings should be packed into a soft bag (duffle type bag). No suitcases or hard bottom bags. Students will transfer their belongings into their hiking pack when they arrive at camp.
- Bring a daypack with raincoat, hat, full water bottle, packed morning tea and lunch for Day 1.

### **Options for Purchasing and/or Hiring Equipment and Clothing**

There are many camping store options in Bunbury for you to purchase gear from. The recommended items (sleeping bag, inner, mat, rain coat) can be purchased online from [camplist](#) as the equipment has been tested and approved for use on all BCGS camps and activities. You can also view and purchase similar items with a BCGS discount at Anaconda or Kathmandu. One major consideration is that the equipment/clothing must be appropriate for use on an expedition, not for car camping, as it will generally be carried by students so must pack down as small as possible to fit in a backpack

Camplist by One Planet offers a selection of products for hire or purchase and will deliver to your door (will need to be ordered by Sunday, 31 March to allow ample time for delivery). A customised BCGS list can be found [here](#), or is on their website [camplist.au](#); enter Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, you will then have the choice of Recommended items for equipment you must have and Gear list for general items from the drop down menu.

There is no requirement to obtain clothing or equipment from one single place, there are numerous other local organisations who sell outdoor clothing and equipment.

### **Transport**

Buses will leave BCGS at 8.15am on Sunday, 21 April and return at approximately 2.30pm on Friday, 26 April.

There will be an opportunity for students to be picked up (and dropped off) at Vasse. To make arrangements for this, please email Mr Brooksbank for a Permission Form. This must be completed and returned by Monday, 25 March.

### **What to do on Day 1, Sunday, 21 April**

Students should:

- Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, and camp footwear
- Bring a daypack with raincoat, hat, full water bottle, packed morning tea and lunch
- Leave their phone at home
- Arrive at school at 7.45am
- Find out what group they are in and board bus for campsite or Wilyabrup (abseiling and rock climbing)
- Put medications (x 2) in two prepared Webster Packs and hand to their teacher when they arrive at school.



**Important Dates 2024**

- |          |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 March | Student Meeting during HAT Period<br>Preparing for Experiential Learning Expedition                                                                                                    |
| 25 March | Deadline for completion of Online Participation Forms (OEG/ Operoo)<br>Deadline for completion of Consent2Go (BCGS)<br>Deadline for Permission Forms for drop off and pick up in Vasse |
| 16 April | Parent Information evening in the School Chapel (5:00pm to 6:00pm).                                                                                                                    |
| 19 April | Student Meeting during HAT Period<br>Final meeting for Experiential Learning Expedition.                                                                                               |
| 21 April | Depart for Experiential Learning camp with The Outdoor Education Group (7.45am for 8.15am)                                                                                             |
| 26 April | Return from Experiential Learning Expedition with The Outdoor Education Group (~ 2:30pm)                                                                                               |

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions:

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Kind regards

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