



25 March 2024

YEAR 8 Camp 2024

Dear Families

We are excited to extend an invitation to The Gap State High School's Year 8 Camp, a significant component of our school's Applied Positive Psychology (APP) program. The purpose of the Year 8 Camp is to provide opportunities for students to develop independence and interdependence in a supportive team environment. The 2024 Year 8 Camp is scheduled for Weeks 6 and 7 of Term 2 at [Maroon Outdoor Education Centre](#) (MOEC), near Lake Maroon.

Over the four days, students will participate in a range of adventure-based experiences including: high ropes, canoeing, aquatic activities, initiatives and a teambuilding night activity. Students will camp out in tents for one night, and sleep in cabins for the other two nights. All meals are provided. Hot showers will be available for the cabin night and toilets will be available throughout. MOEC has a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on their website if you have further questions about the camp. Year 8 students will attend camp with their Connect Class as follows:

Camp 1: 8C, 8D, 8E, 8G, 8H, 8I, 8J, 8K, 8L* - Tuesday 21 May to Friday 24 May (Week 6)

Tue 21 May 2024 7:15am Roll class and load buses
8:00am Departure

Fri 24 May 2024 14:00pm Arrive back at school, pick-up by parents

* Volleyball students not in these connect classes will also attend this camp.

Camp 2: 8A, 8B, 8F** - Tuesday 28 May to Friday 31 May (Week 7)

Tue 28 May 2024 7:15am Roll class and load buses
8:00am Departure

Fri 31 May 2024 14:00pm Arrive back at school, pick-up by parents

** Music students attending Fanfare in Week 6 will also attend this camp.

Location: The camp is at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre
123 Maroon Dam Road, Maroon QLD 4310.

Groupings: Students will experience camp grouped with a mix of students from their Connect class, and possibly some students from another Connect class.

Staff: Year 8 Connect teachers will accompany students. Specialist outdoor instructors (and qualified teachers) at MOEC will conduct the outdoor activities.

Insurance: Please note that Education Queensland does not cover students injured during school activities. Parents may wish to consider obtaining private insurance for cover in the event of serious injury.

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1020 Waterworks Road ■ PO Box 1 The Gap QLD 4061
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www.thegapshs.eq.edu.au

Disclaimer: The information in this correspondence is intended for the addressee only and should be treated as confidential.

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- Travel:** Travel to and from sites will be by hired coach, fitted with safety belts.
- Equipment:** See the **Essential Clothing and Equipment List** attached.
- Electronic Devices:** In line with our commitment to fostering social interactions and engagement, electronic devices, including phones and headphone/ear buds will not be allowed during the camp. Please make necessary pick-up arrangements in advance. In the event of any changes to pick-up circumstances during the camp, parents can contact the school office, and a message will be relayed to the student. Any electronic devices brought to camp will be temporarily confiscated in line with the Schools Electronic Equipment Policy. Confiscated items will be returned upon the students' return to school.
- Forms:** A digital Adobe PDF will be emailed to parents. It is important that the instructions for completing the form are followed so they can be signed electronically. This process saves considerable time when processing the forms.
Please complete the Parental Consent Form and Student Information Form and return them via email to the camp email (year8camp@thegapshs.eq.edu.au) by **Wednesday 24 April (Week 2, Term 2)**. Additional forms (e.g. dietary, medical management, medication consent) will be sent directly to parents based on the responses in the student information form.
- Payment:** MOEC is operated by the Department of Education and Training and offers reduced prices for Queensland state schools. The cost of the camp is **\$310.00**. This covers meals, gear and equipment, all activities, camping fees and transport to/from and within the site. It is requested that this amount be paid to the school office, **no later than Friday 10 May (Week 4, Term 2)**. **Please note that students will only be placed on the camp roll if full payment and all forms have been received by the due dates.**
- Refunds:** Please be aware that the school is not able to provide refunds if students are unable to attend camp due to a Covid related absence or other illnesses. Due to the necessity for the school to commit significant funds to secure camp services, refunds after the enrolment closing date are at the principal's discretion, and require a medical certificate. If a refund is approved, the amount will be less the funds committed on behalf of the student.

Students unable to attend camp are expected to attend school as usual.

If you have any questions regarding the camp, please contact either Ben Rothwell or Ivan Mort, on the school contact number 07 3511 3888, or ideally via email to year8camp@thegapshs.eq.edu.au.

Yours faithfully

Ben Rothwell
Head of Department - Applied Positive Psychology

Anne McLauchlan
Executive Principal



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Maroon Outdoor Education Centre

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT LIST

Please find a copy of the program for your school at: <http://www.maroonoec.eq.edu.au/forparents.htm>

1. **CLOTHING** - Shorts, shirts, long pants, warm jumper, underwear, pyjamas, swimming togs, (winter - beanie), many pairs of socks suitable for hiking (wool or sports type socks). Enough clothes for the entire duration of the programme. It is advised not to bring expensive clothing or shoes due to the nature of the activities undertaken. **Singlets and midriff tops are unsuitable for activities at Maroon OEC.**
2. **FOOTWEAR** - at least 2 pairs of sturdy shoes/joggers that cover the foot - one pair suitable for hiking, one **old pair** to be worn for all water based activities. Casual footwear may be worn during non-activity time at the Centre. Please note: covered footwear must be worn when doing kitchen duty.
3. **PROTECTION FROM THE SUN** – All students **must have** a suitable hat and blockout cream. An old long sleeved, collared shirt and eye protection is also desirable. **Singlets and midriff tops do not provide adequate protection from the sun.**
4. **RAINCOAT** - Knee length is essential. A hood/rain hat is desirable. (Please note that a good quality raincoat will ensure the required protection whilst on campout or hiking).
5. **BEDDING** - one pair of single sheets, pillow case, sleeping bag plus light blanket in winter, and 1 pillow.
6. **INSECT REPELLENT** - Students are strongly advised to use insect repellent and/or wear a long sleeved shirt for protection against insect bites.
7. **TOILETRIES** - Towel, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, washer, shampoo, personal prescribed medication, bandaids, insect repellent. **No aerosols.**
8. **WATER BOTTLE** - 2 x 2 litre water bottles (sturdy plastic soft drink bottles are suitable).
9. **SMALL TORCH** or **HEAD TORCH** and spare batteries.
10. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COOKOUT**
 - One plastic bowl and plate, one cup and one pot scrubber or steel wool, cutlery, tea towel.
 - Large plastic garbage bag for waterproofing.
11. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR CAMPOUT**
 - One plastic bowl and plate, one cup and one pot scrubber or steel wool, cutlery, tea towel.
 - Sleeping bag (Good quality required in winter).
 - Large plastic garbage bags for waterproofing (minimum of 3).
 - Length of nylon cord or strong twine (2m, optional).
 - Gaiters or sock protectors (optional).
 - Thermal clothing (Optional – winter).

(Maroon OEC will supply camping equipment including: backpack; shelter; cooking stove and pots & sleeping mat)
12. **ITEMS NOT TO BE BROUGHT ON CAMP**
 - To enable the program to be optimally beneficial mobile telephones, electronic games and music devices are not permitted by students at Maroon OEC.
 - Cameras are allowable, except those contained within a mobile phone.
 - It is not advisable to bring expensive clothing or foot wear because of the nature of the activities undertaken.
 - Aerosols and spray deodorants are not to be brought on camp. These are prone to trigger the Maroon OEC Fire Alarm system.
 - Students have no need to bring money to Maroon OEC as there is no shop.
 - Due to the harmful effects that gum can have on wildlife, students are not to bring chewing gum to Maroon OEC.
 - Students are not to bring sharp knives or cutting implements to Maroon OEC. These will be issued to students when preparing meals.
 - It is a requirement that jewellery be removed as a matter of safety for a number of activities conducted during most programmes. If jewellery is unable to be removed or suitably taped, the student will not be able to participate.
 - Singlets and midriff tops are unsuitable for outdoor activities.



Maroon Outdoor Education Centre

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

1. MAROON OEC

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre is operated by Education Queensland and is located on the shores of Maroon Dam, approximately 120 km from Brisbane. Maroon OEC programs use outdoor experiences to assist students learn about themselves, each other and their environment. All programs focus on Teamwork, Resilience and Leadership. Programs are developed through a consultative process involving Maroon OEC staff and teachers from the visiting school.

A copy of the medical forms, our curriculum and program for your school can be found at:
<http://maroonoec.eq.edu.au>

2. PROGRAM BENEFITS

An effective outdoor education program can provide students with the opportunity to:

- ◆ Enhance Teamwork, Leadership and Resilience skills
- ◆ Develop quality relationships.
- ◆ Enjoy being active in a unique and supportive environment.
- ◆ Share experiences with their classmates that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

3. MANAGING RISK

Programs conducted at Maroon OEC involve a high level of physical activity and are conducted predominantly outdoors. Maroon OEC is a 30 minute drive from the nearest ambulance, doctor or hospital and, in some instances the response time for medical attention may exceed 3 hours.

All outdoor adventure activities will be conducted by a Maroon OEC teacher with specialised skills and training. As an Education Queensland school Maroon OEC implements risk management procedures that adhere to Education Queensland's Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment guidelines.

While all care and attention is paid to student safety and well being, the nature of being actively engaged in outdoor adventure activities can be unpredictable. Should an incident occur Maroon OEC is able to respond quickly and efficiently through a safety network incorporating 2-way radios, power boat and four-wheel drive vehicles. Students can minimise the risk of an incident with thorough preparation and by demonstrating personal responsibility.

4. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The concepts below are central to a student's responsibilities while at Maroon OEC, ensuring safety and maximum benefit for all program participants.

Respect

Students have the responsibility to respect themselves, others, the natural and built environment. Students must:

- ◆ Accept the rights of others.
- ◆ Care for all equipment and property.
- ◆ Respect the belongings of others.
- ◆ Only enter their own rooms and tents.

Co-operation

Students have the responsibility to cooperate with others to assist in the effective functioning of the programme. Students must:

- ◆ Be prepared to participate in all programmed activities.
- ◆ Strive to be part of the group and assist the group to achieve their goals.

Safety

Students have a responsibility to act safely and reasonably in accordance with Maroon OEC procedures and regulatory laws. Students must:

- ◆ Follow all safety directions.
- ◆ Accept responsibility for their own and others safety.
- ◆ Wear footwear at all times (fully enclosed shoes during activities).
- ◆ Swim only when supervised.
- ◆ Protect themselves from exposure to the sun and from dehydration.
- ◆ Use activity equipment only under the supervision of a Maroon OEC teacher.
- ◆ Ensure alcohol, cigarettes, illicit substances/articles or drugs are not in their possession.

Participation

Students have the responsibility to participate in the program to the best of their ability for the benefit of all participants. Students must:

- ◆ Ensure their own alertness, attentiveness and punctuality.
- ◆ Endeavour to foster positive relationships with others.
- ◆ Comply with school and Maroon OEC policies regarding electronic equipment.
- ◆ Remove all jewellery prior to adventure activities. If jewellery is unable to be removed, or suitably taped the student will not be able to participate.

Students who are unable to abide by these responsibilities present a danger to themselves, other participants and the success of the program. Parents of such students will be contacted. These students may be returned to school/home. Parents will be responsible for their transportation from Maroon OEC to school/home.

5. LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences are selected and sequenced to assist students to achieve program outcomes. All activities are conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified Maroon OEC teacher. Students may be involved all of the following adventure activities:

Team Building

These activities require the initiative of the individual or group to complete a task. They utilise a variety of equipment with the safety of each person being a key component of the task. They do not require safety ropes and harnesses.

Aquatics

All participants are required to wear covered shoes and a correctly fitted personal flotation device:

- Canoeing –using a single blade paddle in on open canoe.
- Kayaking – using a double-bladed paddle in an enclosed double kayak.
- Rafting – using a range of equipment to design and build a raft for their group.

Swimming

Supervised swimming may be conducted in Lake Maroon or freshwater swimming holes. Participants are required to wear covered shoes and may be issued a correctly fitted personal flotation device.

High challenge

Activities higher than 3 metres such as High ropes, Rockclimbing and Abseiling. Students use harnesses, helmets and ropes to remain safe while attempting challenges on constructed equipment and natural surfaces.

Bushwalking and Camping

Camping and bushwalking involve students sleeping in tents or shelters at campsites away from the facilities of Maroon OEC. In many instances students will bushwalk or canoe to and from their campsite. Many of these campsites are accessible by vehicle (4WD) however some campsites are only accessible on foot.

Students may be driven to and from campsites or bushwalks in Maroon OEC vehicles driven by Maroon OEC staff.

Orienteering

Students are taught how to use a map and compass and undertake a series of sequenced courses to find locations that have been marked on a map.

6. MEDICAL AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

A Student Medical and Parental Consent form must be completed in detail. This information allows us to ensure the well-being of all students and is crucial in times of medical emergency. The contents of these forms are treated confidentially.

A Maroon OEC COVID-19 Risk Management Plan has been developed to assist us to be **COVID safe**.

Students, teachers and other adults MUST NOT attend if they have symptoms potentially consistent with COVID-19. Maroon OEC has the right to refuse entry and/or service to clients that refuse to comply with the conditions of our COVID safe plan.

Students with medical conditions such as asthma, allergic reactions, diabetes and other serious conditions are required to complete a Maroon OEC management form. Parents must advise the school's program co-ordinator in writing of any special dietary requirements.

All student medical and parental consent forms must be completed, signed and dated by a parent/guardian.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

Mobile Phones

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre programs are designed and implemented for students to develop personal and social capabilities such as Teamwork, Resilience and Leadership. This is achieved through adventure based learning and community living. To enable the program to be optimally beneficial it is Maroon OEC policy that **mobile telephones, electronic games and music devices are not permitted by students at Maroon OEC**. Maroon OEC provides cameras for use during programs and photos are made available to each school. If you need to contact your child during their stay please use the Maroon OEC phone or email contacts.

Sun Safety

The nature of an Outdoor Education program dictates that students will be in the outdoors for extended periods of time during their program. It is strongly recommended that all students apply full block sun screen and wear broad brimmed hats and long sleeved shirts to minimise the harmful effects of the sun. Singlets tops are unsuitable for activities at Maroon OEC.

Ticks

Ticks may be present at the Centre, local area and campout venues. Long sleeve shirts, long pants and insect repellent are useful prevention measures.

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Email: info@maroonoec.eq.edu.au

Website: maroonoec.eq.edu.au