

ED LAIRD SCOUT CAMP

at the

**IRVINE RANCH
OUTDOOR
EDUCATION
CENTER**



OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL



SPRING '25

PARENT & GUARDIAN GUIDE

Owned and operated by
Scouting America, Orange County Council



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Welcome	3
About Us	4-5
Camp Schedule	6
Check-In Process	7
Student Housing	8
Dining At Camp	9-12
Academic Immersions	13
Adventure Activities	14
Student Expectations	15
Student Packing List	16-17
FAQ	18
Mail	19
Why Camp?	20

WELCOME

Thank you for choosing the Ed Laird Scout Camp Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center!

Our team is committed to providing the best outdoor, educational, and leadership opportunities in Orange County. We are excited to share our top-notch programming with your students!

This guide is intended to better prepare you and your students for their camp experience. In the following pages, you will learn about our programs, menus, health & safety, and other important information. Please read through everything carefully and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to creating lifelong memories with your students!

Anna Hennessy
Academic Director

Cody Wright
Program Director

Andrew Gregory
Camping Director

Tori Harris
Camping Director



ABOUT US

Mission

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center is owned and operated by the Orange County Council, Scouting America. The mission of Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. As part of Scouting America, we align ourselves with its mission and strive to serve all youth in Orange County through our quality outdoor educational and recreational programs.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Our Qualifications

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center is an American Camp Association (ACA) Accredited Camp! This means that our camp meets, and in many cases exceeds, industry-accepted and government-recognized standards for camp operations.

ACA's nationally recognized standards program focuses primarily on the health, safety, and risk management aspects of a camp's operation. Teachers and parents can rest assured that your students are well cared for when they are at the IROEC!

ABOUT US

Our Team

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center hires dynamic, positive instructors each school year to teach and guide our outdoor education. We take great care to hire highly motivated staff to guide campers through this incredible learning experience. Their passion for the outdoors and demonstrated professionalism combine to enhance your student's adventure.

All staff are thoroughly vetted and undergo a criminal background check to ensure our campers' well-being and their guardians' peace of mind. All staff participate in extensive training spanning multiple weeks and are passionate about working with youth in the outdoors. Staff are trained as mandated reporters, in harassment prevention, in first aid and CPR/AED and Scouting America's Youth Protection training.

A couple key staff that your child will meet are:

Program and Camping Directors: The Program and Camping Directors oversee all aspects of programming at the IROEC from the academic programs to the recreational activities. They are also First Aid, CPR, and AED trained and have a certificate in Preventative Health Practices.

Health Officers: The Health Officers oversee medication, sick participants, and special needs. The Health Officers are ready to talk with guardians and teachers to get all the details ready and will be at the IROEC every step of the process. The Health Officers are First Aid, CPR, and AED trained, have a certificate in Preventative Health Practices, and are EMTs.



CAMP SCHEDULE

Our goal is to pack lots of adventure into your stay at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. Every school and group that comes to camp has different students with different needs. If you have special program needs or requests, we are more than happy to work with you to make sure the experience is just right for your students.

Sample Schedule		Day 2		Day 3		
		7:00-7:45	Rise and Shine	7:00-7:45	Rise and Shine	
		7:45-8:00	Morning song and competition	7:45-8:00	Morning song and competition	
		8:00-8:45	BREAKFAST	8:00-8:45	BREAKFAST	
Day 1	10:00-10:30	Arrival and Check-In	9:00-9:45	Academic Activity - Wacky 1-2	8:45-9:00	Reflection Activity
	10:30-11:15	Bunkhouse Orientation	10:00-10:45	Academic Activity - Wacky 3-4	9:00-9:30	Departure/Tsunami
	11:15-11:45	Get to know your Trail Group	11:00-11:45	Adventure Activity - Tie Dye		
	11:45-12:00	Dining Hall Orientation/Song/Competition	11:45-12:00	Afternoon Song and Competition		
	12:00-12:45	LUNCH	12:00-12:45	LUNCH		
	12:45-1:45	Teacher Time	12:45-1:45	Teacher Time		
	2:00-2:45	Adventure Activity - Low Ropes	2:00-2:45	Academic Activity - STEM 1-2		
	3:00-3:45	Academic Activity - Mine 1-2	3:00-3:45	Adventure Activity - Archery		
	4:00-4:45	Academic Activity - Mine 3-4	4:00-4:45	Academic Activity - STEM 3-4		
	4:45-5:15	Bunkhouse Time (Get into warm clothing)	4:45-5:15	Bunkhouse Time (Get into warm clothing)		
	5:15-5:30	Evening Song and Competition	5:15-5:30	Evening Song and Competition		
	5:30-6:15	DINNER	5:30-6:15	DINNER		
	6:30-8:30	Evening Activity - Astronomy Night	6:30-7:45	Evening Activity		
	8:30-9:00	SNACK at Bunkhouse	7:45-8:55	Campfire & S'MORES		
9:00-9:45	Getting ready for bed	9:00-9:45	Getting ready for bed			
9:45-10:00	Quiet Time	9:45-10:00	Quiet Time			
10:00	Lights Out	10:00	Lights Out			

CHECK-IN PROCESS

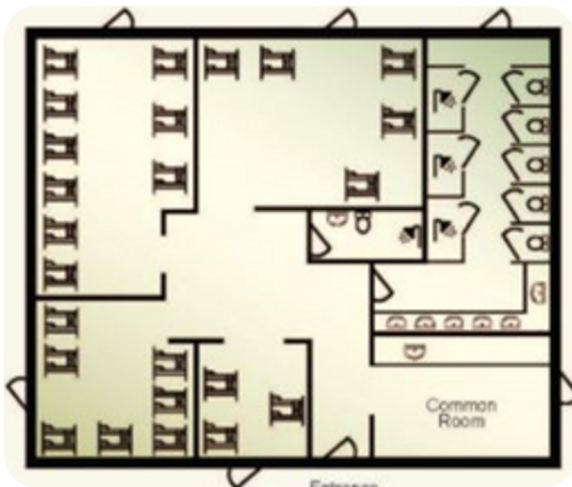
Students

1. Instructors will meet school buses and welcome students at the entrance to the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center.
2. School buses will be guided to their drop-off location.
3. Once all students have exited the bus, instructors and students will unload the luggage.
4. Students will proceed to check-in which includes:
 - a. Student Wellness Check
 - i. Students meet with staff to go through a medical recheck. The medical recheck includes the BSA Pre-event Screening and asking about any allergies, medications, and bumps or scrapes they have.
 - ii. Each student will be given a sticker with their trail group number and bunkhouse assignment.
 - b. Lawn Games
 - i. Students will be participating in field games with instructors until they all have completed check-in.
5. After check-in is complete, students will break out into their trail groups for orientation and group expectations.

NOTE: Parent drop-off for schools is done on a limited basis. Please contact us at least one month in advance if this is the case for your school.

STUDENT HOUSING

Each IROEC bunkhouse is a single-story, 2500sqft, ADA compliant building with four primary sleeping areas and holds a maximum capacity of 48 campers. Boys and girls are assigned to separate bunkhouses with bunkhouse assignments completed by school staff. Two chaperones of the same gender are placed in each bunkhouse for overnight supervision. Quiet time is from 10pm until 7am. All bunkhouses are shared facilities and may be shared with other schools.



DINING AT CAMP

The dining hall, Harrison Lodge, is where we eat our meals and share fellowship with one another. Students are given the dining hall procedures preceding their first meal by the instructors. This includes how to select desired foods and how to clean up.

Dining Procedures

Before the first meal, the instructors will go over the following dining hall procedures.

- Stay seated at all times, unless approved by an adult/instructor.
- Wash/sanitize hands before getting food.
- Take a tray and silverware.
- Select from the salad bar.
- Choose a hot plate.

*Vegetarian meals are available, arrangements to be made 2 weeks prior to your stay.

- Utilize the condiment area.
- Take tray back to trail group table.
- Listen for further instructions for seconds and clean up.



DINING AT CAMP

Camp Menu

There's nothing more comforting than home-style food eaten with friends. We recognize the important role that food plays in developing the ultimate camp experience, and we know that your students will love every bite! There is a wide variety of food options at every meal, including a salad bar. Below is a one-week sample menu to help you prepare for your stay with us.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
B R E A K F A S T	Pancakes Sausage Links Cube Potatoes Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option	Scrambled Eggs Bacon Tater Tots Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option	Waffle Sausage Patty Cube Potatoes Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option	French Toast Sausage Links Tater Tots Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option	Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty Biscuit Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option	Waffle Bacon Cube Potatoes Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option	French Toast Sausage Patty Tater Tots Yogurt Oatmeal Cereal & Fruit O. J / Milk Meatless Option
	Pulled Pork Sandwich Coleslaw Chips Salad Bar Water Veggie Burger	Pepperoni Pizza Fruit Salad Bar Water Cheese Pizza	Sloppy Joes Coleslaw Chips Salad Bar Water Veggie Burger	Baked Mac & Cheese Chicken Tenders Fruit Salad Bar Water Baked Mac & Cheese	Italian Style Breaded Chicken Breast Sandwich French Fries Fruit Salad Water Veggie Chicken Burger	Beef Burrito Rice, Beans & Potato Salad Bar Water Burrito w/ Rice & Beans	Cheeseburger French Fries Fruit Salad Bar Water Veggie Burger
	Chicken Penne Pasta w/Alfredo Sauce Garlic Bread Seasonal Vegetables Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert	Pasta Bolognese Garlic Bread Seasonal Vegetables Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Hardshell Beef Tacos Mexican Rice Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Churro Snack	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Seasonal Vegetables Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Teriyaki Chicken Rice Broccoli Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Tri-Tip Roasted Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert Snack	Roasted Chicken Quarter Leg Mashed Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables Soup Salad Bar Lemonade Dessert
	Penn Pasta w/Alfredo Sauce	Meatless Marinara Sauce	Meatless Tacos	Meatless Marinara Sauce	Teriyaki Stir-Fry Veggies	Veggie Beef Strips	Veggie Chicken Patty
L U N C H							
D I N N E R							

Please note, arrangements for vegetarian meals must be made two weeks prior to your stay.

Menu is subject to change.

DINING AT CAMP

Dietary Restrictions

We understand the challenges facing the community of people who struggle with food allergies or have food sensitivities. However, due to the handcrafted nature of our food, and our use of shared cooking and preparation areas, we cannot ensure that our food is free from any allergens.

The food ingredients we use may have been manufactured on shared equipment processing milk, wheat, egg, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, and other allergens. We strive to reduce the risk of these allergens, but products containing these allergens are all made in our kitchen.

Our facility is unable to provide vegan, kosher, halal, or other meals adhering to religious guidelines, and we do not “carb-count.” Our kitchen does not serve seafood and is “peanut-aware,” meaning that none of the foods we serve contain peanuts or peanut products, and our food service staff will not bring nut or peanut products into the kitchen.

The range of tolerance or reactions to the presence of food allergens varies greatly from person to person. Decisions on the number of precautions you should take or risks you may expose yourself to, are always best made by you in consultation with your physician.

We can provide vegetarian options for all meals. Please make your request while booking.

DINING AT CAMP

Sending Food to Camp

If you or a student wish to provide your own meals during your stay at camp, we will work towards ensuring the highest level of safety and convenience regarding your meals. When providing your own meals at IROEC, please follow these guidelines:

Create a daily meal menu with reheating instructions so that our food service staff can ensure you receive the appropriate meals.

Label ALL food containers with your first and last name, the name of the group you are with, and which meal it should be served at (Ex. "John Smith, ABC Elementary, Tuesday Dinner"). Then, place your name on ALL bags/utensils/menus to ensure that your food is properly delivered.

These meals are stored in a designated refrigerator in the kitchen that is cleaned and sanitized prior to your arrival. This refrigerator only contains dietary restricted meals.

Meals will be heated by the food service staff at mealtimes so that students will be able to enter the service line and ask for their meal with ease. Due to Orange County Health Department regulations, the IROEC can only heat, and not cook, any outside food brought into camp.

Due to potential allergens within our facility, you may wish to provide your own disposable utensils, plates, trays, or cups.

Any containers, utensils and other items may be returned upon request at the conclusion of your program.

ACADEMIC IMMERSIONS

Our Academic Immersions and Adventure activities are chosen by your school teachers before camp arrival. Some of our classes are adventure based and others are science based. Your child will get a well-rounded outdoor environmental based education at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center.

All of our Academic Immersions follow Next Generation Science Standards and California Common Core Standards. Below are just a few of our Academic Immersions.

MINE IMMERSION

Combining the basics of geology, mining, and the history of the Gold Rush, students will learn the history of our golden state. Students will pan for gold, dig for coal and crack their own geodes!



WACKY SCIENCE

Students learn the basics of chemistry and physics through fun, hands-on experiments!



ART OF SCIENTIFIC THINKING

Creativity is an essential part of the scientific mind. This immersion uses art to teach students how to move through the scientific method intuitively.

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

All of our Adventure Activities follow the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp Accreditation Program standards, American Camp Association's standards, and Association for Challenge Course Technology's standards, where applicable. Below are just a few of our Adventure Activities.

ARCHERY

Students will learn the proper way to take aim and fire a recurve bow with helpful instruction from our staff on the range. They will take aim and fire to hit the bull's eye!



CLIMBING TOWER

Reach new heights and a terrific view on the climbing tower! Multiple levels of difficulty exist on our tower, ensuring a challenge anyone can complete.

LOW ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE

Our low ropes challenge course provides our students with engaging and exciting activities geared towards important life skills such as leadership, trust, collaboration, and effective communication.



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

We expect students to be on their best behavior while visiting our camp. For our discipline system to work effectively, we need the cooperation of both the student's guardians and teachers. A Code of Conduct, signed by the student and their guardian in UltraCamp, is required for every student attending camp. Students who pose a threat to themselves or others or misbehave repeatedly will face expulsion.

Our discipline policy has three strikes:

STRIKE ONE

The student is informed of their poor choice and a discussion is held on how they can improve their behavior. Teachers are made aware.

STRIKE TWO

Teachers are contacted and their feedback is solicited. The student has a conversation about their behavior and the consequences if they do not improve. The parents are contacted at this point and made aware of the prior behavior and the consequences for any further negative actions.

STRIKE THREE

Any student who receives a third strike will either be sent home or placed exclusively in the custody of the visiting school's teachers until the parent can arrive.

Any infraction which puts a student or staff member's safety in jeopardy will result in the student's immediate expulsion. If expelled from camp, the student will remain under the school's care and the guardians must arrange immediate transportation of the student.

The school may pursue additional consequences or follow-up as reflected in the school's policy.

No refund or credit will be granted to an expelled student.

STUDENT PACKING LIST

Please make sure your student's name and the name of their school are easily visible on all pieces of luggage. Students must carry their own bags, so pack accordingly!

What to Bring

- **Bedroll:**
 - One pillow and one sleeping bag rolled up and placed in a garbage bag for weather protection. Sheets and a warm blanket are also acceptable. Bring an extra garbage bag for going home.
- **Suitcase/Duffel Bag/Backpack:**
 - We recommend placing your items inside a large Ziploc or garbage bag within your duffel in case of rain.
- **Clothing:**
 - Lightweight, closed toe shoes OR hiking shoes
 - Long pants (recommended for hikes and harnessed activities)
 - Shorts with an inseam of 5" or longer
 - Underwear - include extras
 - Socks - include extras
 - Pajamas
 - T-shirt - should cover shoulders and abdomen
 - Long sleeve t-shirt (at least one)
 - Jacket (weather appropriate)
 - Raincoat or poncho (if the forecast calls for rain)
- **Personal Items**
 - Towel and Washcloth
 - Soap and Shampoo
 - Chapstick and Sunscreen
 - Hat
 - Sunglasses
 - Shower Sandals
 - Brush or Comb
 - Toothbrush and Toothpaste
 - Book or Journal
 - 2 Pencils
 - Camera (Optional)
- **Money for Trading Post (Optional)**
 - Snacks - \$10-20
 - T-Shirts - \$20
 - Souvenirs - \$10-20

STUDENT PACKING LIST

What NOT to Bring

If an item is not permitted at your school, it is not permitted at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. The following items are not allowed to be brought on site.

- Cell Phones
- Other electronics i.e. tablets, smart watches, ear buds, etc.
- Personal sports equipment
- Valuables - jewelry
- Food Items
 - Snacks
 - Drinks
 - Candy
 - Gum

If your student is found with any of the following items, the student will be expelled from our program.

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Matches
- Lighters
- Pocket knives
- Weapons
- Pets or other animals

FAQ

Who decides where my child will sleep and which trail group they will be in?

The school fills out a roster template based on their own system for sorting the students.

What time is lights out?

Lights out is from 10pm until 7am.

Who do I talk to about special concerns regarding my child?

You can call and ask for our Program Director or Health Officer by calling our camp at 714.923.3191.

Can someone give us a tour or come out for a parent presentation?

Absolutely! We work with the teachers and administration to give a parent presentation at your school before Outdoor Science School. Students and parents wishing to visit the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center prior to their field trip can attend one of our events or contact our team at outdoor@ocbsa.org for a tour.



Can my child bring a cellular device?

We have worked hard to guarantee that a wide variety of activities are offered every moment your child is at camp; there is enough physical and mental stimulation here to render virtual pastimes obsolete. Therefore, we have a firm policy banning the use of cell phones, video games, and other electronics, and we appreciate your support. This is a carefully thought out, healthy policy that helps us underscore the beauty of camp—just a few days, where experiences are real, kids learn to navigate on their own, and success is tangible.

Am I able to visit or call my student while they're at camp?

Visits during camp are not permitted. Part of the focus here is to create some independence for the students; even if it is just one or two nights. These types of “away from home” experiences foster growth, independence, and self-reliance.

We are always available throughout the day and there is also phone coverage all night. If you have an emergency, please feel free to call. Use the camp number that was provided 714.932.3191. We will also contact you if your child is not feeling well or an emergency here at camp occurs. This contact may also come from a teacher or administrator from the school since this relationship already exists.

MAIL

While your child is at camp, you are welcome to mail them a letter.

All letters (no packages, emails or faxes), are delivered at mealtimes.

Letters should be sent at least 5 business days in advance. Letters arriving before your student's stay at camp will be kept until they arrive.

Letters arriving after students leave will be marked "Return to Sender" and returned to the post office. Please ensure that your letter does not require a signature upon receipt.

Please be sure to address the letter as follows:

Child's Name
Elementary School Name/Dates Attending
Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center
2 Irvine Park Road
Orange CA, 92869



WHY CAMP?

Maybe you have students or parents that are nervous about camp, and that is okay. It can be scary to send your student away from home or to go away from home for the first time.

Here are some great links about the benefits of camp that you can share with your students and their families:

"Benefits of Camp" *American Camp Association*
<https://tinyurl.com/nhkuzfa3>

"The Importance of Camp" *Young People's Ministries*
<https://tinyurl.com/2pvbhv7t>

"Top Five Reasons Kids Should Go To Camp" *San Diego Family*
<https://tinyurl.com/z8z8tvce>

