



Summer Camp 2026!

Camp Ruzicka

August 23rd-29th

Photo by Darko Sojak

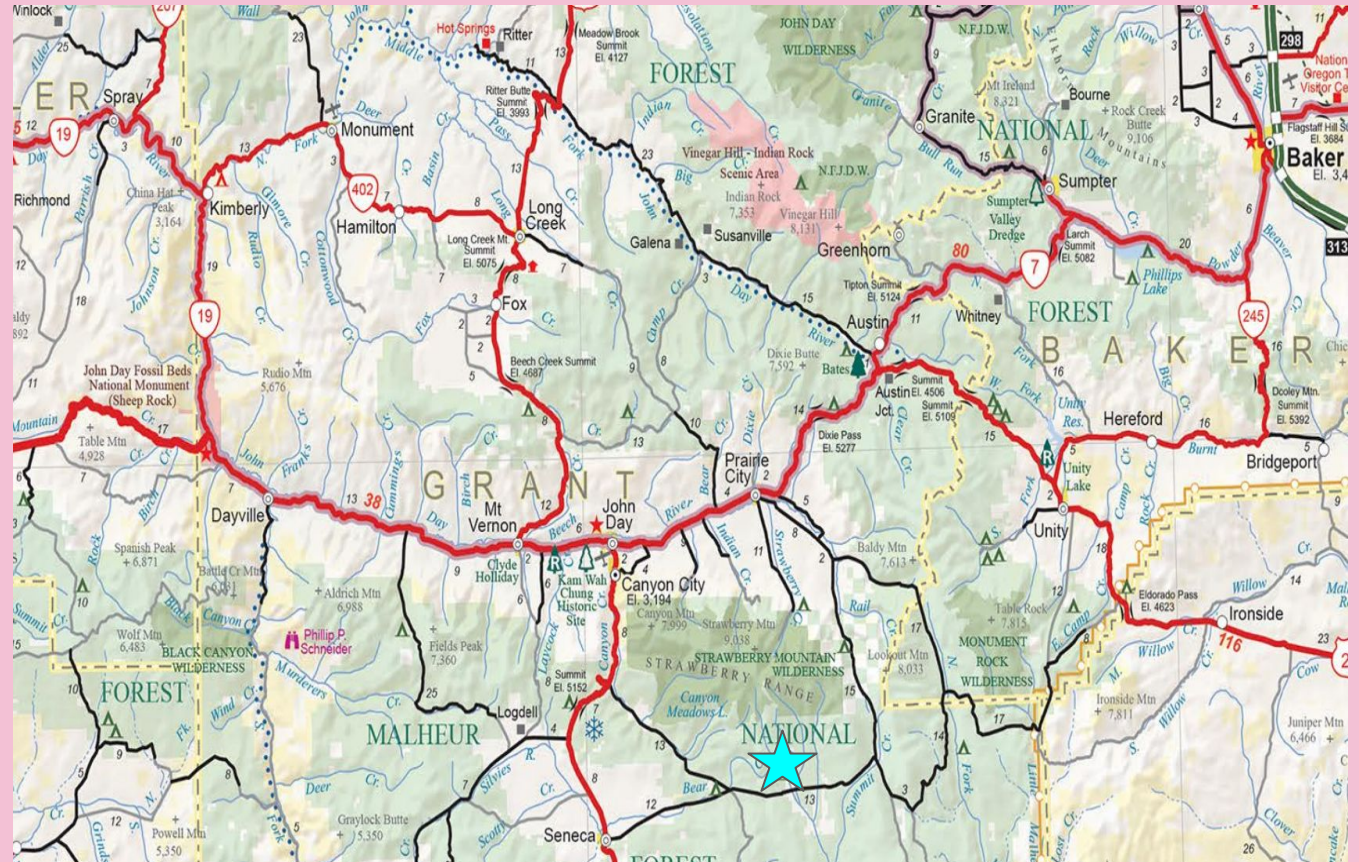
Where are the Strawberry Mountains?

Strawberry Mtn. Wilderness Area is south and east of the town of John Day, OR.

68,700 acres
100+ miles of trails

From camp:

John Day 30 mi.
Prairie City 33 mi.
Seneca 19 mi.
Burns 65 mi.



Landscape of the Strawberry Mtns.

Bill Sullivan wrote: “...like a chunk of the Canadian Rockies dropped in the midst of Eastern Oregon’s ranchlands.”

A rugged terrain with a complex geological history of ancient seafloor uplift, volcanic lava and ash deposits, and the work of glacial ice.



Photo: norcalhiker.com/strawberry-mountain-wilderness-loop/

Ecology of the Strawberry Mtns.

Elevation

Ice carved lakes
and drainages

Direction of slope face

Geology and Soil

Effects of fire

Equals
a diversity of life zones

A Layered Story of Human Activity

- ❖ The Logan Valley is part of the traditional homelands of the Northern Paiute, ancestors of the Burns Paiute Tribe.
- ❖ In the late 1860s, ranchers began moving domestic stock into the Valley, bringing them into conflict with the Paiute.
- ❖ In 1862, gold was discovered in Canyon Creek, leading to a gold rush that brought an influx of miners, including many Chinese. Chrome mines were established during World Wars I and II.
- ❖ During the 1920s, the Paiute began to return to the Burns area and, facing much difficulty, slowly began to rebuild their community.
- ❖ The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness was established in 1964 as part of the Wilderness Act, and expanded to nearly double in acreage in 1984.
- ❖ Ranching remains a primary activity in the valley and some mining claims are still present.

The Weather (?)

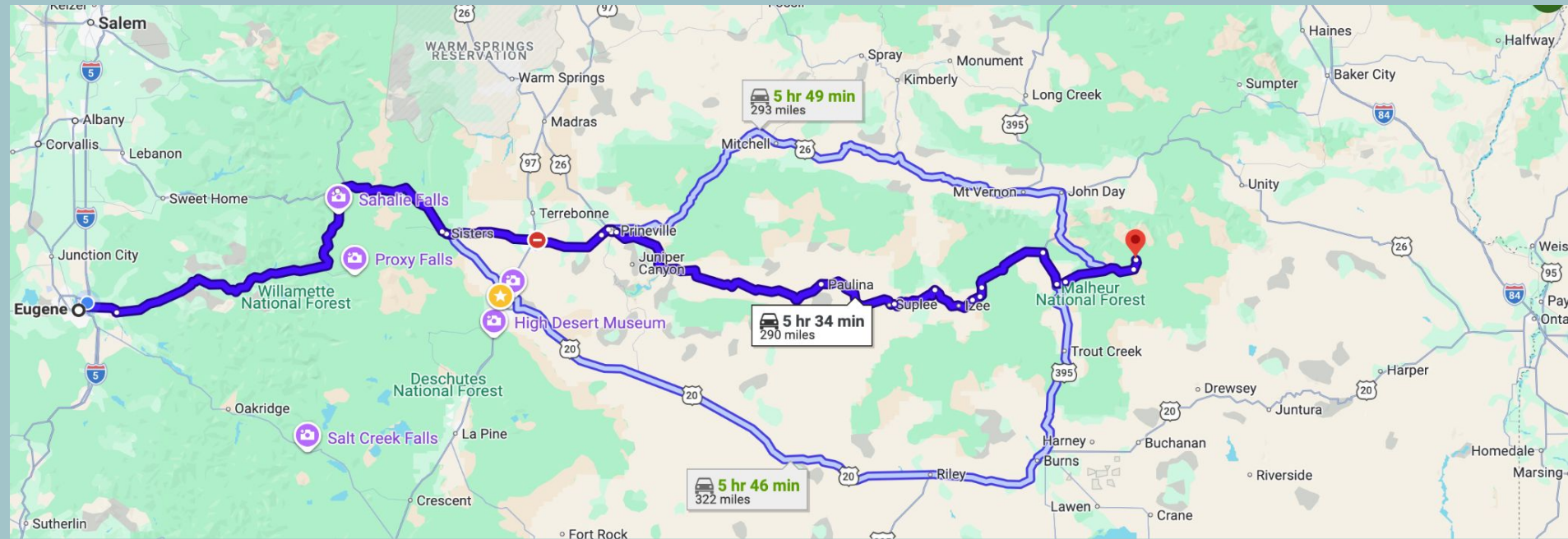
Camp is at 5,200 ft.
Hikes will range from
4,000 ft. to over 9,000 ft.,
with lots of sun

Likely day time
temperatures in the
mid-upper 80s.

Temperatures cool quickly
after sunset.
Likely night time temperatures
in the 40s.

August skies are mostly
clear, with the possibility of
afternoon thunderstorms.

How Do I Get To Camp?



Best route: 293 miles, a minimum of 5 hrs. 49 min. Allow 7 hrs. with stops.

Greeters



Photo by Darko Sojak

Lake Creek Youth Camp

Located in the Malheur National Forest in the beautiful Logan Valley at an elevation of 5,200 feet.

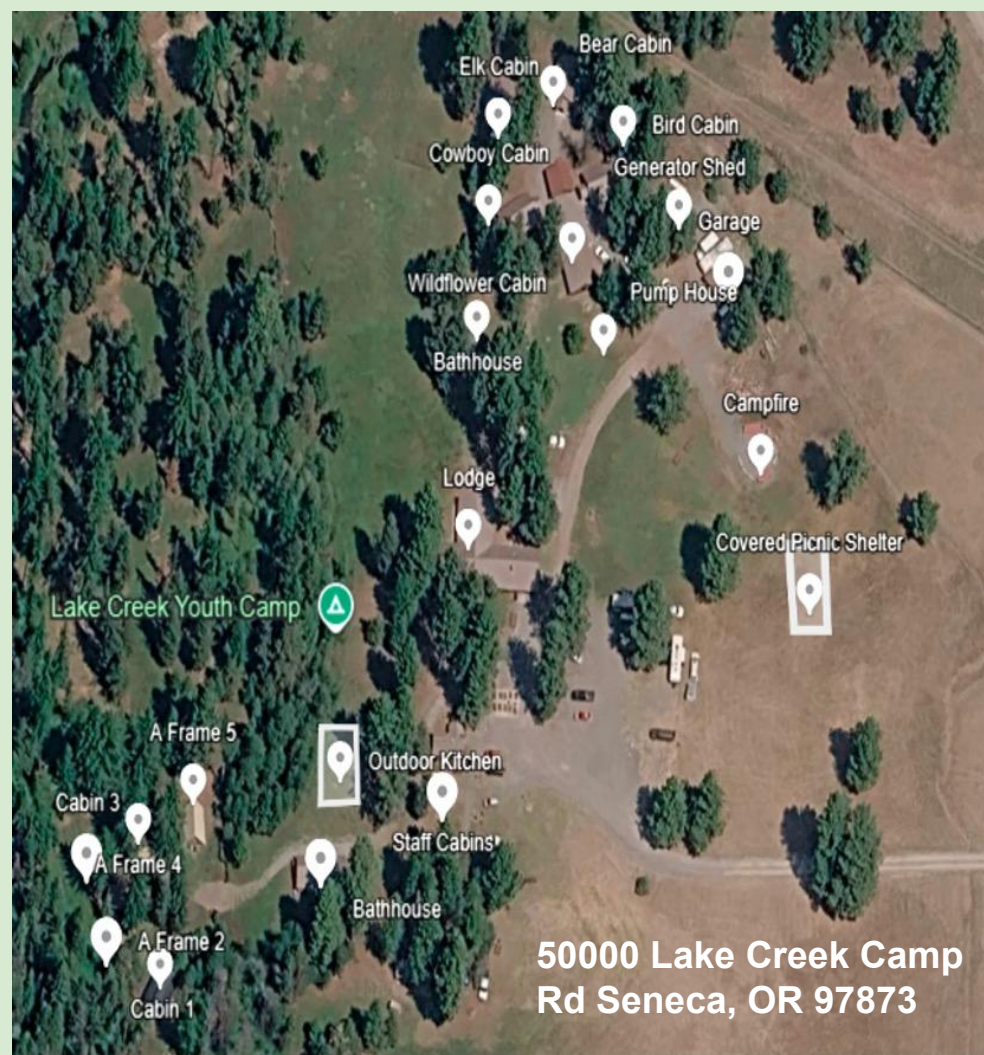
Sits among a stand of pines adjacent to grassy meadows. Lake Creek runs through the camp.



Photos from : <https://lakecreekcamp.org/>

Camp Map

- Dining hall and two outdoor covered areas
- A large grassy field for games
- Campfire Area
- Lodging options include:
 - tent camping
 - bunkhouse cabins/A-frames
 - RV/campers (no hook-ups)
- Two bath houses provide a total of 13 showers and sinks and 12 flushing toilets
- Vault toilet



Lake Creek Youth Camp—Open Space!



Photo by John
Jacobsen



Photo by Zack Marin



Photo courtesy of Lake Creek Youth Camp

Lodging Options

Bunkhouse Cabins

Photos courtesy of Lake Creek Youth Camp



Bunkhouse A-Frames



Gravel spaces for RVs

Spacious Area For Tents



Photos by
Brenda
Kame'enui,
Pat Soussan,
Holger Krentz

Dining Hall and Outdoor Seating



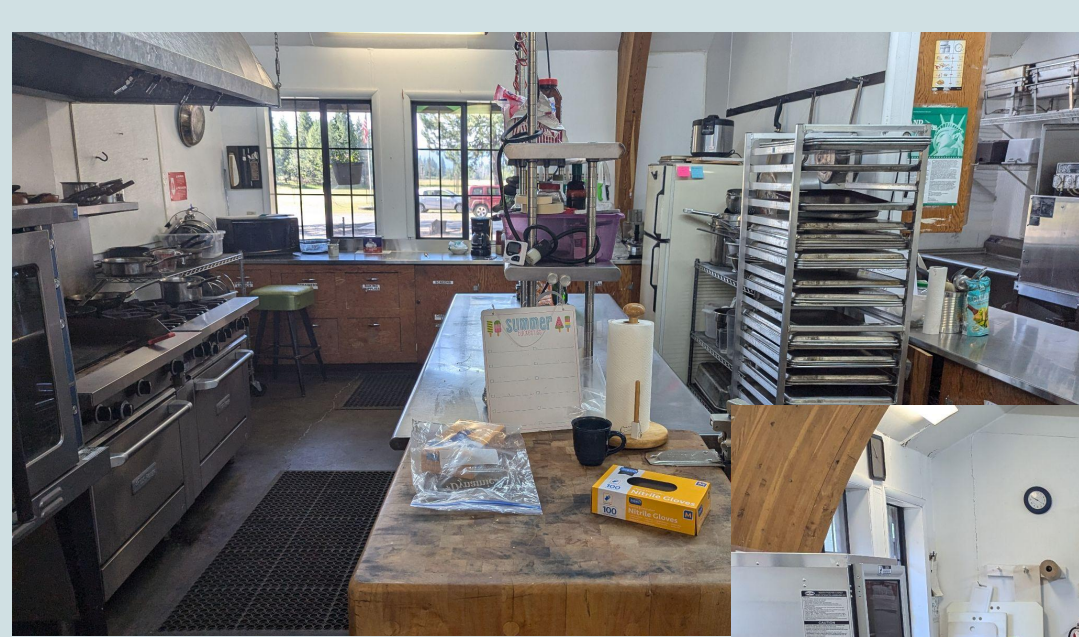
Photos by Darko Sojak, Holger Krentz

**The
lodge
area for
relaxing,
reading,
games,
and
visiting.**



Photo courtesy of LCYC

The Camp Kitchen



Photos by Lake Creek Youth Camp

Sample Menu

Breakfast:

Scrambled eggs, Creme brûlée French toast, bacon, fruit.

Daily: Oatmeal, Granola, and Yogurt bar

Lunch Fixings:

Whole Grain Breads, Meats, Cheeses, PBJ, Egg/Tuna Salad, Hummus, Hard boiled eggs, Toby's Pate, Condiments, Protein Bars, Fruit, Chips

After Hike Snacks:

Chips, crackers, dips, sweets, lemonade, ice tea

Dinner:

Salad bar (including protein options), lasagna (meat and veggie), green beans, garlic bread, mini-cherry cheesecakes

A Typical Day at Camp

6:30 am

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate

7:30 am

Breakfast

8:00 am

Make your own sack lunch

Morning

**Meet your leader and group.
Hike, explore, and have fun!**

Late afternoon

**Showers, snacks, games, and visiting.
Sign up for your hike the next day.**

6:30 pm

Dinner - Wear your name badge !

8:00 pm

Campfire - Announcements, trip reports, and more.

9:15 pm

Mini Star Party

Camp Booklet!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
The Campsite	1
Driving Directions	1
LOGISTICS	
Meals	3
Duties	3
Bulletin Board	4
What to Bring	4
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	5
Essential Services	5
The Weather	5
SAFETY	
Hand Washing	6
Hikes	6
Health Care Services	6
THE AREA	7
REFERENCES	
Books	8
Maps	8
PERMITS AND FEES	
Day Hiking	9
ADDITIONAL CONCERNS	
Horses	9
Ticks	9
LIST OF HIKES	10
NON-HIKING / ON THE WAY ACTIVITIES	24

Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Obsidian Summer Camp



Sunday, August 23 – Saturday, August 29, 2026

This Camp Guide is available at www.obsidians.org

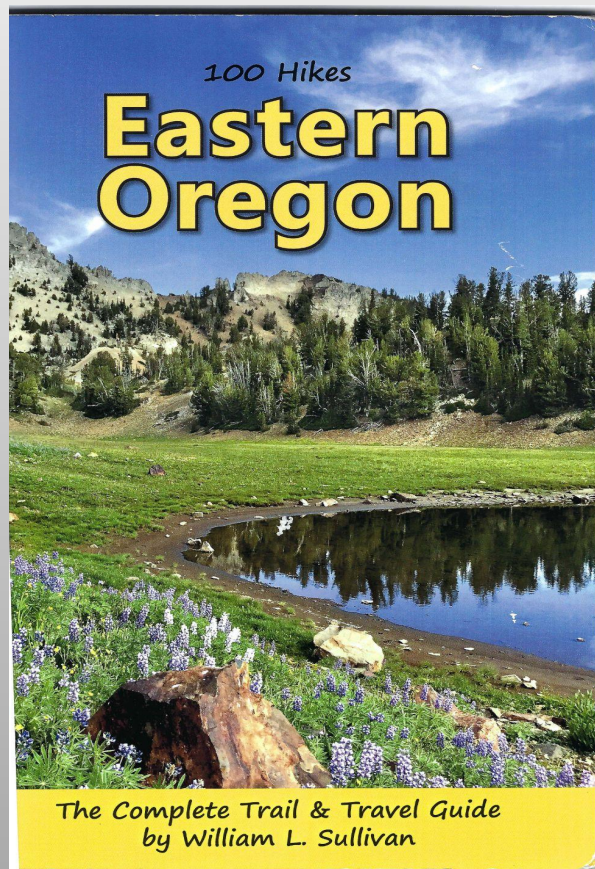
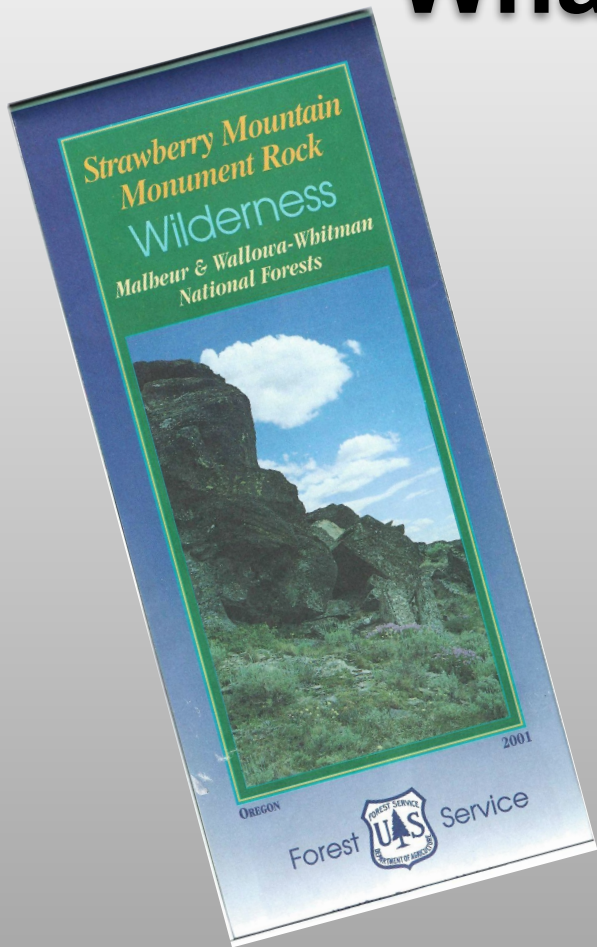
Adapted from the
Camp Bell 2014 Summer Camp Guide
Edited by Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Karen Yoerger, Sandra Sigrist

List of Hikes by Difficulty Rating

All distances are round trip miles

Hikes	Driving Distance	Hiking Distance	Page
EASY: up to 5 miles round trip, up to 1,000 ft. of elevation gain.			
# 4(c) High Lake	22	2.6	13
# 5 Malheur River Recreation Trail	28	4.0	14
# 8 East Fork Canyon Creek	45	5.8	16
# 11(b) Strawberry Lake	88	4.0	19
# 13(a) Bullhorn Rock	74	4.4	20
# 15 Arch Rock	120	1.0	21
MODERATE: 5 to 10 miles round trip, up to 2,000 ft. of elevation gain.			
# 1 Lake Creek	6	8.0	11
# 2(a) Mud Lake	7	7.0	11
# 4(a) Wildcat Basin	21	6.9	12
# 4(b) Strawberry Mountain Summit	21	7.2	13
# 6 Buckhorn Meadows	40	5.0	15
# 10(a) Canyon Mountain / Dog Creek	70	6.6	17
# 11(c) Strawberry Falls	88	6.6	19
# 11(d) Little Strawberry Lake	88	7.8	19
# 13(b) Monument Rock	74	5.6	20
DIFFICULT: 10 to 15 miles round trip, up to 3,000 ft. of elevation gain.			
# 2(b) Meadow Fork	7	9.6	11
# 3 Big Creek	7	10.6	12
# 4(d) Slide Lake	22	10.0	13
# 10(b) Canyon Mountain / Dean Creek	70	11.0	18
# 11(a) Onion Creek	86	9.8	18
# 14 Sheep Creek	76	10.8	21
# 16 Amelia Creek	160	8.0	21
VERY STRENUOUS: over 15 miles, and/or over 3,000 ft. of elevation gain.			
# 4(e) Loop of the Lakes	22	15.0	13
# 7 Table Mountain	35	12.0	15
# 9 Joaquin Miller	44	11.6	16
# 12 Indian Creek	90	9.8	19

What Maps Do I Need?



Self-issued wilderness permits are available at the trailheads.

Bring your Northwest Forest Pass, Senior Pass, or similar.



Photos: Randy Sinnott, Holger Krentz



Streams and Waterfalls



Photos by Nancy Whitfield and Holger Krentz

Swimming and Relaxing



Photos by Pat Soussan

Strawberry Lake

**An easy
hike of
2.6 miles
round trip
and 535
foot gain.**



Photo courtesy
USFS, Matthew Tharp

High Lake

**Another easy
hike of only
2.6 miles
round trip and
540 foot loss
descending to
the lake.**



Photo by Nancy Whitfield

Places to Explore

Mountain Goats Above High Lake



The Rabbit Ears



Photos by John Jacobsen

Lower Elevation Trails



Photos: Holger Krentz, Keiko Bryan

Higher Elevation Trails



Photos by Holger Krentz

Strawberry Mountain!

Elevation

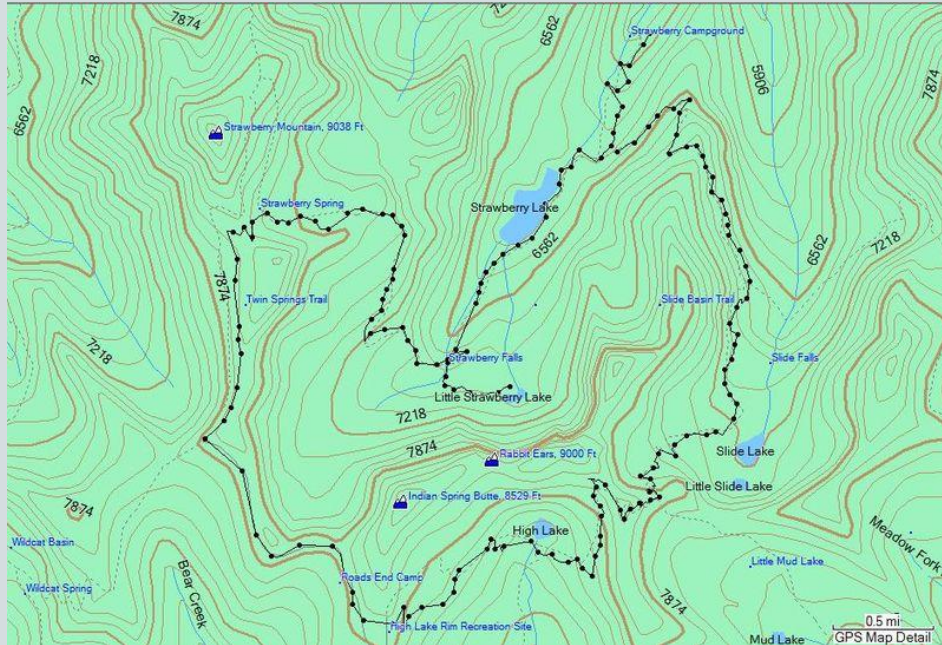
9,038 feet

Photos by Darko Sojak,
Lana Lindstrom, Brenda
Kame'enui, Nancy Whitfield

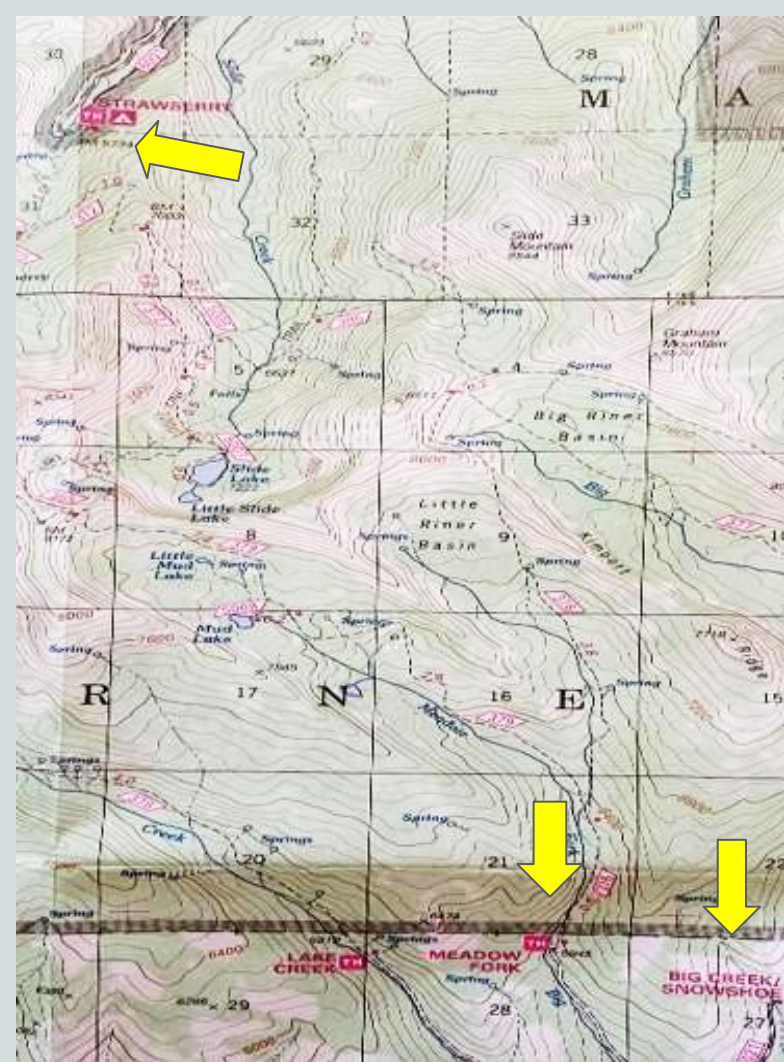


Loop, Shuttle or Cross-Key Possibilities

Strawberry Loop: about 15.6 miles, 3,470 ft. gain



Strawberry TH to Meadow Fork or Big Creek THs:
One way, about 10-12 miles, 2,400 ft. gain.



Check the Bulletin Board!



Photos by
Darko Sojak

Table for Hiking Sign Up Sheets



Photo by Darko Sojak

OBSIDIANS — Trip Sign Up

Day: _____ Trip Name: **VERY STRENUOUS**
 Difficulty Rating: **VERY STRENUOUS**
 Pace Rating: Check all that apply
 Brisk 2-2½ mph Fast 2½+ mph
 Meeting Time: _____ Meeting Place: _____
 Leader(s): _____ Phone: _____
 Hike Distance: _____ Elevation Gain: _____
 Trip Description: _____

Round Trip Driving Miles: _____ Carpooling cost (@ 11¢ per mile): _____
 • The leader may refuse to allow any person to participate on this trip for any reason. The leader's decision is final.
 • You are responsible for clothing, equipment, and all other supplies to keep you safe & comfortable during the trip.
 • No dogs, firearms, illegal drugs, or alcohol are allowed on any Obsidian trip.
 • Any photographs taken on this trip provided for Obsidian publication may be used at our sole discretion.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY
 I accept that outdoor activities can be dangerous, and that the Obsidian activity leaders are volunteer facilitators and not professional guides. I am providing my own equipment for my safety and comfort, including first aid supplies and medicines. I am physically fit for this trip. I have informed the trip leader of any condition that might affect my ability to participate in this activity. I, the undersigned, in consideration of Obsidian sponsoring this trip and allowing me to participate, release Obsidian from all claims on account of my death or injury resulting from any act, or failure to act, even if negligent, during my participation in this trip or activity, including travel to and from the trailhead or other starting point.

Name (& age if 18 or under) Please print legibly	Signature (of parent if 18 or under) Certifies that you have read, understand, and will comply with above.	Your cell phone number
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OBSIDIANS — Trip Sign Up

Day: _____ Trip Name: _____
 Difficulty Rating: **DIFFICULT**
 Pace Rating: Check all that apply
 Medium < 2 mph Brisk 2-2½ mph Fast 2½+ mph
 Meeting Time: _____ Meeting Place: _____
 Leader(s): _____ Phone: _____
 Hike Distance: _____ Elevation Gain: _____
 Trip Description: _____

Round Trip Driving Miles: _____ Carpooling cost (@ 11¢ per mile): _____
 • The leader may refuse to allow any person to participate on this trip for any reason. The leader's decision is final.
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OTHER EXCURSIONS

Trips to town, sight-seeing etc.
 Please let us know your whereabouts!

Day/Date	Name(s)	Destination	Time of departure	Expected return time?

OBSIDIANS — Trip Sign Up

Day: _____ Trip Name: _____
 Difficulty Rating: **MODERATE**
 Pace Rating: Check all that apply
 Medium < 2 mph Brisk 2-2½ mph Fast 2½+ mph
 Meeting Time: _____ Meeting Place: _____
 Leader(s): _____ Phone: _____
 Hike Distance: _____ Elevation Gain: _____
 Trip Description: _____

Round Trip Driving Miles: _____ Carpooling cost (@ 11¢ per mile): _____
 • The leader may refuse to allow any person to participate on this trip for any reason. The leader's decision is final.
 • You are responsible for clothing, equipment, and all other supplies to keep you safe & comfortable during the trip.
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Name (& age if 18 or under) Please print legibly	Signature (of parent if 18 or under) Certifies that you have read, understand, and will comply with above.	Your cell phone number
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OBSIDIANS — Trip Sign Up

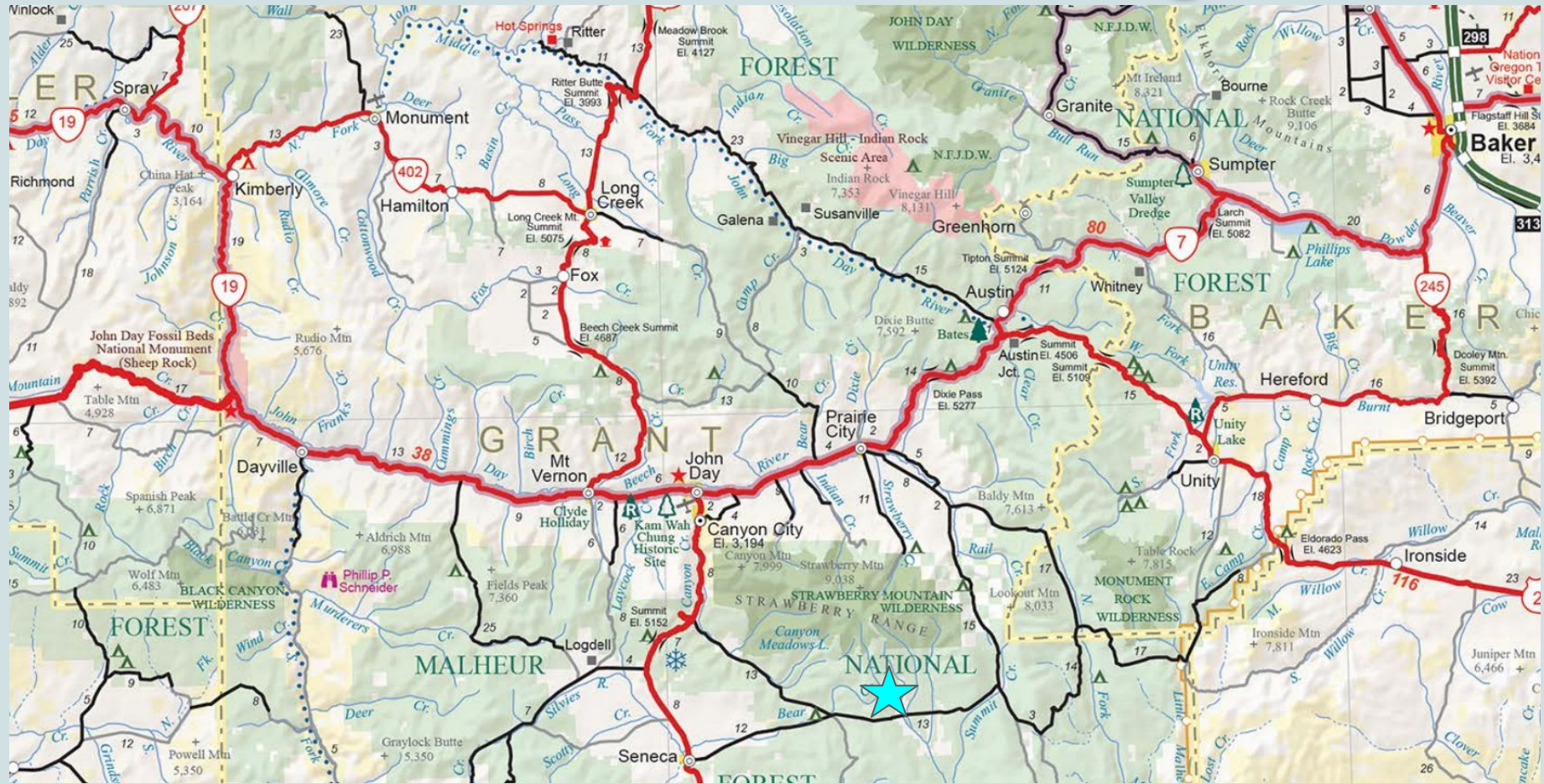
Day: _____ Trip Name: _____
 Difficulty Rating: **EASY**
 Pace Rating: Check all that apply
 Strolling, sight-seeing Medium < 2 mph Brisk 2-2½ mph Fast 2½+ mph
 Meeting Time: _____ Meeting Place: _____
 Leader(s): _____ Phone: _____
 Hike Distance: _____ Elevation Gain: _____
 Trip Description: _____

Round Trip Driving Miles: _____ Carpooling cost (@ 11¢ per mile): _____
 • The leader may refuse to allow any person to participate on this trip for any reason. The leader's decision is final.
 • You are responsible for clothing, equipment, and all other supplies to keep you safe & comfortable during the trip.
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Name (& age if 18 or under) Please print legibly	Signature (of parent if 18 or under) Certifies that you have read, understand, and will comply with above.	Your cell phone number	Transportation Need Have Will Take
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There's more than hiking!



Canyon City-Mining History

Photo from Grant County Historical Museum
Greenhorn Jail & Joaquin Miller Cabin



Photos from Grant County Chamber of Commerce



Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site



Photo by David Clinger

John Day

Grant County Ranch and Rodeo Museum



Photo from Grant County
Chamber of Commerce

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument



Photo from NPS

Prairie City–Mining and Railroad History



Photos from Grant County Chamber of Commerce

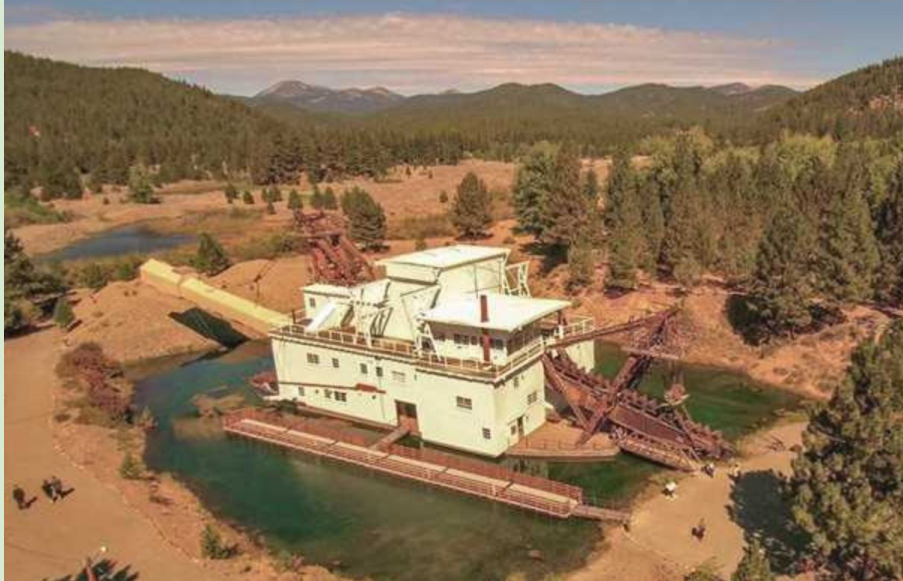


Bates State Park

Photo from Oregon State Parks

Sumpter–Mining, Timber, Railroad History

Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area



Photos from Oregon
State Parks



Photo from Travel
Baker County



Concessions

Stop by before dinner or between dinner and campfire and check out the Obsidian clothing and gear!



Photo by Zack Marin

Nightly Campfire After Dinner!

Announcements, Trip Reports, and More



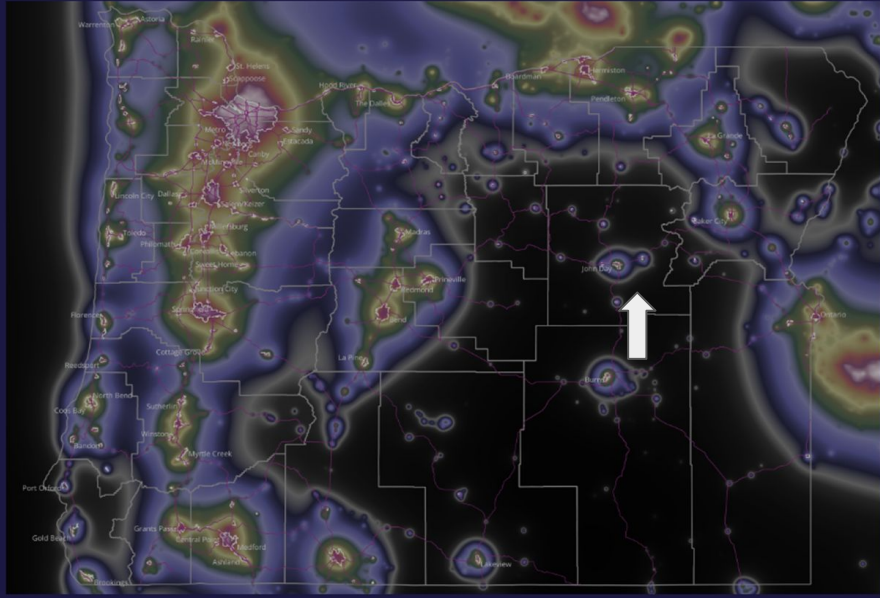
Photos by Lana Lindstrom & 2025 Camp Rally

And Then It's Bedtime...But Wait!



Dark Skies!

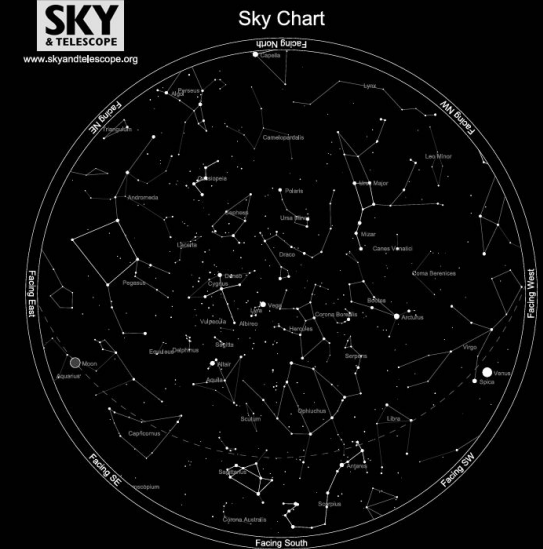
Oregon's Night Skies



The Moon will be full on the last night at Camp !

Bring your binoculars.

SKY & TELESCOPE
www.skyandtelescope.org



Join us for a Mini Star Party
After Campfire!

What to Bring!

Hiking Gear

- Day Pack
- Water bottle
- Hiking boots/shoes + Water shoes for creek crossings
- Clothes for warm, cold, and wet weather
- Swimsuit
- Mosquito repellent
- Biodegradable soap
- Sit Pad
- Hiking poles
- Binoculars/spotting scopes
- **Ten Essentials**

Camping Gear

- Tent Campers: Tent, sleeping bag, pad, pillow etc.
- Bunkhouse: Bunks with mattresses are provided, bring bedding or sleeping bag, pillow
- RV's: No hookups
- Camp Chair, extra guest chair

Personal Gear

- Towel and Flip flops for shower
- Headlamp/Flashlight
- 2 plastic containers to pack lunches
- Board Games/Cards

Sign Up for Camp is a TWO step process

Step **ONE**: Sign up on the website starting at 8 AM
Saturday April 4th (members only, non-members, April 6th)

Step **TWO**: After receiving the confirmation email,
complete and submit the registration form and payment

Step ONE: Sign up at the website

Register online just as you would for any hike. Member registration begins Sat April 4 at 8:00am, 95 participants.

Remember to **LOGOUT** after you've signed up so that the website has room for the next person.

STRAWBERRY MOUNTAINS SUMMER CAMP

[TRIP REPORTING >](#)

START DATE: 08 / 23 / 2026

START TIME: 3 : 00 PM

END DATE: 08 / 29 / 2026

END TIME: 11 : 00 AM

DESCRIPTION:

We will be staying at the Lake Creek Youth Camp, south and east of John Day, Oregon. The camp offers basic lodging in bunkhouse cabins, and space for tents and RVs. The fee includes the lodging and three meals per day provided by the camp staff.

In addition to great hiking, there are other things to do in the area, such as swimming, fishing, and visiting sites of historical interest. More details are on the Summer Camp page: <https://obsidians.org/events/category/summer-camp/>

Registration for members opens Saturday, April 4, at 8:00 am. Registration for nonmembers opens Monday, April 6. Camp is limited to 95 individuals.



Photo by: Darko Sojak

Step TWO: Registration Form and Payment

Within 72 hours of being “Signed Up” online you should receive an email with instructions for submitting the registration form and payment.

Registration form:

- Hard copy available at Rally
- Download as a PDF from the website
- PDF Attachment in confirmation email
- Send in by mail or email to obsidians-summercamp@googlegroups.com

Payment:

- Credit card via Stripe link in email (New!)
- Send by mail with a check

Please submit the form and payment within 5 days of receiving the email.

OBSIDIAN SUMMER CAMP 2026 REGISTRATION FORM Lake Creek Camp—Prairie City, Oregon Sunday, August 23 – Saturday, August 29, 2026

Each participant must sign up online at <http://www.obsidians.org> AND submit/mail this registration form. Within 72 hours of signing up, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for credit card or check payment options.

Are you: Obsidian Member Nonmember

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Age, if under 18: _____

Lodging options and Fees: The bunkhouse cabins are one large room with 4 bottom bunks and 4 twin beds. There is plenty of room for tents and RVs (no hookups). Everyone will share restroom and shower facilities.

Member cost for all lodging options is \$420; cost for Nonmembers is \$470.

I would like to request financial assistance of \$50 (members only)

Please rank your top 2 choices in order of preference (*1st choice, 2nd choice*).

Rank _____ Bunkhouse Cabin _____ Tent Camping _____ RV (camper/van/trailer)

RV: Type of vehicle _____ Total Length _____

If applicable, list person(s) you want to share a bunkhouse cabin with or any other information that you think would be helpful to us _____

Help Us Plan for Camp (check **ALL** that apply)

Is this your first Summer Camp? Yes No

Indicate your dietary preferences: No restrictions Chicken/Turkey/Fish, no red meat Vegetarian

I am interested in **doing**: easy hikes moderate hikes difficult hikes sightseeing outings

I would consider **leading**: easy hikes moderate hikes difficult hikes sightseeing outings

I would consider **leading**: card/board/trivia games active games other _____

First aid/medical training: basic first aid wilderness first aid medical professional (including retired)

Full fee payment must be included for **each** registration. The cancellation policy is on the reverse side. **Please send payment (check or online) within 5 days** of receiving the confirmation email.

Registration Form Options	Payment Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Print a hard copy and send by mail OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Write a check (payable to Obsidians) and mail OR
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete the PDF and email to obsidians-summercamp@googlegroups.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Use the link you receive by email to complete payment by credit card

Mailing Address: Obsidian Summer Camp Registration, PO Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Please read the information and directions on the reverse side!

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I accept that outdoor activities can be dangerous, and that the Obsidians activity leaders are volunteer facilitators and not professional guides. I accept all risks of this trip as my sole responsibility. I am providing my own equipment for my safety and comfort, including first aid supplies and medicines. I am physically fit for this trip. I have informed the trip leader of any condition that might affect my ability to participate in this activity. I agree to abide by the Obsidians policies, I, the undersigned, in consideration of Obsidians sponsoring this trip and allowing me to participate, release Obsidians, its officers, agents, and members from all claims on account of my death or injury resulting from any act, or failure to act, even if negligent, during my participation in this trip or activity, including travel to and from the trailhead or other starting point. I have read and understood all the conditions listed above and on the reverse side.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

If minor under 18, parent or guardian must sign instead

Registration Form: Lodging Options

Lodging options and Fees: The bunkhouse cabins are one large room with 4 bottom bunks and 4 twin beds. There is plenty of room for tents and RVs (no hookups). Everyone will share restroom and shower facilities.

Member cost for all lodging options is \$420; cost for Nonmembers is \$470.

I would like to request financial assistance of \$50 (members only)

Please rank your top 2 choices in order of preference (*1st choice, 2nd choice*).

Rank _____ Bunkhouse Cabin _____ Tent Camping _____ RV (camper/van/trailer)

RV: Type of vehicle _____ Total Length _____

If applicable, list person(s) you want to share a bunkhouse cabin with or any other information that you think would be helpful to us _____

When will I know my lodging placement?

Registration Form: Help us plan for camp

Help Us Plan for Camp (check **ALL** that apply)

Is this your first Summer Camp? Yes No

Indicate your dietary preferences: No restrictions Chicken/Turkey/Fish, no red meat Vegetarian

I am interested in **doing**: easy hikes moderate hikes difficult hikes sightseeing outings

I would consider **leading**: easy hikes moderate hikes difficult hikes sightseeing outings

I would consider **leading**: card/board/trivia games active games other _____

First aid/medical training: basic first aid wilderness first aid medical professional (including retired)

I'm On the Waitlist!

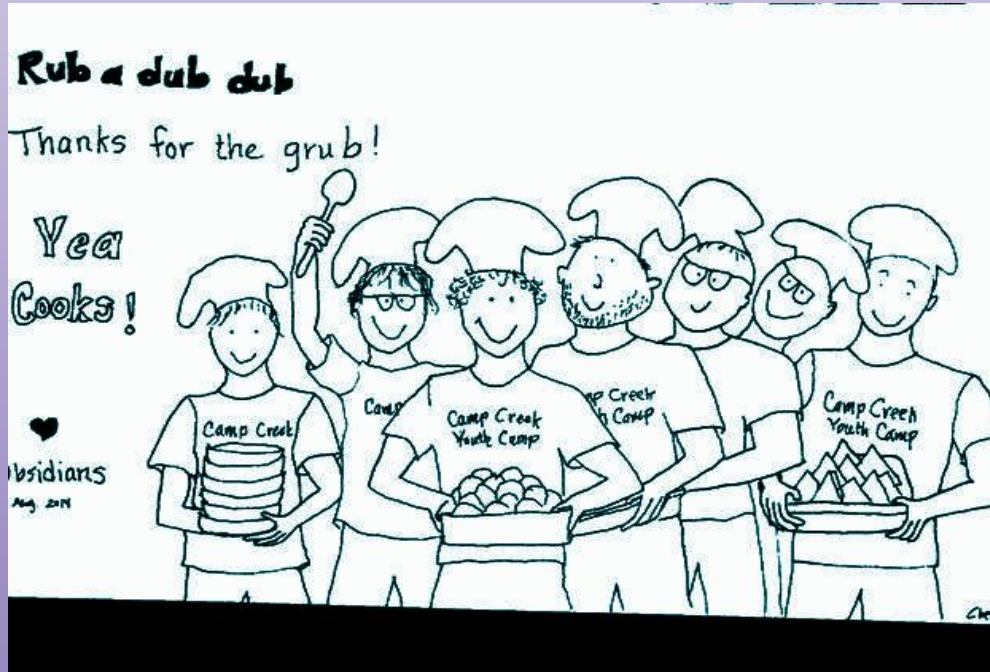
Don't panic just yet! There are usually cancellations and openings right up to the last minute. *Check the signup page periodically to see where you are on the list.*

If You Need to Cancel:

Even if you are just on the waitlist and are unable to attend, please cancel yourself on the Obsidian website signup page. Don't just send an email.

- If you cancel by July 15, you will receive a refund less \$50.
- If you cancel July 16 or later, you will receive a refund less \$50 **only** if someone takes your place.

This is a Job Bigger Than Us



Thanks to the hardworking staff of Lake Creek Youth Camp, we will not have assigned chores this year!

- BUT, we are all in this together and we do have some shared responsibilities:**
1. Secure all food in sturdy containers in your car or cabin, especially at night.
 2. Keep a neat camp.
 3. Pitch in to help with cleaning and checkout on the last day of camp.

Thanks to Lana Lindstrom for contributing this 2014 drawing by Cheri Reinhard.

Summer Camp Community

Wear your name tag at dinner.

Introduce yourself to someone new.

It's ok to ask someone's name again.

Sit with different folks at meals and at campfire.

Take part in games & activities.

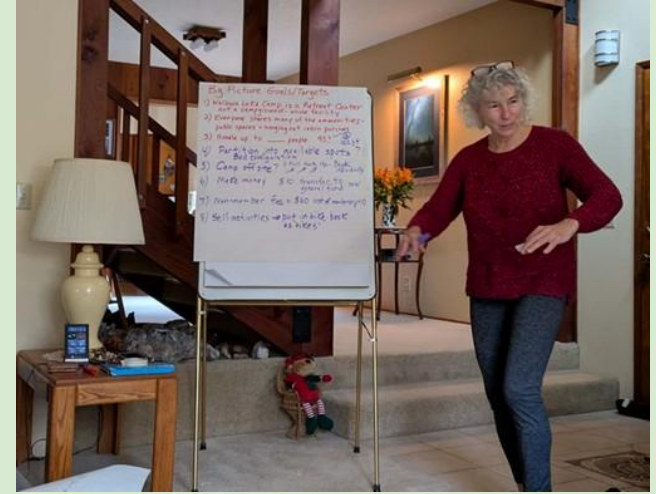
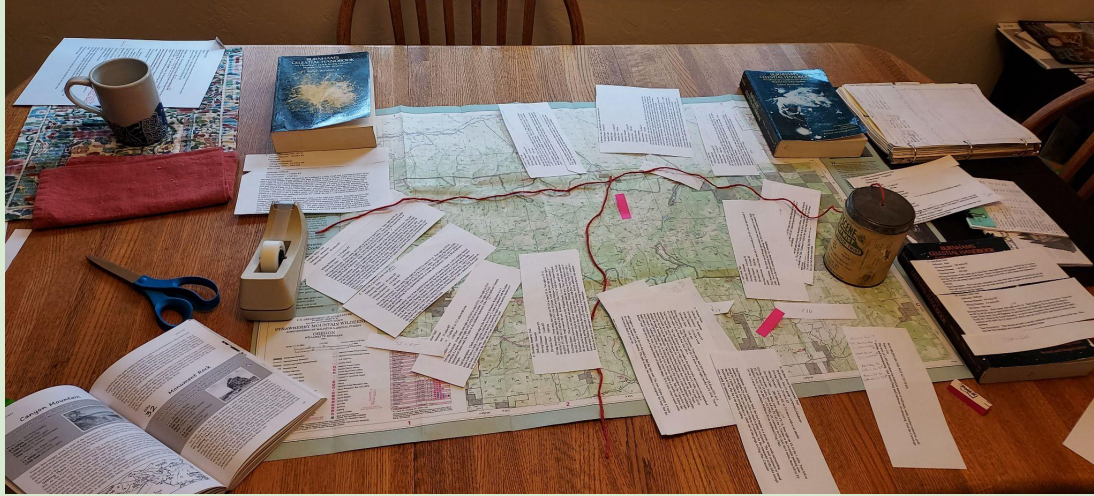
Visit the afternoon snack table.

Bring an extra chair and invite others to join you.

Find out something new about someone you already know.



Behind the Scenes Preparations



Thanks to everyone who has volunteered so far to bring this camp to you !

Summer Camp Committee: Angie Ruzicka (Committee Chair), Karen Yoerger (Camp Boss), Pam Caples (Camp Treasurer).
Area Volunteers: Kristin Anderson (Food Liaison), Kim Davidson-Ruby (Snack Manager), Nancy Whitfield (Concessions). **Booklet and article authors and proofreaders:** Holger Krentz, Sue Wolling, Marti Gerdes, and Sandra Sigrist. **Publicity assistance:** Ane McKee, Carla Cooper. **Support and advice:** Lana Lindstrom, Steve Johnson, Sue Zeni. **2014 and other photo contributions:** Keiko Bryan, David Clinger, John Jacobsen, Brenda Kame'enui, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Zack Marin, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan, Nancy Whitfield.

Questions?

The image features a light blue background with a large, faint circular graphic. Scattered across the background are several icons: question marks and information symbols (a lowercase 'i' inside a circle). The question marks are in various colors including blue, yellow, red, green, and grey. The information symbols are in light green and light blue. The word 'Questions?' is written in a bold, black, italicized font in the upper right area.

For more information, periodically check the Summer Camp webpage at:
<https://obsidians.org/events/category/summer-camp/>