

Homeschool Outdoor Science School at Mount Hermon

~ April 21-25, 2008 ~

Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School is excited to offer a spring week of Outdoor Science for Homeschool Families. This week will incorporate earth and life sciences for grades K-12, team building activities all with a Christ centered perspective. This week (Monday thru Thursday) will be held at Mount Hermon's Main Conference Center featuring fully equipped guest cabins, a new field house facility and acres and acres of outdoor classroom! We invite you and your family to come and experience a fun and educational week in the redwoods with Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School.

PLEASE read through this information carefully, as it contains details you will want to know before you register your family.

COST:

- **Student Cost:** Students are those children participating in the program. The student rate is \$73 for the first four children enrolled per family (the 5th student etc is \$64). We include this multi child discount to the program more affordable for larger families. We have a staffed child care facility for younger children which is available during class times for an extra fee of \$10 per session.
- **Housing Cost:** Mount Hermon has 28 guest cabins to rent to homeschool families. These cabins range in price based on the three different styles of accommodations: Economy, Standard and Deluxe. The price per cabin is the price for the week for the entire family. Cabins can be shared between families. For more information on cabins see below.
- **Meal Cost:** There will not be a meal service provided during the week of outdoor Science School. This allows families to have family time and helps to keep the cost of the week down.

HOUSING/CABINS:

The cabins for the week are designed for family living and are equipped with a kitchen and bath. They range from Economy, or "rustic," to Standard, or "midlevel," to Deluxe, or "fancy." Of course, the rustic cabins are less expensive. The difference between the levels also has to do with the quality of accommodations and linen service.

- **Deluxe:** Carpeted rooms, private baths, lanai (similar to an outside deck or small backyard area), pre-made beds, everything is furnished. Linen service provided.
- **Standard:** Private baths, pre-made beds, everything is furnished. Linen service provided.
- **Economy:** Bedding, towels, and soap furnished, but beds are not made, private baths. Cabins are older and have character like sloping floors.

Each cabin holds from 2-10 people, depending on the cabin. We will take cabin requests on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of the cabins will hold 2-3 families, and costs may be shared. All cabins are winterized with heaters and full bathroom and kitchen facilities, even economy cabins. Pets are not allowed in the cabins!

Cabin Locations: To see a map of Mount Hermon which lists all the cabins, go to www.mounthermon.org/maps. All cabin options are listed below--there are many choices. Please call ASAP to reserve your space...first come, first served.

Please don't hesitate to call about the layout or floor plan of any cabin. We can email out floor plans, which is the best way to see which cabin will suit your family.

A couple of items the cabins DO NOT have: Microwave, oven hot pads/mitts, and kitchen towels. Otherwise, the kitchens are fully stocked. Feel free to bring your favorite omelet pan or other favorite kitchen item!

Mount Hermon does not have laundry facility, but there is a private laundromat ½ mile away in Felton. Don't forget to bring lots of quarters for laundry at the laundromat!!!

CABIN INFORMATION—Capacity and Rates

DELUXE CABINS			STANDARD CABINS			ECONOMY CABINS		
Cabin	Capacity	Rate	Cabin	Capacity	Rate	Cabin	Capacity	Rate
Tan Oak	2-3	\$396	Acorn	2-5	\$366	Camelia	2-4	\$210
Rustic Dell	4-7	\$651	Cedar	2-5	\$366	Parkway A	2-5	\$210
Chestnut	4-8	\$762	Upper Holly	4-7	\$366	Parkway B	2-4	\$210
Sycamore	6-10	\$762	Lower Lilac	4-6	\$396	Toyon	2-5	\$210
Upper Blackberry	4-8	\$762	Walnut	4-8	\$456	Juniper	4-7	\$240
Founders	6-10	\$798	Parkway C	4-9	\$456	Elm	4-7	\$240
Redwood	8-10	\$978	Upper Lilac	4-8	\$456	Acacia	4-8	\$240
			Strawberry	6-8	\$540	Lower Holly	4-7	\$240
			Dogwood	4-7	\$540	Hawthorne	4-7	\$258
						Beechwood	4-8	\$258
						Spruce	6-10	\$210

MEALS:

We will be offering NO MEALS during your time here. We took considerable time to gather feedback as to whether folks would be willing to pay the cost of having Mount Hermon prepare meals. Because of the high cost of providing meals here at Mount Hermon, the overwhelming response was “NO.” We regret that this may prevent some families from attending. Each cabin has its own kitchen/cooking facilities, so you will need to bring your own food, or purchase it here, and be ready to prepare it. This will be more cost effective, and will allow you to eat as a family inside your own cabin. Adequate time will be provided to travel back to cabins, prepare meals and share family time, and travel back to the gathering/line up spot.

Groceries may be purchased at the local Safeway (in Felton, 3 minute drive), New Leaf Natural/Organic market (also in Felton, 4 minute drive), Costco (in Santa Cruz, 10-15 minute drive), or other local markets.

TEACHING AND CLASS SETUP:

Our teachers are strong Christians and experienced naturalists who have taught literally hundreds of students throughout the year. All of the naturalists have a background in either science or education and share a love of teaching in the outdoors. Our staff is prepared to teach your children all about God's Creation in this wonderful outdoor setting.

In order to prepare our teachers and have age-appropriate materials, we must set a **lower grade limit of Kindergarten** (or 5 years old at the time of the camp) and an **upper grade limit of 12th grade** in order to **participate** in our trail hikes and classes. As we are organizing our trail classes, we will place **similar grades together**. **At this time, we are shooting for grades K-1 together, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, and 8-12 (possibly 8-9 and 10-12, if we get enough older students) together**. Our trail teachers require this sort of set-up in order to be able to teach to one general age group. We work to maintain a class size of 12-16 students, but this will depend on the number of students registered in any particular grade.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS MEANS THAT YOUR CHILDREN MAY END UP IN DIFFERENT TRAIL GROUPS BASED ON THEIR GRADES AND AGES. This is necessary in order to keep similar aged children together.

Each class is approximately 2 hours 15 minutes long—from 9 am till 11:15, and from 1:00 to 3:15. Our daily schedule is included below (subject to change), so you can see how each day will flow.

Naturalists are encouraged to develop their own classes and curriculum flow based on the science information taught them; therefore, each class is different, as each naturalist's gifts and abilities differ. Be assured, your child will receive loving instruction from a biblical perspective.

Depending on the age of the group, the hikes taken during classes will range from a local loop down to the creek and back—less than a mile—to the state park nearby and back—perhaps up to 2 or 3 miles. There are 4 distinct ecosystems nearby, so naturalists have available a wide range of topics that they may cover—mammology, geology, ornithology, entomology, creation stewardship, etc. Each class will be full of hands-on, experiential lessons that your children will be sure to remember.

Please realize that all classes occur RAIN OR SHINE, unless the weather is inclement. A list of what to bring, including rain gear, will be sent to you upon registration, along with other materials.

ARE YOU AS A PARENT REQUIRED TO GO ON THE HIKES AND CLASSES?

For the class times there are two ways that parents can participate. First, we require that at least 2 parents sign up to go with the Kindergarteners through 4th graders each class. The 5th-6th grade group only needs one parent to go with them. Those are the spots that parents will sign up for throughout the week. All other parents that want to go along with a trail group are welcome to go. We ask that they go kind of as "silent observers" in the sense that they are not directly interacting with the students while they are being taught. This way we will know that the naturalist will have the support they need (ie 1 to 2 parents with them during class) and that all other parents will have the opportunity to attend if they so desire. The parents who do sign up are there to help the naturalist make sure students stay together and to be the second/third set of eyes on the trail. They will participate in some activities depending on the naturalist. If you have students in different trail groups you are welcome to go along with the different groups during the week. If you do not wish to attend a class

RECREATION TIME:

We realize that homeschool families are used to being together as a unit, therefore there is specific free time each afternoon where you can take advantage of some of the facilities that are here at Mount Hermon as well as go off site to explore Santa Cruz. Onsite activities include the new Field House that has the indoor gymnasium, game room and large rec field, the heated Ponderosa Pool and extensive hiking trails. We will also provide a list of great local attractions you and your family can check out while you are here.

CHILDCARE CENTER:

Children 4 and younger (not in Kindergarten) will need to be taken care of in ways

First, you may take them with you on the trail classes, as long as you are responsible for them, and are with them at all times. Please be aware that the other children in the classes will be learning and participating with the naturalist who is teaching, and your 4-and-younger children will NOT be included in these activities if you bring them along. They will need to be kept from distracting the teaching as much as possible.

Second, you may place them in our **CHILDCARE CENTER**, which will be located in one of our Childcare facilities. The childcare facility is a great place for the younger children so that they will have a place to enjoy their week while the older children are participating in classes. The Childcare Center will be staffed by one experienced childcare leaders here at Mount Hermon, who will develop activities for the whole week. Parents will have the option of helping out in the Childcare Center during trail class times.

Older (high school age) children may also help out. We will need to maintain a ratio of 2 adults or leaders for every 15 children. We will waive the childcare fee per session if you choose to help out in the Childcare Center (sessions are at the same time as classes). The childcare center will also have sign up sheet for parents at the beginning of the week, so be prepared to help out there as well as regular classes!

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE WEEK?

Each day will start at about 7 am and end between 9:15 pm and 9:30 pm, depending on the age group. If you have younger children, you may want to end your day earlier, but our staff will plan to lead activities up until about 9:15 or 9:30 for the benefit of the older children. We work to make the classes academically and physically challenging for each student. Each trail group will have the opportunity to do a creek class, the climbing tower, and the snake lab.

WHAT FORMS WILL I HAVE TO FILL OUT?

The most important forms you will need to fill out are the **Registration Form** (included below) the **Health Form**, the **Medication Form** and the **Emergency Contact Form**. At some points during the week, you may be away from your children and so we will need the health and medication forms for the safety of all participants.

WHAT ELSE CAN I EXPECT?

The weather—cool to cold at night, cool to warm and sunny during the day. Good chance of rain 1 or more days and nights. All cabins are heated!

Laundry—there is a Laundromat just down the road, so bring cash or quarters.

Parking/ Trails/ Cabins—some cabins require parking a bit away from the actual front door, so please ask about your particular cabin.

OTHER INFORMATION

We have tried to cover the basics in this informational brochure. Please, if you have additional questions or concerns, call or email us. Information on how to contact us is listed below. Once you register, we will send you a packet of all the pertinent forms along with additional detailed information, such as a list of items you may not think to bring, etc.

Dr. Rick Oliver, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Outdoor Schools

Lori Fulmer
Director of Outdoor Schools
lfulmer@mhcamp.org
831-430-1239 phone 831-335-9413 fax

(Please be aware that this schedule is subject to change)

Mount Hermon Homeschool Science School

DAILY SCHEDULE

Monday

11:00	-	12:00	p.m.	Arrival, check-in at Field House
11:00	-	12:00	p.m.	Explore grounds, Relax at Field House Field House open (basketball court, game room) from 11:00-12:00 p.m.
12:15				Line up in front of Field House
12:15	-	1:15	p.m.	Parent Orientation in Meadow View Student Orientation in Forrest View Pre-K meets (free, optional)-Parents drop kids off at Childcare
1:15	-	3:15	p.m.	Line up/Class Pre-K meets (\$) Move into cabins
3:15	-	6:00	p.m.	Free Time* (See list for activities/ideas/hours) Ponderosa Pool open 3:45-5:00 pm
5:45	-	7:00	p.m.	Potluck Dinner in Creekside
7:00	-	8:30	p.m.	Line up at Field House Students in Class. Parents in have hangout time. Meadow View Lounge Open Return to Cabins, prepare for bed Workout Room open till 11:00 pm (Get Code from Front Desk)

Tuesday

7:00			a.m.	Day begins
8:00	-	8:30	a.m.	Breakfast
8:30	-	8:45	a.m.	Class Prep time*
8:45	-	9:00	a.m.	Line up/Flag raising/prayer
9:00	-	11:15	a.m.	A.M. Class
11:15	-	11:55	a.m.	Cabin/free time
12:00	-	12:45	p.m.	Lunch
12:45	-	1:00	p.m.	Class Prep time*
1:00	-	1:15	p.m.	Line up/Announcements
1:15	-	3:30	p.m.	P.M. Class
3:30	-	6:00	p.m.	Free Time (See list for activities/ideas)
6:00	-	6:45	p.m.	Dinner
6:45	-	7:15	p.m.	Cabin time (rest, journal)
7:15	-	9:15	p.m.	Line up/ Campfire
9:15			p.m.	Head back to cabins, bedtime

Wednesday

7:00		a.m.	Day begins
8:00	- 8:30	a.m.	Breakfast
8:30	- 8:45	a.m.	Prepare for extended hike * in cabins (sack lunch!)
8:45	- 9:00	a.m.	Line up & head out
9:00	- 12:00	p.m.	Hike/Class on the trail
12:00	- 12:30	p.m.	Lunch on the trail
12:30	- 3:15	p.m.	Hike/Class on the trail
3:15		p.m.	Families meet at Line Up area to regroup
3:15	- 6:00	p.m.	Family Free Time
6:00	- 7:00	p.m.	Dinner
7:00	- 7:15	p.m.	Cabin time
7:15	- 7:45	p.m.	Line up/ Admin meet w/ parents Nats meet with students
7:45	- 9:15	p.m.	Line up/ Nighthike
9:15		p.m.	Head back to cabins, start to pack up, bedtime

*** Class Prep Time = Pack sack lunch, go to the restroom, get backpack, water bottle, pencil, class manual, long pants, hiking shoes, warm clothes, rain gear, sunscreen, any other needed materials.**

Thursday

7:00	- 8:00	a.m.	Clean cabins, Pack up
8:00	- 8:30	a.m.	Breakfast
8:30	- 9:00	a.m.	Pack up vehicles—checkout time 9:00*
9:00	- 10:15	a.m.	Line up/Final Review Class
10:15	- 10:45	a.m.	Line up/Closure meeting
10:45	- 11:00	a.m.	Turn in keys/Goodbye!

***Please note that all luggage must be moved out and cabins must be clean by 9:00 am.**

Homeschool Outdoor Science School

Registration Form 2008

For registration we must have deposit payment to hold a cabin space.

I AM REGISTERING FOR: (Note: no meals provided by Mount Hermon)

April 21-25, 2008 (4 day Program)

Early registration recommended 1 year in advance, as we expect the weeks to fill up very quickly for 2008.
We will be communicating with you later in the year to confirm your registration.

Name(s) of adults **attending** _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Cell Phone (the one you will have with you at Mount Hermon) () _____

Email _____ (please check regularly, as we will send updates via email.)

- o If you don't have email, check here if you can get updates from another family who has email.
- o If you can't get updates from another family, check here and we will send your info in the mail

Child's Name <small>Include Last name if child's last name is different then your own</small>	Age/ Grade <small>As of the date of your participation</small> Age/Grade	Participating Student? <small>K - 12th may participate-\$73 fee applies per child* **</small> Y/N	Child Care for Pre K? <small>\$10 fee applies per 2 hr session...fee waived for volunteer helpers.</small> Y/N/Maybe
1	/		
2	/		
3	/		
4	/		
5*	/		
6*	/		
7*	/		
8*	/		

* Over 4 students is \$64

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FIRST TO CHECK CABIN AVAILABILITY.

- I will be staying in a Mount Hermon cabin. My CABIN choice is** _____ **--to help you decide, see prices at** www.mounthermon.org/homeschool **(if 2008 updates are not posted, please check back later). Call or email for floor plans and descriptions (we can email these to you).**
- I will be sharing this cabin with another family—Last Name** _____
- I will be staying in my own housing in the Mount Hermon are**
- TOTAL AMOUNT OF FEES** (Include cabin fee and \$73 per participating child only—do not include childcare fees. These will be on a session-by-session basis to allow for you to be flexible with your younger children.) \$ _____
(PLEASE CALL 831-430-1239 IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH THE TOTAL—for example, if you are sharing a cabin with another family.)

\$50 non-refundable deposit required **PER FAMILY** at time of reservation.

*We must have full payment in hand 2 weeks before the arrival date—Thank You!

- Check or money order enclosed \$ _____

Charge my:

- Visa
 - MasterCard
 - Discover Card
- (American Express not accepted)

Amount \$ _____ Card # _____

Expiration _____ Signature _____

PLEASE FAX OR MAIL THIS FORM TO THE FOLLOWING:

FAX: 831-335-9413 ATTN: OUTDOOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

MAIL:

OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

ATTN: OUTDOOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

PO BOX 413

MOUNT HERMON, CA 95041