

# EMERALD BAY OUTDOOR ACADEMY 2022 PROGRAM GUIDE



# Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy

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# Welcome Letter

Greetings!

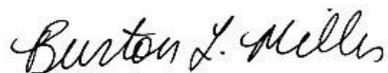
Thank you for choosing the Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy for your overnight Outdoor Education experience. We can't wait to share the magic and beauty of Catalina Island and look forward to inspiring your students in their journey as they become the next generation of environmental stewards.

Through Scouting, youth have traveled to Camp Emerald Bay for 100 years to connect with nature, learn new skills, grow in leadership, and make lifelong friendships. Now with the Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy, this unforgettable opportunity is available to schools and educational groups. The Academy builds on the legacy of scouting to prepare students for Leadership, Stewardship, Science, and Adventure!

In addition to building upon the legacy of scouting and being set in the dramatic landscape of Catalina Island, our courses are taught through two additional lenses. First, they are designed to incorporate the Next Generation Science Standards. Special attention is given to the Cross-Cutting Concepts which will apply directly to your in-classroom learning upon return. Additionally, our Resident Naturalists incorporate the core competencies of Social and Emotional Learning as developed by CASEL to ensure that students are supported, encouraged, and growing in healthy relationships during their time at Emerald Bay. We believe that our unique approach in tandem with our location provides a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

Please use this guide as you prepare for your trip. It is designed for use by educators and chaperones as well as students, families, and guardians. We are here to help you every step of the way so please let us know how else we can assist. Your planning efforts in advance will ensure that your students get the most out of their time at Emerald Bay – whether they are snorkeling through a kelp forest, observing plankton under the microscope, or stargazing with friends and smore's around the campfire!

See you soon,



Burton Miller  
Program Director

# About Us

The Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy is a youth science education program based on Catalina Island and operated by the Western Los Angeles County Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The **vision** of the Western Los Angeles County Council is **a world in which people make ethical choices over their lifetime.**

The Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy supports this vision with the **mission of inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards** through overnight science programs and Educational Outreach Partnerships.

## Our Educational Approach & Pedagogy

Our dynamic and diverse community of educators seek to create unparalleled science-based adventures and high-impact learning opportunities with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the core competencies of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) woven into the fabric of our curriculum since inception in 2018.

On-site programs on Catalina Island offer hands-on experiential learning and take advantage of the unique location of Camp Emerald Bay. Youth learn by engaging with island phenomena: snorkeling through kelp forests, kayaking to pelican-covered cliffs, and observing marine organisms under microscopes and in touch tanks in the Pennington Marine Science Center.

The Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy builds upon the 100-year legacy of Scouting at Camp Emerald Bay and extends the invitation to experience this unparalleled location and scouting skills to school groups with special efforts in place to include and support those from communities that have been historically excluded from outdoor education program opportunities.

# Program Planning Steps

## Step 1: Select your dates and length of trip (Up to 18 months before your trip)

We offer 3, 4, and 5-day overnight programs from Mid-March through May, and September through November of each year. For current availability, please contact [alix.fulham@scouting.org](mailto:alix.fulham@scouting.org) and we will be happy to find a date that works for your school or group!

## Step 2: Select Housing Option

Two housing options are available: bunk-style cabins and canvas platform tents. Both are excellent options depending on the needs and size of your group.

**Bunk-style cabins** house 8 students each with separate restroom and shower houses. Although you will never share cabins with another school, you may have neighbors from another group. Cabins have screened windows that open to allow in the ocean breeze, as well as individual reading lights above each bunk.



**Campsites** have 2-person platform tents, and your group will have your campsites all to yourself! Each canvas tent has two cots and two mattresses. Campsites have picnic tables which are perfect for evening card games or sketching the scenery in nature journals. All campsites have nearby flush toilets and showers.



### **Step 3: Contracting**

Once your dates, length of trip, and housing options have been determined, a contract will be provided. The contract includes the dates of your trip, outlines your camper numbers, and includes your payment schedule. Additionally, the contract outlines the camp rules and Certificate of Insurance requirements. You will need to initial the bottom of each page in the spot provided and sign the contract where indicated. Once returned your dates will be secured.

### **Step 4: Deposit & Payment Schedule**

A \$40 per person deposit is due within 8 weeks of receiving your contract. We then schedule a first payment and final payment, which are broken up equally from the remaining balance. The first payment will be due 3-6 months after your deposit and the final payment is due 4 week prior to arrival. This timeline is approximate depending on how short the timeline is until your school arrives. All groups are expected to be paid in full 4 weeks prior to arrival.

### **Step 5: Obtain Certificate of Insurance**

The following is required for a Certificate of Insurance for each contracted group:

The Group shall provide the Council with a certificate of insurance demonstrating a comprehensive liability policy with a combined single limit of \$2,000,000 (minimum) and naming the Council and the other Council Parties as additionally insured and defending and holding those named harmless for any acts, omissions or injuries which are not attributable to the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the Council Parties. The insurance certificate shall include an endorsement stating that ten (10) days written notice will be given to the Council of the termination, cancellation, or modification of or to the liability policy. Certificate of Insurance is due with final deposit.

### **Step 6: Create Your Itinerary (Submit at least 2 weeks prior to arrival)**

Your length of your stay will determine how many courses you select for your itinerary. Please download the most current Program Planner from the website found [here](#) for your length of stay. Your students will be in groups of 16 which will be their Animal Group. All Animal Groups will take the same courses you select; however they may not occur in the same order. Once we receive your Program Planner we will create your program schedule.

### **Step 7: Complete Participant Forms & Paperwork**

\_\_\_ Student Waivers (found in [Planning Tools](#))

- Bring the waivers with you to Emerald Bay. The originals will need to be provided to the Program Director at the opening Chaperone Meeting, so it is recommended that schools make copies for their own records.

\_\_\_ Chaperone Waivers (found in [Planning Tools](#))

- Bring the waivers with you to Emerald Bay. The originals will also be provided to the program director at the opening Chaperone Meeting.

\_\_\_ Proof of vaccinations or negative covid tests

- Tests must be taken within 72 hours prior to arrival. Proof of vaccination or negative test is required for each student and chaperone.

\_\_\_ Special Request online form

- This form is [completed online](#) and is an opportunity to communicate dietary needs, special housing requests, or any other pertinent information that we should know about your group.

## \_\_\_ Final Participant Roster

- Please bring a complete participant roster with the following information for each participant including chaperones. This will also be your Ship Manifest:
  - First name
  - Last name
  - Emergency contact name and number
  - Also include the name and phone number for the appointed Mainland School Contact

### **Step 8: Schedule a Parent & Chaperone Zoom**

We know that it can be stressful to send students away from home for overnight trips. We are happy to facilitate a Zoom meeting with parents and chaperones to review pertinent information, answer questions, and help prepare for your trip. This is an optional offer and not a requirement.

### **Step 9: Create Student Groups & Housing Assignments**

The Trip Coordinator is responsible for assigning students to Cabins, Campsites, and Animal Groups of up to 16 students. This should be a fun and thoughtful process as Chaperones know their students best. Please see page 20 for detailed instructions.

### **Step 10: Set Sail for Catalina Island!**

## **Transportation Information**

### **Harbor Breeze Groups (Long Beach to Emerald Bay)**

Most groups will be transported to Emerald Bay on a chartered ferry with Harbor Breeze. For these groups, you will meet in Long Beach at 8:00 am and will board the boat for an 8:30 am departure. The address is 100 Aquarium Way, Dock #2, Long Beach, CA 90802. You can check out more about the Harbor Breeze fleet [here](#). The crossing takes approximately 1.5 hours and brings you directly to Emerald Bay. On the return trip from Emerald Bay to Long Beach, the boat departs at approximately 11:00 am and arrives in Long Beach at approximately 12:30 pm. All students are provided with a sack lunch for the return trip.

## **Catalina Express Groups (San Pedro – Two Harbors – Emerald Bay)**

Some groups will take the commercial ferry, the Catalina Express. Travel times depend on the time of year and ferry schedule and are between 1.5 – 2.5 hours. Groups taking the Catalina Express will arrive at the San Pedro Catalina Express Terminal at Berth 95, San Pedro, CA 90731. (Note: Catalina Express also has a location in Long Beach. Do not go to that location!) Once you have arrived in Two Harbors, you will take a 30-minute shore boat from Two Harbors into Emerald Bay. You can learn more about the Catalina Express [here](#). On your last day, departure time will vary depending on the Catalina Express schedule. You will take the shore boat back to Two Harbors approximately 1 hour prior to the Catalina Express departure time and will travel from Two Harbors back to San Pedro. If you will be in transit during the lunch hours a sack lunch will be provided.

## **Arrival Day Information**

Upon arrival to Emerald Bay Pier, you will be greeted by the Outdoor Academy Staff who will lead you up the pier to the parade ground. Students and Chaperones all help carry luggage up the pier. Grab any bag – they are all going to the same place!

Once everyone is off the boat and the gear is unloaded, everyone will gather in the Campfire Circle to begin Large Group Orientation prior to going to cabins or campsites. There will be plenty of time later to get settled. Large Group Orientation will occur prior to lunch. Before dismissing for lunch, students will meet their Point Naturalist and their Animal Groups. They will also receive their housing assignments and may take their luggage to their cabin or campsite.

During lunch, the Trip Coordinator and Chaperones will meet with the Program Director for the Opening Chaperone Meeting. During this meeting, please be prepared to provide all required forms. We will also review the schedule for the week, distribute Wi-Fi codes, discuss chaperone expectations, and answer any outstanding questions.

After lunch, Orientation & Arrival Day Activities will resume in student Animal Groups. Students should change into their swimsuits after lunch and be prepared to take their float test. They should also bring their backpack with water and sun protection. Other

Arrival Day Activities include the camp tour, a visit to the Pennington Marine Science Center, and team-building games.

After the Orientation & Arrival Day Activities are complete, students will have a regular course session from 3:45 – 5:45 pm as well as an evening session from 7:30 –9:30 pm. They will definitely be ready for lights out at 10:00!

## Course List

Courses will be selected on your Program Planner found in [Planning Tools](#). All Courses are 2 hours unless otherwise noted.

\* Denotes a Core Course in which all groups participate

### Core Courses (3)

#### \* Orientation & Arrival Day Activities (2-4 Hours)

During orientation on Day 1, students will take a tour of camp, visit the Pennington Marine Science Center, complete their float test, learn how to put on a wetsuit, get briefed on camp safety, and meet with their Animal Groups for some team building!

#### \* Stewardship: Every Day is Earth Day

Even though we may not see it, our daily lives are increasingly taking their toll on the natural world. Students will participate in a conservation project to benefit Catalina Island and learn ways to be proactive at home and in their communities to reduce their impact on the environment.

#### \* Activity Block (1.5 Hours)

This afternoon session gives students the opportunity to choose their own activity. Depending on school size, we will offer between 2-4 activities including a hike, paddleboarding, arts & crafts, and archery.

### Wet Courses (5)

*Students and chaperones will get wet during these courses!*

### **Do You Know the Way to Emerald Bay? (Ocean Kayaking)**

Sit back and enjoy the view as you take up a paddle and tour the bay. We provide single person kayaks, a knowledgeable naturalist, and a PFD. The tour will cover the basics of Marine Protected Areas, Kelp Forests and Ornithology, and is a perfect option for schools visiting for a shorter amount of time and can't do each of those courses individually.

### **Swim with the Fish! (Snorkeling I)**

You've explored all we have to offer above the water, now explore the world below the water. Students are provided with snorkels, masks, fins, and a wetsuit, for a guided adventure in Doctor's Cove. Bring your courage and curiosity to explore!

### **Come Fly with Me (Ornithology)**

Have you ever wished you had a pair of wings? Students will kayak through the bay with a special focus on viewing our local birds such as the Pelican, Cormorant, and more to discover what makes our diverse group of avian friends so exceptional.

### **The Rainforests of the Sea (Kelp Forest Ecology)**

One of the world's most productive and diverse habitats, Giant Kelp beds are home to diverse and thriving communities of fish, invertebrates, and understory algae. Students hop on a kayak or paddleboard to combine adventure and learning while exploring kelp, its life cycle, and the conditions in which it thrives.

### **Get to the Point: Snorkel Around Doctor's Point (Snorkeling II) (4-5 day trips only)**

For groups that completed Snorkeling I, take your adventure to the next level with a guided snorkel trip around Doctor's Point. You'll begin along the sandy bottom of Emerald Bay, swim along the kelp and cliffs of Doctor's Point, and finish in Doctor's Cove. Total swim distance is approximately ¼ mile and is recommended for confident snorkelers.

## **Dry Courses (7)**

### **Island Biogeography: A Whole New World**

With over 60 species of plants and animals that can only be found on the island, Catalina provides the perfect backdrop to explore the unique and isolated ecosystems of islands. Students will examine how and why species ended up on the island, how they have adapted to living in their new homes, and how disturbance from humans or foreign pests can pose a significant threat. **Note:** this course includes a hike and depending on the comfort level of the group, can be either 1 or 2 miles long.

### **Seeds of Life (Botany)**

Life's pretty tough when everything's out to eat you. Despite this, plants have learned to adapt and endure all over the globe. In the session, students investigate how plants have learned to adapt to dry, fire-prone conditions and how they have responded to life without pressures from grazing animals.

### **Sanctuaries in the Sea (Marine Protected Areas)**

The Marine Protection Act helps conserve biological diversity, provide a sanctuary for marine life, and enhance recreational and education opportunities. We explore how MPAs accomplish this and how they are effective through discussion, games, and views of our local MPA.

### **Living on the Edge (Intertidal Zonation)**

When land meets sea, the changing tide creates dynamic intertidal zones, one of the harshest environments. Taught on the beach in Doctor's Cove and at the Pennington Marine Science Center, students observe first-hand how ocean life has adapted to survive life on the edge.

### **Bones Are Overrated (Marine Invertebrates)**

Often overlooked, invertebrates, although spineless, are the backbone of marine ecosystems and food webs. In this class, students discover what makes invertebrates so important and unique in the unparalleled setting of our Marine Protected Area and the touch tanks of the Pennington Marine Science Center.

## **Take a Walk on the Wild Side (Hike)**

For those looking for an adventure off the water, our naturalists will lead a hike that sparks student curiosity as we observe wildflowers, birds, bison and more! Hikes range from easy to hard, we have it all.

## **Team Building: Better Together**

After a fun icebreaker, students will be divided into teams for various interactive team challenges. Students will be challenged to communicate and collaborate with each member of the team in order to complete the task.

## **Labs (4)**

### **Take a Deep Breath. You Can Thank Plankton for That! (Plankton Lab)**

They may be microscopic, but phytoplankton are responsible for producing up to 50% of Earth's oxygen. Students collect their own plankton from Emerald Bay, identify and discuss the different groups, talk about their importance for life on Earth, and examine them up close in our plankton lab.

### **Let's Get SoFishticated! (Ichthyology Lab)**

Globally, fish provide food for more than 1.5 billion people each year, but most people have never seen a fish in the wild. In the class, students will work closely with a marine biologist to identify features and adaptations during a dissection. Students will also observe local fish up close in the Pennington Marine Science Center.

### **Would You Like Microplastic with That? (Microplastics Lab)**

Working its way up the food chain at alarming rates, microplastics are filling the guts of fish, birds, marine mammals, and even humans. Students run experiments to see if they can find microplastics on the beach, what they can do to reduce plastic waste, and make a positive difference for our oceans.

### **Is It Me or Is It Warm in Here? (Climate Change Lab)**

Is the world really getting warmer or is the Earth just going through a natural cycle? Students will complete a lab on greenhouse gases to determine their effect, if any, on climate.

## **Night Courses & Group Experiences (5)**

### **Earth: An Island in The Night (Astronomy)**

Since the dawn of man, humans have been captivated by the vast unknown that fills the night sky. Students will model the phases of the moon, take a tour of the constellations and point telescopes up the heavens for a close look of planets, nebulas, and nearby galaxies. Course is offered round-robin style and Animal Groups can be combined.

### **Creatures of the Night (Nocturnal Wildlife)**

Catalina Island leads a double life. Students will investigate why some animals wait for sundown to emerge and will go on the hunt to locate some of our nocturnal neighbors. Hike is approximately 1 mile.

### **The Cove Has Eyes: Night Snorkel (Snorkeling II) (4-5 day trips only)**

For groups that have completed Snorkeling I, make a return trip to Doctor's Cove but this time - at night! In addition to the standard snorkel gear, students will also don a glow stick and a dive light for this unforgettable experience. Night Snorkel is recommended for confident snorkelers.

### **Ready for S'more Fun? (Campfire and S'mores)**

Our staff will build your campfire and provide the ingredients for S'mores. Enjoy your campfire time with your school or group however you would like - performing skits, singing songs, sharing stories, or reflecting on your time at Emerald Bay.

### **Movie Night**

We will provide a family friendly movie or feel free to bring your own. You can also bring movie snacks for your group or we'll set up a mini snack-bar with treats for sale during the movie.

# Sample Itinerary (3-Day Program)

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	
7:00		<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	
7:30		7:30 - 8:00	7:30 - 8:00	
8:00	Arrive & Load Boat		Pack up & Clean Cabins/Campsites	
8:30	Departure & Cruise to Emerald Bay	<b>Morning Session 1</b>	Closing Circles	
9:00		8:15 - 10:15		
9:30				
10:00	<b>Arrival Day Orientation &amp; Activities:</b> Meet in Campfire Circle		Group Photo	
10:30			Line up on Pier	
11:00		<b>Morning Session 2</b>	Departure & Cruise Home	
11:30		10:30 - 12:15		
12:00				
12:30	<b>Lunch 12:30 - 1:00</b>	<b>Lunch 12:30 - 1:00</b>		
1:00	<b>Arrival Day Activities</b> 1:15 - 3:15 Meet in Animal Groups	<b>Break</b>		
1:30		1:00 - 2:00		
2:00		<b>Afternoon Session</b>		
2:30			2:00 - 4:00	
3:00	<b>Break 3:15 - 3:45</b>			
3:30	<b>Afternoon Session</b> 3:45 - 5:45			
4:00				
4:30		<b>Activity Block</b>		
5:00		4:15 - 5:45		
5:30				
6:00	<b>Dinner 6:00 - 6:45</b>	<b>Dinner 6:00 - 6:45</b>		
6:30	<b>Ship's Store Open</b> 6:30 - 7:15	<b>Ship's Store Open</b> 6:30 - 7:15		
7:00				
7:30	<b>Night Session</b> 7:30 - 9:30	<b>Night Session</b> 7:30 - 9:30		
8:00				
8:30				
9:00				
9:30				
10:00	<b>10pm Lights Out</b>	<b>10pm Lights Out</b>		

# Chaperone Expectations

- Remain with assigned Animal Group for all courses and activities including snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, stand up paddle boarding, and conservation projects. During courses, chaperones handle discipline of students and will assist the Naturalists if safety or group management issues arise.
- Supervise students during mealtimes, free time, and in between sessions.
  - During mealtimes, this includes sitting at tables with students, helping to control noise levels, leading set-up and clean-up activities. This will help ensure an enjoyable dining experience for all.
  - During free time, ensure students are following the rules of camp including staying within the designated boundaries acting in a safe and respectful manner.
  - Between sessions, this means that students are to be preparing for their next session so they can arrive prompt and ready for their course, dressed appropriately and with the proper gear and items.
- Supervise sick or injured children. For minor injury or illness, you are responsible for escorting the student to the health lodge, where a staff member will help you find the medication or supplies you need. You are responsible for consulting the medical form before administering medication.
- Supervise students in cabins. This includes enforcing quiet hours and lights out, limiting horseplay, conducting bed checks, and ensuring cleanliness.
- Document which students passed the Float Test and ensure only those who passed the float test participate in wet courses.
- Emerald Bay will respect and adopt the school's policy regarding use of electronic devices. However, Emerald Bay does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen property.
- Alcoholic beverages and/or their consumption are not permitted at any time while staying at Camp Emerald Bay.
- Smoking is only permitted in designated areas and only by adult chaperones.
- Taking photographs should not interfere with courses. During courses, candid photos are permitted however courses should not be interrupted for posed photographs. Posed photos can be arranged outside of course time and the staff will be happy to help facilitate.
- Communicate any needs or potential issues to the Program Director. These may include but are not limited to: youth health or behavioral issues, youth conflicts, schedule or program issues, and staff concerns.

# Youth Expectations

- Youth will participate to the best of their ability in all aspects of the program.
- Youth will be on time for all courses, dressed appropriately for the activity and with the necessary gear or items for that course.
- Youth will treat others with respect including fellow students, chaperones, and staff.
- Youth will practice the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace:
  1. Plan ahead & prepare
  2. Travel & camp on durable surfaces (stay on trails)
  3. Dispose of waste properly
  4. Leave what you find
  5. Minimize campfire impact
  6. Respect wildlife
  7. Be considerate of other visitors
- Youth will respect the facilities of Camp Emerald Bay by keeping them clean and not causing any unnecessary wear and tear.
- Youth will be willing to challenge themselves with new activities and step outside of their comfort zones.
- Youth will not enter off-limits areas of camp including the maintenance yard, waterfront (unless it is during a course and accompanied by a Naturalist), and cabins of another gender.
- Youth will be conservation minded and only use/take what is needed when it comes to showering, water usage, and mealtimes.
- Youth will communicate openly with chaperones and staff about any needs or potential issues including health concerns, conflicts with other youth, or if any extra help, assistance, or encouragement is needed when trying new activities.

# Youth Protection Guidelines

As a program of the Western Los Angeles County Council Boy Scouts of America, Youth protection and safety is paramount. The following guidelines are adopted from national BSA Policy for the Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy. They are to be followed by all adult chaperones and program staff.

- Two adults over 21 years of age must accompany every group. At least one female adult leader must be present for any group bringing female youth.
- One on one private contact between adult leaders and youth is prohibited.
  - In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.
  - Private online communications (texting, phone calls, chat, IM, social media, etc.) must include another adult chaperone or parent.
- Discipline must be constructive.
  - Discipline must reflect the core values of the Academy and the attending school.
  - Corporal punishment is never permitted.
  - Disciplinary activities including isolation, humiliation, and ridicule are prohibited.
- Chaperones, staff, and youth share the responsibility for the safety of all participants in the program, including adherence to these guidelines and health and safety policies.
  - Chaperones are responsible for monitoring behavior and intervening when necessary.
  - Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in the Academy program and may result in immediate dismissal home.
- Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.
  - Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
  - Separate shower and toilet facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. When this is not possible, separate times must be made available.
- Privacy of youth is respected

- Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers.
- Adult chaperones should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.
- The buddy system should be used.
- The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is prohibited.
- All aspects of the Academy program are open to observation by chaperones.
- Hazing and initiations are prohibited.
- All forms of bullying and harassment including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited.
- Inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited.
- Sexual activity is prohibited.
- Appropriate attire is required for all activities.
- Adult leaders and youth members have a responsibility to recognize, respond to, and report Youth Protection violations and abuse.
- All persons participating in Academy programs are mandated reporters of child abuse. Reports must be made to local law enforcement and child protective services.

For more information on BSA Youth Protection policies, visit <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection>

# Packing List

Schools should select a colored yarn or ribbon to attach to each item of their gear for easy identification, as the boat may be shared by multiple groups.

Guests must carry their own luggage on and off the boat and several hundred yards to their sleeping accommodations. Therefore, all guests are advised to bring only what they can carry. Please mark all clothing and items with first and last names. Please pack enough clothing for the duration of the trip as laundry facilities are not available.

**Note: Clothing WILL get dirty! Pack swimsuits and towel on top as all participants will need to quickly change on Day 1 for the Float Test which is during Orientation.**

Essential		Non-Essential	Prohibited
Reusable Water Bottle	Sandals, water shoes, or old shoes that can get wet (no flip-flops)	Sunglasses	Knives
Shirts	Sleeping Bag or Bedding	Camera	Spear Guns
Shorts	Toiletries	Pillow	Fireworks of any kind
Long Pants	Sunscreen	Binoculars	Lighters/Matches
Long-Sleeved Shirt	Flashlight	Spending money for Ship's Store	Curling Irons / Blow Dryers
Jacket	Hat	First Aid Kit	Valuables
Sweatshirt	Backpack or Day Pack	Colored Pencils	Alcohol
Raincoat or poncho	Notebook or Journal		Non-Prescription Drugs
Underwear	Pens and Pencils		Water Guns
Socks	Plastic bag (to bring home wet clothes!)		Water Balloons
Bath Towel			Gum, Candy, Seeds
Swimsuit			Fishing Gear
Beach Towel			<b>Anything prohibited at school is prohibited at Emerald Bay</b>
Tennis or Hiking Shoes			

Emerald Bay does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items and will adopt school policy regarding electronic devices and cell phones.

# Animal Group Planning Tool

## (Cabin & Campsite Assignments)

Chaperones are responsible for assigning students to Cabins, Campsites, and Animal Groups. This should be a thoughtful process as Chaperones know their students best.

Animal Groups have up to 16 students, and it is with this cohort that students attend their courses. Animal groups are made up of students from 2 cabins or 8 tents. A list of local species is provided [on our website](#) – feel free to use the provided list or get creative with other favorite species!

The downloadable Animal Group planning tools are available [on our website](#) with a separate form for Cabins or Campsites.

This Planning Tool is also where Chaperones track which students have passed the Float Test which is completed during Orientation.

**Note:** You will not know your Point Naturalist or Cabin/Campsite Names until arriving at Emerald Bay, so those can be left blank.

Cabin & Animal Group Planning Tool							
Animal Group Name:							
Point Naturalist:							
Cabin Group #				Cabin Group #			
Gender:	M / F (Circle)			Gender:	M / F (Circle)		
Cabin Name:				Cabin Name:			
	First	Last	Float?		First	Last	Float?
	1				1		
	2				2		
	3				3		
	4				4		
	5				5		
	6				6		
	7				7		
	8				8		
Chaperone:				Chaperone:			

<b>Campsite &amp; Animal Group Planning Tool</b>							
Animal Group Name:							
Point Naturalist:							
Campsite Name:							
	First	Last	Float?		First	Last	Float?
Tent 1 M / F				Tent 5 M / F			
Tent 2 M / F				Tent 6 M / F			
Tent 3 M / F				Tent 7 M / F			
Tent 4 M / F				Tent 8 M / F			
Chaperone:				Chaperone:			

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What if there is a medical emergency?

All camp staff are trained in CPR and first Aid. Camp Emerald Bay has an emergency first responder on staff who is on-site during programs. In addition, Emerald Bay is within a 15-minute response time from Two Harbors, which is the nearest site of Los Angeles County Fire & Rescue. While medical emergencies are dealt with swiftly, our programs and courses have safety measures in place with the goal of preventing emergencies before they occur.

## What if a student needs to call home?

Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy will adopt each school's policy regarding the use of electronics. Cell phone service is not reliable on the island however there are landline phones at camp that can be used depending on the circumstances. We do not recommend students call home for homesickness, as it is often more helpful for them to focus on engaging in the courses and activities.

## Is there internet access?

Wi-Fi is available to chaperones as we know that it is important to maintain a certain level of communication with the mainland. However, we ask that Wi-Fi use remain

limited to remain present for your youth. Adult chaperones are provided Wi-Fi codes at the opening chaperone meeting. Wi-Fi is not available to youth participants. There is a computer lab available with four computers and youth usage is left up to the decision of the school.

## **What if my child needs medication?**

Schools are responsible for the storage and management of all student medication. Emerald Bay staff does not administer any medications for participants.

## **What if someone needs first aid?**

All Emerald Bay staff are first aid and CPR certified. However, it is our policy that the school provide first aid to their own students. Any illness or injury that cannot be treated with first aid will be referred to LA Fire and Rescue.

## **What if there is inclement weather?**

Catalina Island generally enjoys moderate weather all year round, although it is possible to have rain, wind, fog, or a combination of these conditions at any time. Please be prepared for all types of weather. In the rare situations when weather prohibits our regular courses, we will modify our programs with alternate activities that can be completed indoors or under shelters. Additionally, if there are high winds and very rough sea conditions, it is possible that your boat transportation will be postponed until the conditions have improved.

## **What are your COVID-19 precautions?**

All programs at Camp Emerald Bay are currently operating with the following guidelines:

- Program participants must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival at Emerald Bay.
- All staff are either vaccinated or receive a weekly COVID-19 rapid test.
- Masks are worn indoors (except while sleeping) and outdoors whenever social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Employees are asked not to work if they have signs or symptoms of illness and are provided separate housing for quarantine if symptomatic.

- Camp Emerald Bay provides private quarantine space for any chaperones or program participants that exhibit symptoms.
- We are continually monitoring the updated CDC recommendations pertaining to outdoor youth camps.

## **What are your safety precautions for the water?**

Our Wet Courses take place in Emerald Bay and Doctor's Cove, which is adjacent to the bay. Both are naturally protected areas with mild conditions and crystal-clear water. Here are additional precautions that we take for our activities:

- All students take a float test on the day of their arrival. They will wear a life jacket and jump into the water feet first. This allows them to demonstrate that they are comfortable in the water, even if they are not a strong swimmer.
- All water activities have a lifeguard ratio of no more than 1:16 with an additional Waterfront Manager on duty.
- All students, chaperones, and staff wear life vests while kayaking or paddleboarding.
- All students, chaperones, and staff wear full wetsuits while snorkeling to provide flotation.

## **What animals are on Catalina Island?**

The largest animal on Catalina Island is the American Bison. However, it is very rare that a bison will be seen in camp because they are confined to a different part of the island by a gate. The mammals that students may see in camp include mule deer, Catalina Island foxes, and ground squirrels. In the water, participants can expect to see a wide array of fish and invertebrates. The most common sharks are small and docile bottom dwellers such as the leopard or horn sharks which can also be touched in our touch tanks! Large sharks have never been spotted in either Emerald Bay or Doctor's Cove.

## **Where can I send mail?**

If parents or administration would like to send mail to their students, it is recommended that it is mailed a week prior to their arrival in camp to ensure delivery. Please address mail as follows:

**Letters:**

Student Name – Camper  
Name of School  
Camp Emerald Bay  
PO Box 5066  
Avalon, CA 90704

**Packages (USPS):**

Student Name – Camper  
Name of School  
Camp Emerald Bay  
1 Cove Road  
Avalon, CA 90704

**How is the food?**

Students enjoy three warm meals a day from our kitchen with covered outdoor dining. Vegetarian options are always available, and gluten free, vegan, or other special diets can be accommodated with notice provided via the [online special request form](#). In addition to the main entrée and sides, breakfast always has a cereal and yogurt bar option while lunch and dinner also have a fresh salad bar option. Between meals there is always fruit available as a snack. Here is a sample menu of a typical day:

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Scrambled Eggs	Chicken Nuggets	Pasta
Biscuits	Mac & Cheese	Meat Sauce
Gravy	Canned Fruit	California Mixed Vegetable
Country Hash Browns	Cookies	Cheesy Garlic Bread Sticks
Oatmeal	Salad Bar	Italian Ice
Yogurt & Cereal Bar		Salad Bar

**Do you sell anything at camp?**

Yes! The Ship’s Store is our camp shop which sells snacks, souvenirs, apparel, and outdoor supplies. The Ship’s Store is open each night after dinner and students are welcome to bring spending money if they would like to pick up a snack or souvenir!

## What are the facilities like?

To view a photo gallery of our facilities, please [click here](#).

## Where can I find a map of camp?

A camp map can be found in the [Planning Tools](#) section of our website.

# Land & Cultural Acknowledgement

The location of Camp Emerald Bay has historically been stewarded by the Tongva, the native residents of Catalina Island, originally known as Pimu. Their caretaking of the island and surrounding waters for over 8,000 years left minimal environmental impact. The Tongva were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands on the Channel Islands up until the 1820's to mainland Los Angeles. However, the resilient Tongva community has been actively maintaining and strengthening their connection to the Island, researching their history, and telling their stories through efforts such as the Pimu Catalina Island Archaeological Field School and the Ti'at Society. The staff of the Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy recognize our context within this history and therefore seek to approach our current stewardship of this culturally significant site with profound respect and care.

For more information about the Tongva tribe, please access the following resources:

[To Be Visible](#)

[Pimu Catalina Archaeology Field School](#)

[Tending Nature: Rethinking the Coast with the Ti'at Society \(video\)](#)

## **Additional Links & Contact Information**

Website: [www.emeraldbayoutdooracademy.org](http://www.emeraldbayoutdooracademy.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/emeraldbayoutdooracad](http://www.facebook.com/emeraldbayoutdooracad)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/emeraldbayoutdooracademy](http://www.instagram.com/emeraldbayoutdooracademy)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgFpfTLmeIsFwP0nZ927ag>

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<https://beascout.scouting.org>