

EMERALD BAY OUTDOOR ACADEMY

2025 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 the kelp forest, observing plankton under the microscope, or making s'mores around the campfire!

See you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JLH' with a stylized flourish.

Joschi Anderson
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 and 5-day overnight programs from Mid-March through Memorial Day, and Labor Day through Mid-November of each year. Our programs run Monday – Friday, not on weekends. For availability, please contact alix.fulham@scouting.org.

Step 2: Select Housing Option

Two housing options are available: bunk-style cabins and canvas platform tents. Both are great 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. Additionally, students can bring a combination lock for their locker.



***Dorm-Style Cabins:** Depending on group size and other groups in camp, you may be placed in a dorm-style cabin which each has two rooms with three bunks, joined by a bathroom and shower, for a total of 6 students per suite.



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

Amount Due	Date Due
\$40 per person deposit	Within 8 weeks of receiving contract
½ of balance	3 months after deposit
Remainder of balance	4 weeks prior to arrival
Certificate of Insurance	Due with final payment

The payment schedule may vary from what is described above depending on how much time there is from contract creation to trip date. Full payment is always required 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 payment.

Step 6: Complete your Program Planner 2 weeks prior to arrival *(If Program Planners are not received by the Monday of the week prior to arrival, **your courses will be selected for you as the staff work schedules require advanced planning**)*

Your length of your stay will determine how many courses you select. Please download the most current Program Planner from the website found [here](#) for your length of stay and submit via email.

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 which will be emailed to you prior to your arrival.

Step 7: Attend a Parent & Chaperone Zoom

Each Spring and Fall we host 2 live zoom meetings for Trip Coordinators and Chaperones. The first live meeting each season will be recorded and uploaded to the Planning Tools webpage after its conclusion. We highly recommend that Trip Coordinators attend a live meeting or watch the recording. Additional chaperones are optional, but will provide them with useful information prior to attending.

For Families and Caregivers, we have a prerecorded Information Session that will provide all your families with the needed information to know what to expect and to be prepared to have an amazing experience at Emerald Bay. Any questions that are not answered may be directed to us for answering.

Step 8: Complete Participant Forms & Paperwork

___ Student Waivers: 2 copies (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: 2 copies (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.

___ 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.

___ Program Planner (found in [Planning Tools](#))

- The Program Planner is where you will select the courses for your students. The Program Planner is due two weeks before your Arrival Day to give ample time to prepare your Program Schedule as well as the staff work schedules.

___ Animal 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 thoughtful process as Chaperones know their students best. Please see page 21 for detailed instructions.

___ Boat Manifest

- Please bring a completed Boat Manifest with the First and Last name of each participant including teachers/chaperones and include your final total number.

Step 9: Set Sail to Emerald Bay!

Transportation Information

Groups are responsible for their own ground transportation to their boat departure terminal. Boat Transportation to Emerald Bay is provided by a variety of companies and will vary from group to group. You will receive a Transportation Confirmation via emailed Google Folder link before the start of your scheduled season, once arrangements have been finalized. This Transportation Confirmation will contain the company name, port address, boarding and departure time, return date arrival time, and a map with directions. Please be sure to use those details when making or confirming your travel plans.

Harbor Breeze

Harbor Breeze departs from either Long Beach or San Pedro and ferries directly to Emerald Bay. The crossing takes approximately 90 minutes. You can check out more about the Harbor Breeze fleet [here](#). Harbor Breeze departures are typically around 9:00 am from the mainland. For return trips, all students are provided a sack lunch and boats depart Emerald Bay around 11:00 am.

Harbor Breeze Long Beach: 100 Aquarium Way, Dock #2, Long Beach, CA 90802

Harbor Breeze San Pedro: 600 Sampson Way, Berth 85, San Pedro, CA 90731

Catalina Classic Cruises

Catalina Classic Cruises (CCC) departs from Long Beach near the Queen Mary and ferries directly to Emerald Bay. The crossing takes approximately 2 hours. You can explore the CCC fleet [here](#). CCC departures are typically around 9:00 am from the mainland. For return trips, all students are provided a sack lunch and boats depart Emerald Bay around 11:00 am.

Catalina Classic Cruises: 1046 Queens Highway, Long Beach, CA 90802

Catalina Express

The Catalina Express is the commercial ferry which is sometimes used for smaller groups. Travel times depend on the time of year and ferry schedule and are between 1.5 – 2.5 hours. The Catalina Express will drop off in Two Harbors where groups will board a smaller Shore Boat for a 30-minute trip to Emerald Bay. You can learn more about the Catalina Express [here](#). On your return 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.

Catalina Express San Pedro: Berth 95, San Pedro, CA 90731

Note: Catalina Express also has a location in Long Beach. Don't go there!

Arrival Day Information

Arrival Day schedules will vary slightly depending on the boat arrival time to Emerald Bay. Your Program Schedule will have the most accurate information for your group.

- **Arrival:** The Outdoor Academy Staff will greet you at the dock and help you and your students disembark. You will unload all of your gear from the boat and carry it to the designated spot shown to you by the staff. There is a bathroom and water break opportunity as your group unloads. Trip Coordinators need to have their permissions slips ready to provide to the Program Director.
- **Large Group Orientation:** Large Group Orientation will typically occur prior to cabin assignments. We will review expectations for the week, go over camp safety, and participate in a group icebreaker. When multiple groups are in camp, Large Group Orientation may be combined.
- **Animal Group Orientation & Housing Assignments:** After Large Group Orientation, students are broken up into Animal Groups for games and housing assignments. Students and Chaperones will be shown to their Cabins or Campsites with a quick break before lunch.

- **12:30 Lunch:** Students will line up with their Animal Groups for lunch and will be dismissed one group at a time.
- **Chaperone Meeting:** When students return to their Animal Groups after lunch, the Chaperones and Program Director will meet to review the schedule for the week, distribute Wi-Fi codes, discuss chaperone expectations, and answer any outstanding questions.
- **Animal Group Orientation Continued:** After lunch, Orientation will continue within Animal Groups for a camp tour and opening journals.
- **Float Test:** Before lunch, students will learn the time during the afternoon that they will take their Float Test. They will get a break before and after to change and dry off. The Float Test is guided by staff and lifeguards and involves a jump into the water while wearing a PFD (Personal Floatation Device). Students will demonstrate that they can follow instructions while in the water (show the lifeguard their nose and toes) while remaining calm, to simulate an unexpected entry into the water during an activity. Chaperones are encouraged to complete the float test with the students.
- **Courses:** After the Orientation & Arrival Day Activities are complete, students will have their regular courses including Island Biogeography and an evening session after dinner.

Course List

Please select your Courses on your Program Planner found in [Planning Tools](#). All groups will participate in our three Core Courses: Island Biogeography, Kelp Forest Exploration and Environmental Stewardship. 5-Day Programs will also have the Parsons Hike as a Core Course.

Core Courses

Island Biogeography

Catalina Island 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 and how they have adapted to living in their new homes. Island Biogeography also includes a hiking orientation with a 1.5 mile scenic “island stroll” to enjoy the views.

Kelp Forest Exploration

One of the world's most productive and diverse habitats, kelp forests are home to diverse and thriving communities of fish, invertebrates, and understory algae. This half-day course allows students to explore kelp from the land and sea. The dry portion of the course includes a visit to the Pennington Marine Science Center touch tanks as well as a land-based lesson on the structure and functions of kelp. The wet portion is an exploration of the kelp forest from a kayak, paddleboard, or with a mask and snorkel. Trip Coordinators will choose their "Exploration Activity" on the Program Planner.

Environmental Stewardship

The mission of the Outdoor Academy is to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. During the Stewardship course, students experience stewardship on both a small and large scale. Students learn about Marine Protected Areas as a big-picture conservation method and visit the Emerald Garden to learn about small-scale composting while studying decomposers. In addition, students engage in a workshop session to identify environmental threats in their home communities and brainstorm both large- and small-scale potential solutions.

Additional Courses (Available for all programs)

Ichthyology Lab

Globally, fish provide food for more than 1.5 billion people each year, but many people have never seen a fish in the wild. In the course, students will work in small groups to identify features and adaptations during a sketching and dissection session of a Pacific Mackerel.

Plankton Lab

They may be microscopic, but phytoplankton are responsible for producing up to 50% of Earth's oxygen. Students will learn how scientists collect plankton from the ocean, will examine and identify plankton under a microscope, and will build their own plankton in a neutral buoyancy competition.

Oil Spills Cleanup Lab

Oil is one of the most widely used fossil fuels. But what happens when oil accidentally spills into the ocean? In this lab, students explore the effects of oil spills on marine environments and work in teams to test various methods used to clean it up and help ocean ecosystems recover.

Arrow Point Hike

Enjoy incredible views of the land and sea on a 1.5 mile round-trip hike to Arrow Point. The Arrow Point hike offers students a manageable challenge while practicing growth mindset. Student curiosity is sparked as we observe plants, birds, animals, and more!

Intertidal Zonation

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

Team Building

In their Animal Groups, students will be challenged to communicate and collaborate with each other in increasingly difficult activities.

StewARTship Studio Workshop

A passion for environmental stewardship comes from a strong connection with nature, and what better way to connect with nature than through art? In StewARTship, students will use the natural inspiration of Catalina Island and create an art project with basic instruction from our staff.

Archery

Archery is about focus and concentration. At the archery range students will exercise their growth mindset while practicing and improving skills under the supervision of the range commander.

Just Beach!

The typical itinerary at the Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy is packed in order to maximize your time at camp. For schools that wish to opt for more unstructured time, you can Just Beach on arrival day! After your float test, you will have all-school free time on the beach supervised by a Naturalist. Students can wade with a life jacket, beachcomb, read, or play games. During inclement weather, a sheltered location will be utilized such as the Dining Hall Porch. **Note:** Schools should plan to have their students spend the full time on the beach and any student leaving the waterfront will need to have a youth buddy as well as an adult chaperone.

DIY Course

Schools have the option to use a session to create their own curriculum and lead their own course. This can be used for chapel or other school-specific content. Facilities that may be available for a DIY course include the outdoor chapel, dining hall porch, the Helm classroom, or other picnic table areas around camp. Please note: Staff are not provided for a DIY course.

Night Courses & Activities (Available for all programs)

Astronomy

Since the dawn of mankind, humans have been captivated by the vast unknown that fills the night sky. Students will model the phases of the moon, learn how to use a planisphere to identify constellations, and take a short hike to observe the night sky.

Nocturnal Wonderland

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 around camp while participating in activities that help them learn about nocturnal adaptations.

Campfire & S'mores

Our staff will build your campfire and provide the ingredients for S'mores. From there, your campfire is your time to enjoy with your school however you would like – performing skits, singing songs, or reflecting on your time at Emerald Bay.

Movie Night

After a long day of exploring Catalina Island, allow your students to kick back and enjoy a movie. We will provide a family-friendly DVD or feel free to bring your own.

Dance Party

For those schools with students that still have extra energy at the end of the day, we will set up a dance party with lights and student-appropriate music.

Additional Day Courses (5-Day Programs)

2-Session All-School hike to Parsons Beach (Core Course for 5-Day Programs)

Longer programs offer the ability to explore more of Catalina's interior. During this 2-session course, Naturalists will lead students in a 2 ¼ mile round trip hike to Parsons Beach to learn more about the native ecosystems of Catalina Island, build kelp forests on the beach out of found natural materials, and participate in a guided reflection.

Additional Water Activities (Snorkel, Kayak, Paddleboard)

Students will apply growth mindset with their friends as they learn a new skill of snorkeling, paddleboarding, or kayaking in and around Emerald Bay while observing local wildlife above and below the surface of our crystal-clear water.

Additional Night Courses (5-Day Programs)

Night Kayak

What is better than paddling underneath the moon and stars? Students will enjoy a tranquil and memorable kayak trip around Emerald Bay while searching for bioluminescence and other nighttime sights.

Night Snorkel

For groups that have completed a daytime snorkel, 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. For those students who may not be comfortable with a night snorkel, we will set up a beach campfire so they can enjoy the ambiance with their group!

Sample Itinerary (3-Day Program)

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
7:00			Pack up before Breakfast
7:30		Breakfast 7:30 – 8:00	Breakfast 7:30 – 8:00
8:00		Morning Session 1 8:15 – 10:00 Kelp Forest Exploration (Dry)	Clean housing
8:30	Arrive & Load Boat		Closing Circles
9:00	Departure & Cruise to Emerald Bay		
9:30			
10:00			School Photo
10:30	Large Group Orientation & Housing Assignments	Morning Session 2 10:30– 12:15 Kelp Forest Exploration (Wet): Kayak	Line up on Pier
11:00			Departure & Cruise Home
11:30			
12:00			
12:30	Lunch 12:30 – 1:00	Lunch 12:30 – 1:00	
1:00	1:15 –4:15 Animal Group Orientation & Island Biogeography (with break)	Break 1:00 – 1:45	
1:30			
2:00		Afternoon Session 1 1:45 – 3:30	
2:30			
3:00			
3:30		Environmental Stewardship	
4:00			
4:30	Float Test 4:30 – 5:30	Afternoon Session 2 4:00 – 5:45 Arrow Point Hike	
5:00			
5:30			
6:00	Dinner 6:00 – 6:45	Dinner 6:00 – 6:45	
6:30	Ship's Store Open 6:30 – 7:15	Ship's Store Open 6:30 – 7:15	
7:00			
7:30	Night Session 7:30 – 9:00	Night Session 7:30 – 9:00	
8:00			
8:30			
9:00	Astronomy	Campfire	
9:30			
10:00	10pm Lights Out	10pm Lights Out	

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.
 - If students are utilizing cabins between course times or meals for any reason, ensuring that at least one chaperone is on the cabin hill for supervision.
- 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

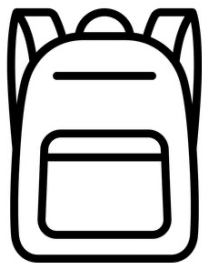
<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection>

Packing List

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.

Please remember these mandatory items:



Backpack



Refillable Water Bottle



Notebook & Pencils



Jacket or Hoodie

Essential		Suggested	Prohibited
Sleeping Bag or Bedding	Water shoes or sandals with a back strap (NO FLIP FLOPS OR SLIDES for water activities. Crocs are permitted with back strap engaged)	Combo lock for locker	Knives
Backpack or Day Pack		Pillow	Spear Guns
Refillable Water Bottle		Fitted Sheet	Fireworks of any kind
Notebook or Journal		Sunglasses	Lighters/Matches
Pens and Pencils		Camera	Curling Irons / Blow Dryers
Shirts	Toiletries	Binoculars	Valuables
Shorts	Sunscreen	Spending money for Ship's Store	Alcohol
Long Pants	Flashlight	First Aid Kit	Non-Prescription Drugs
Long-Sleeved Shirt	Hat	Colored Pencils	Water Guns
Jacket	Beach Towel		Water Balloons
Sweatshirt	Bath Towel		Gum, Candy, Seeds
Raincoat or poncho	Plastic bag (to bring home wet clothes!)		Fishing Gear
Underwear			Anything prohibited at school is prohibited at Emerald Bay
Socks			
Swimsuit			
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. Tent space usually has less limitations and there may be the option to have one student per tent. To choose Animal Group names, 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 (8-Person or Dorm Style) or Campsites.

This Planning Tool is also where Chaperones track which students have passed the Float Test which is completed on Arrival Day.

Cabin & Animal Group Planning Tool							
Animal Group Name:							
Lead Naturalist:							
Gender:	M / F (Delete one)			Gender:	M / F (Delete one)		
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:			
Chaperone Housing:				Chaperone Housing:			

Tent Campsite & Animal Group Planning Tool							
Animal Group Name:							
Lead Naturalist:							
Campsite Name:							
	First	Last	Float?		First	Last	Float?
Tent 1M / F				Tent 5M / F			
Tent 2M / F				Tent 6M / F			
Tent 3M / F				Tent 7M / F			
Tent 4M / F				Tent 8M / 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. However, a medication fridge is on site should any medications require refrigeration.

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 basic 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 in consultation with the Camp Medical Officer.

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 may be modified. This decision is made by the boat charter companies and we will remain in communication throughout the rescheduling process.

What if a student gets sick?

Student illness is assessed on a case-by-case basis. Chaperones should monitor the health and symptoms of students to identify any potential needs. If a student

presents with symptoms of an illness such as cold, flu, or Covid-19, the Trip Coordinator and Program Director will work together to develop a plan. This could include isolating the student in separate housing, requesting further assessment by LA County paramedics, transport to the Avalon clinic, or arranging for transportation home.

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 and able to follow instructions, 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. This sample menu does not guarantee that these will be the exact meals served.

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. If you'd like to preorder any items, please check out the form in our [Planning Tools](#).

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.

Continue your Journey through Scouting

The Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy is a program of the Western Los Angeles County Council – Boy Scouts of America. Our program is built on the legacy and values of Scouting and we encourage all student participants to continue their journey of stewardship and personal growth through Scouts. For more information about Scout programs, visit www.bsa-la.org or beascout.scouting.org.

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 \(video\)](#)

Orientation Video Links

Orientation (English): <https://youtu.be/UI8bWB6h7cM>

Orientation (Spanish): <https://youtu.be/1NtVRKHhlbc>

Packing (English): <https://youtu.be/ntkDQ7w8o4k>

Packing (Spanish): <https://youtu.be/4WeZx2M7zRw>

Additional Links & Contact Information

Website: www.emeraldbayoutdooracademy.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/emeraldbayoutdooracad

Instagram: www.instagram.com/emeraldbayoutdooracademy

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgFpfTLmeIsFwP0nZ927qg>

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