Maroon Outdoor Education Centre
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

1. MAROON OEC
Maroon Outdoor Education Centre is operated by Education Queensland and is located on the shores of Maroon Dam, approximately 120 km from Brisbane.

The Maroon OEC curriculum enables students to use outdoor experiences to learn about themselves, each other and their environment. All programs are designed to assist students to develop and demonstrate learning outcomes.

Programs are developed through a consultative process involving Maroon OEC staff and teachers from your school.

Programs conducted at Maroon OEC involve a high level of physical activity and are conducted predominantly outdoors.

Maroon OEC is a 30 minute drive from the nearest ambulance, doctor or hospital and, in some instances the response time for medical attention may exceed 3 hours.

2. PROGRAM BENEFITS
An effective outdoor education program can provide students with the opportunity to:
♦ Enhance the skills desirable for members of an effective team.
♦ Develop quality relationships where they are understood, accepted, respected, and included.
♦ Enjoy being active in a unique and supportive environment.
♦ Share experiences with their classmates that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

3. MANAGING RISK
While at Maroon OEC students will be engaged in learning experiences that utilise outdoor adventure activities to assist student learning.

Adventure based learning experiences will be conducted by a Maroon OEC teacher with specialised skills and training. As an Education Queensland school Maroon OEC implements risk management procedures that adhere to the Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment guidelines.

While all care and attention is paid to student safety and well being, the nature of being actively engaged in outdoor adventure activities can be unpredictable. Should an incident occur Maroon OEC is able to respond quickly and efficiently through a safety network incorporating 2-way radios, power boat and four wheel drive vehicles.

Students can minimise the risk of an incident with thorough preparation and by demonstrating personal responsibility.

4. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
The concepts below are central to a student’s responsibilities while at Maroon OEC, ensuring safety and maximum benefit for all program participants.

Respect
Students have the responsibility to respect themselves, others, the natural and built environment. Students must:
♦ Accept the rights of others.
♦ Care for all equipment and property.
♦ Respect the belongings of others.
♦ Enter their own rooms and tents only.

Safety
Students have a responsibility to act safely and reasonably in accordance with Maroon OEC procedures and regulatory laws made by government bodies. Students must:
♦ Follow all safety directions.
♦ Accept responsibility for their own and others safety.
♦ Wear footwear at all times (fully enclosed shoes during activities).
♦ Swim only when supervised.
♦ Protect themselves from exposure to the sun and from dehydration.
♦ Use activity equipment only under the supervision of a Maroon OEC teacher.
♦ Ensure alcohol, cigarettes, illicit substances/articles or drugs (unless prescribed by a doctor and with the full knowledge of the co-ordinator) are not in their possession.
♦ Remove all jewellery prior to adventure activities. If jewellery is unable to be removed, or suitably taped the student will not be able to participate.

Participation
Students have the responsibility to participate in the program to the best of their ability for the benefit of all participants. Students must:
♦ Ensure their own alertness, attentiveness and punctuality.
♦ Endeavour to foster positive relationships with others.
♦ Comply with school and Maroon OEC policies regarding electronic equipment.

Co-operation
Students have the responsibility to cooperate with others to assist in the effective functioning of the programme. Students must:
♦ Be prepared to participate in all programmed activities.
♦ Strive to be part of the group and assist the group to achieve their goals.

Students who are unable to abide by these responsibilities present a danger to themselves, other participants and the success of the program. Parents of such students will be contacted. These students may be returned to school/home. Parents will be responsible for their transportation from Maroon OEC to school/home.

A better future – together we can
5. LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences are selected and sequenced to assist students to achieve the school's stated outcomes. Students will be involved in some, but not all, of the following adventure activities:

**Group problem solving activities; Low ropes**

These activities require the initiative of the group to complete a task. They utilise a variety of equipment with the safety of each person being a key component of the task. They do not require safety ropes and harnesses.

**Aquatics; Canoeing; Kayaking**

All participants are required to wear covered shoes and a correctly fitted personal flotation device:

- **Canoeing** – using a single blade paddle in an open canoe. Two canoes may be tied together to increase stability.
- **Kayaking** – using a double bladed paddle in an enclosed double kayak.
- **Rafting** – using a range of equipment to design and build a raft for their group.

**High ropes; Rockclimbing; Abseiling**

High challenge activities involve individual challenges higher than 4 metres. Students use harnesses, helmets, and ropes to remain safe while attempting challenges on constructed equipment and natural surfaces. All activities are conducted under the direct supervision of a Maroon OEC teacher.

**Bushwalking; Camping; Expeditions**

Camping, bushwalking and expeditions involve students sleeping in tents or shelters at campsites away from the facilities of Maroon OEC. In many instances students will bushwalk or canoe to and from their campsite. Many of these campsites are accessible by vehicle (4WD) however some campsites are only accessible on foot.

**Orienteering; Navigation activities**

Students are taught how to use a map and compass and undertake a series of sequenced courses to find controls that have been marked on a map.

Your school will inform you of the activities planned for your program. Please note that the planned activities may change in some circumstances.

6. MEDICAL AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

A Student Medical and Parental Consent form must be completed in detail. This information may be crucial in times of medical emergency. The contents of these forms are treated confidentially.

Students with medical conditions such as asthma, allergic reactions, diabetes and other serious conditions are required to complete a Maroon OEC management form. Parents must advise the school's program coordinator in writing of any special dietary requirements.

All student medical and parental consent forms must be completed, signed and dated by a parent/guardian.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Vocational Education in MOEC Programs**

Students in Year 10, 11 & 12 may be offered the opportunity to enrol in Vocational Education as a part of their program. Students who successfully complete their program will be eligible for a statement of attainment outlining their results. This statement can be used for credit towards other vocational courses and may also appear on their Queensland Certificate of Education.

**Cabins**

Each cabin contains four bedrooms with two double bunks in each room. Seven out of nine cabins have toilets and showers attached.

**Electronic equipment:**

Students are advised not to bring electronic equipment (including mobile phones) to Maroon OEC. Cameras are allowable, except those contained within a mobile phone.

**Mobile Phones**

The mobile phone coverage at and around Maroon OEC is unreliable. If you need to contact your child please use the Maroon OEC phone or email contacts.

**Expensive clothing**

It is not advisable to bring expensive clothing or footwear because of the nature of the activities undertaken.

**Aerosols and spray deodorants**

Aerosols and spray deodorants are not to be brought on camp. These are prone to trigger the Maroon OEC Fire Alarm system.

**Pocket money**

Students have no need to bring money to Maroon OEC as there is no shop.

**Insect repellent**

Students are strongly advised to use insect repellent and wear a long sleeved shirt for protection against insect bites.

**Chewing gum**

Due to the harmful effects that gum can have on wildlife, students are not to bring chewing gum to Maroon OEC.

**Knives**

Students are not to bring sharp knives or cutting implements to Maroon OEC. These will be issued to students when preparing meals.

**Sun Safety**

The nature of an Outdoor Education program dictates that students will be in the outdoors for extended periods of time during their program.

It is strongly recommended that all students apply full block sun screen and wear broad brimmed hats and long sleeved shirts to minimise the harmful effects of the sun. Singlets tops are unsuitable for activities at Maroon OEC.

For more information:

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