Maroon Outdoor Education Centre
VISITING TEACHER INFORMATION

Thank you for agreeing to accompany your students to Maroon Outdoor Education Centre. Maroon OEC is operated by Education Queensland and is located on the shores of Maroon Dam, near Boonah. Schools are encouraged to think of Maroon OEC as an extension of their school campus or work place. The resources at the Centre are available for use in the manner that best meets the students’ needs.

The Centre's Curriculum encompasses the areas of Personal Discovery, Environment, Community and Outdoor Activity. All programs are designed to assist students to develop and demonstrate learning outcomes. In a typical program at Maroon OEC you will be working with a Maroon OEC teacher and up to 24 of your students. Your group will remain together for the duration of the program and your Maroon OEC teacher will lead the group through a sequence of learning activities.

Maroon OEC teachers come from a variety of teaching backgrounds and complete an extensive induction and training program to enable them to teach various aspects of outdoor education. Your Maroon OEC teacher will work collaboratively with you in the planning, teaching and reflecting stages of the program.

Maroon O.E.C. School Wide Pedagogy

| Guided reflection on shared experiences promotes critical thinking, self and group discovery and enables learners to value their accomplishments. |
| Experiences in outdoor environments provides opportunities for learners to question their personal lifestyle choices and their commitment to environmental sustainability. |
| Opportunities for real-life learning within natural environments provide unambiguous feedback on behaviours and decisions. |

Accepting and meeting sustained physical, social and emotional challenges encourages learners to extend themselves beyond their comfort zone.

Participation in group challenges and problem solving activities encourages active citizenship.

Problem based learning fosters opportunities, within a range of novel outdoor learning environments, for learners to critically evaluate how their actions influence themselves, other group members and the environment.

Appreciation of diversity, cultural knowledge and respect for the environment encourages the development of a sense of community.

Social support and trust are incorporated in learning opportunities to ensure the physical and emotional safety of learners.

Inclusion in an environment of dedicated, active and enthusiastic staff provides opportunities for learners to explore lifestyle alternatives including their involvement in outdoor and environmental related pursuits.

Self direction and self regulation, including negotiation, allows the opportunity to learn through experience.

Inclusion in a group working in unfamiliar circumstances promotes strategies to adapt to change and uncertainties.

Emphasis is placed on the transfer of learnings from our learning environment to other life contexts.
General Information

- The maximum group size of groups at Maroon OEC is 24 students. This allows for suitable risk management and safe and efficient programming. Please note that some national park campsites have a limit of 18 persons.
- There may be students from other schools at the centre during your time at Maroon OEC. They will be working in their own groups and staying in separate cabins (except when negotiated in exceptional circumstances). You will share the dining hall for meals. (Please talk to the staff from other schools to establish common expectations of students in the dining hall and around the cabin area.)
- Equipment supplied for teachers and students includes: all equipment for activities and backpacks, tents, sleeping mats, cooking equipment for campout.
- Campout activities involve groups sleeping in tents or shelters at campsites away from the facilities of Maroon OEC. In many instances students will walk or canoe to and from their campsite. Many of these campsites are accessible by vehicle (4WD), however some campsites are only accessible on foot.
- A safety network incorporating 2-way radios, power boats and four wheel drive vehicles is in place to support all student activity groups.
- 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.
- All Maroon OEC teachers carry a radio and first aid kit.
- Many Maroon OEC staff live at the centre. It is important that loud noise stops by 10.00 pm.
- There is no mobile phone reception at Maroon OEC. There are phones at the centre that may be used by visiting teachers.
- Our website (maroonoec.qld.edu.au) has more information about our centre.

Accommodation and Facilities

Students are accommodated in one of nine cabins, each containing four bedrooms with two double bunks in each room. Most cabins have toilets, showers and a common room. Each cabin has a teacher room with two single beds and storage space. Blankets and pillows are provided, however students and staff must bring their own sheets and pillowslips to maintain a healthy, hygienic environment.

Maroon OEC has a large range of adventure based activities and access to numerous campsites. At the Centre there is a dining hall (with sound system, tape player, CD player and microphone), library, carpeted teaching area, darkroom, and a building with facilities for specific studies. (eg. sciences, history, geography and art).

Daily Routine

(Blocked times are set while other times are variable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.00 am</td>
<td>Kitchen Duty Team to Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 12.00</td>
<td>Morning Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 pm</td>
<td>Kitchen duty team to Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30 - 1.30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30 - 4.30 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.30 pm</td>
<td>Free time</td>
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<td>5.30 pm</td>
<td>5.00 pm</td>
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<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>5.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30 - 9.30 pm</td>
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<td>10.00 pm</td>
<td>9.30 pm</td>
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The Tennis/Basketball Court is out of bounds until 8.00 am
Role of School Staff

Whilst at the Centre school staff have a direct responsibility to the Principal of the Centre. School staff work with the Maroon staff to become a teaching team.

- Whilst at Maroon OEC visiting teachers have a 24 hour duty of care for their students.
- Sections of the program to be facilitated by visiting school staff should be carefully prepared and all arrangements for use of facilities organised prior to the beginning of the session.
- All adventure activities included in programs are staffed by Maroon OEC in accordance with the DOEM and relevant leader competencies required by Maroon OEC.
- Visiting teachers are responsible for the supervision of students at all times while they are not under the direct control of Maroon OEC staff.
- As visiting teachers have a better knowledge of the students it is anticipated they would play a major role in the disciplining of students. Where support is required, the Centre’s Administration will consult with the parties involved and act accordingly.
- The Centre’s Principal oversees decisions regarding students being sent home, changing groups, or being excluded from activities, after consultation with school staff. Please do not threaten students with these actions.
- Programs are jointly planned by the Centre’s staff in consultation with visiting staff and students.
- If a visiting teachers arrives part way through a program, they must report to the Deputy Principal prior to commencing program.
- If you are in doubt at any time regarding your role please discuss your concerns with the Maroon OEC teacher or the Centre’s administration.

Staff required to drive Centre vehicles must provide a current drivers licence and abide by the directives common to the usage of government vehicles. These will be explained by administration.

Kitchen Duty Tasks

At some time during your stay it is likely that you will be responsible for kitchen duty. All meals in the dining hall are prepared and served by our kitchen staff. The duty group are required to set-up before the meal and clean-up after the meal. Please:

- Make sure the duty group report 30 minutes before meal time.
- Students must wear covered footwear when doing kitchen duty.
- Organise students to complete the tasks as indicated in the dining hall.
- Actively supervise the kitchen duty group, particularly in the wash up area after the meal.
- Supervise the entry and seating of students.
- Organise students to be served in an orderly manner.
- Ensure the duty group members are served and eat first.
- Make any announcements at the end of the meal.
- Dismiss the students (students must be supervised by a teacher in the cabin area).
- Use the instruction sheets in the dining hall to complete the required tasks.