

PRE-OUTING MEETING WITH YOUR FIELD GROUP

Prior to leaving campus it is CRITICAL to set a positive group tone and discuss our expectations relative to behavior, attitude, and observance of OPP policies and procedures. There will be time on Friday morning to set the stage for a positive departure from campus. Please address the following.

SET THE GROUP TONE

Keep in mind that people will be interacting for the first time in their small groups and you will likely have a mixture of 'fluffy bunny rabbits' and 'rabid wolverines'. Participants may feel excited, optimistic, nervous, grouchy (the rabid wolverines) and anxious while trying to find their place in the group. It is up to YOU to help people feel comfortable and develop positive impressions about the upcoming experience, their traveling companions and the leadership team. Suggestions:

- Learn names – use a name game if you'd like.
- Learn something about each group member. Use a socializer like 'Incorporations' or 'World Map'... you get the idea
- Find out about specific goals/anticipated learnings.
- Share your experience as a participant on this outing

ADDRESS EXPECTATIONS ABOUT BEHAVIOR/ATTITUDE

People need to know what our expectations are. For many, this will be their first exposure to our Program and to each other. We expect that people will treat each other respectfully and be informed of important information. Keep in mind that students are earning an academic grade for their experience and while a 'fun' experience is a definite goal, fun cannot be at the expense of the learning experience or in direct opposition to the OPP's policies and procedures. Please address the following:

- This is a group experience and as such, you have responsibilities to each other, the leadership team, and the OPP. Every decision you make in the backcountry has the potential to impact others. So think about others and most importantly YOUR safety and the safety of OTHERS. Keep in mind that we (the leadership team) has a legal responsibility for your safety, so we respectfully request that you not only listen to what we convey, but adhere to our requests. When we arrive at our first camp location we will discuss some basic safety protocols for camping.
- Language – we are not prudes, but in the interests of respecting others, please eliminate crude language.

- Helping each other. If someone is injured or ill, we will ask for your help to distribute the injured/ill person's load. If you become injured, please accept help. It's not easy and it's natural to be a 'tough' guy or gal, but you may further injure yourself and ultimately make it harder on others.
- Cell phones etc. – we understand that you may chose to carry your cell phone and maybe even an iPod. BUT, we expect that you will respect others who may be seeking a natural experience devoid of technological interference. We expect you to be engaged in the group experience by keeping phones, music players off at all times in a group setting.
- Guys – keep your shirts on. You are in class. Follow the dress code for the SRC as an example.
- Make the best effort and keep a positive attitude – chin up at all times and work hard
- Behavior in public places – if we stop enroute at a public store or other venue, please remember that you are ambassadors of the UO and OPP. We stick out in stores and other places. We expect everyone to be suitably dressed, well behaved and polite to others. Do NOT congregate in masses by doors, in the middle of the parking lot etc.
- Following OPP policies and protocols: seatbelts/drugs/alcohol/smoking. We will observe the no smoking policy on our trips, because we are in the classroom.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS/POLICIES TO ADDRESS AT CAMP

- Set camp boundaries and address hazards.
- Location of water
- Don't leave camp alone and always tell the leadership team where you would like to go.
- No walking on the beach without supervision.
- No bare feet. Wear hiking boots or camp shoes. A foot injury can be debilitating
- Take a light with you if you need to go to the bathroom at night and let a tentmate know that you are going on a bathroom break. It's a good idea to leave a light on in the tent so you can locate it if you need to venture a little ways away from the tent .

**LEADERS – WE EXPECT YOU TO SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE AND BE GREAT
ROLE MODELS!**