



Year 9 Experiential Learning Camp

Dear Parents / Guardians

In preparation for the Year 9 Experiential Learning Camp, please find below important information.

Dates: Sunday 4 to Friday 9 May 2025

Venue

The Outdoor Education Group Camp Margaret River, Karridale; Blackwood River; Leeuwin- Naturaliste National Park. This venue has private camping, high ropes and activities on site. Hamelin Bay is 5 minutes away, Wilyabrup sea cliffs is 40 minutes away and the Blackwood River expedition area is 20 minutes away.

Camp Theme

This camp is a compulsory part of the education at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. The programme revolves around community living where the students are responsible for their groups throughout the camp, it is the main preparation for their 10-day expedition in Year 10. The Program is run by The Outdoor Education Group with the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School staff being included in their groups as active members of the small community. The basics of campcraft will be reinforced with students living in tents and cooking on barbecues or stoves for the duration of the camp. The adventure activities are used equally to teach the students new skills and reinforce their own self-concept within a group.

Camp Objectives

The Experiential Learning Camp aims to:

- Heighten awareness and respect for:
 - self, through outdoor challenges
 - others, through group experiences and sharing decisions
 - the natural environment, through direct experiences
- Promote increased self-esteem, motivation and confidence by providing opportunities for attempting challenging (physically and mentally), unfamiliar activities in a supportive group atmosphere
- Foster interdependence by:
 - continuing to develop an ability to create and maintain healthy relationships with others
 - providing experiences of reliance on others and responsibility for others
 - working toward developing an organised, self-sufficient group that meet challenges as a team
 - developing and practising group decision making skills
 - developing group strategies around problem solving and resolving conflicts
 - promoting reflection and critical thinking around social relationships on camp compared with everyday situations
- Teach and develop the following Experiential Learning skills and concepts;
 - basic camping and cooking skills
 - safe practices and habits in the outdoors
 - basic abseiling, rock climbing, roping and belay safety skills
 - basic canoeing skills
 - basic navigation and bushwalking skills
 - group dynamics in problem solving and conflict situations
- Instil and encourage environmental awareness and sound environmental practice
- Foster recreational activities which are responsive to the natural environment
- Promote reflection on camp experiences and facilitate relating experiences / lessons learned on camp to life at school and home



Camp Outline

- Acknowledge and learn about Traditional Custodians, Noongar people
- Students camping in groups and are responsible for camping, cooking, timings etc.
- Full day Abseiling and Rock Climbing at Wilyabrup sea cliffs
- Half day High Ropes Course
- Half day of co-operative games, Low Ropes Course and Indigenous session
- Two and a half day expedition component incorporating:
 - One full day canoeing with camp out on Blackwood River
 - One and a half days bushwalk with camp out near Blackwood River

General Information

General information about The Outdoor Education Group can be found [here](#)

Specific details around our camp can be found [here](#) by logging in to the Parent Portal which is on the top right;

School: Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School; **Password:** bcgsoeg25

Consent/ Medical Form: Consent2Go

Consent2Go invitation must be completed by Monday 24 March (start of Week 8).

There may be additional information required as current information is for within a school context, not in a remote camp context.

We would appreciate your prompt attention in reviewing this form as it is essential that all student details and medical information is current.

Information Sessions

A **student** information session will be held at School on Friday, 14 March during HAT.

A second **student** session will be held at School on Friday, 2 May during HAT.

A **parent** information session with OEG will be held on Wednesday 26 March from 5.00pm to 6.00pm, in the School Chapel. This information session is a great opportunity to discuss the programme as well as what to bring, and what to expect. There will be an opportunity for questions.



Packing and What to Take

A Packing List for the BCGS Year 9 camp can be found on the OEG Portal [here](#)

This outlines the correct type and quantity of clothes required for the camp. It is vital that you pack according to the packing list, as all items need to be fit for purpose for this camp which may include rain, cold or heat. It is important that students do not take mobile phones or anything that isn't on the packing list. There are four recommended items which are required on all BCGS Camps, from Kindergarten to Year 12 so, in most cases families will only need one set of recommended items. These items may also be shared between families if required at different times. In addition, many items on the packing list can be borrowed or purchased second hand, you don't need to purchase everything new!

- If you require medication(s), bring two lots (you must have one as a spare). They must be in two prepared Webster Packs and handed to the teacher when you arrive at school on Day 1.
- All belongings should be packed into a soft bag (duffle type bag). No suitcases or hard bottom bags. Students will transfer their belongings into their hiking pack when they arrive at camp.
- Bring a daypack with raincoat, hat, full water bottle, packed morning tea and lunch for Day 1.

Options for Purchasing and/or Hiring Equipment and Clothing

We are not expecting you to spend extra money, many items can be borrowed from family or friends if you have access. The recommended items are required on all camps at BCGS from Year 1 to Year 12 and can be used many times out of school. There are many camping store options in Bunbury for you to purchase gear from. The recommended items (sleeping bag, inner sheet, sleeping mat and rain coat) can be purchased online from [One Planet Camplist](#) as the equipment has been tested and approved for use on all BCGS camps and activities. There is no requirement to obtain clothing or equipment from one single place, there are numerous other local organisations who sell outdoor clothing and equipment. You can also view and purchase similar items with a BCGS discount at Anaconda, BCF or Kathmandu.

Transport

Buses will leave BCGS Pavillion carpark at 8.15am on Sunday, 4 May and return at approximately 2.30pm on Friday 9 May

There will be an opportunity for students to be picked up (and dropped off) at Vasse, to make arrangements for this, please [email Mr Brooksbank](#) for a Permission Form. This must be completed and returned by Monday 31 March

What to do on Day 1, Sunday, 4 May

Students should:

- Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, and camp footwear
- Bring a daypack with raincoat, hat, full water bottle, packed morning tea and lunch
- Leave their phone at home
- Arrive at school (BCGS Pavillion carpark) at 7.45am
- Find out what group they are in and board bus for campsite or Wilyabrup (abseiling and rock climbing)
- Put medications (x 2) in two prepared Webster Packs and hand to their teacher when they arrive at school.



Important Dates 2025

- 14 March Student Meeting during HAT period
Preparing for Experiential Learning Expedition
- 24 March Deadline for completion of Consent2Go
Deadline for Permission Forms for drop off and pick up in Vasse
- 26 March 5.00 pm Parent Meeting with OEG Staff
- 2 May Student Meeting during HAT period
Final for Experiential Learning Expedition
- 4 May Depart for Experiential Learning camp with The Outdoor Education Group (7.45 for 8.15am)
- 9 May Return from Experiential Learning Expedition with The Outdoor Education Group (~ 2:30pm)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions:

Simon Hanson: ph. (08) 9722 6102 or simon.hanson@bcgs.wa.edu.au

Rob Brooksbank ph. (08) 9722 6025 or rob.brooksbank@bcgs.wa.edu.au

Kind regards,

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