

# Maroon Outdoor Education Centre

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### 1. THE CENTRE

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.

### 2. PROGRAM BENEFITS

Adolescents live in a society of unprecedented technology; reduced physical activity and imposing environmental issues. These factors are having a noticeable impact on the well being of young people as evidenced by the increase of obesity and mental health issues at a younger age.

An effective outdoor education program can provide students with the opportunity to:

- ◆ Develop quality relationships where they are understood, accepted, respected, and included.
- ◆ Enjoy being active in a unique and supportive environment.
- ◆ Identify and interact with authentic people that they can trust.
- ◆ Share experiences with their classmates that they will remember for the rest of their lives.
- ◆ Find out more about themselves and each other in the absence of other distractions.

### 3. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The concepts below are central to a student's responsibilities while at the Centre, 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.
- ◆ Protect all program participants and permanent Maroon OEC residents from excessive noise at unreasonable hours.

#### 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.
- ◆ Be attentive in briefing sessions and during activities.
- ◆ 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.***

### 4. 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
- ◆ Environmental activities
- ◆ Canoeing; Kayaking
- ◆ High ropes; Rockclimbing; Abseiling
- ◆ Orienteering; Navigation activities
- ◆ Social games
- ◆ Bushwalking; Camping

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

## 5. 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 medical management form. This form provides information required to care for your child.

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

## 6. GENERAL INFORMATION

### *Location*

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.

### *Programs*

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

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

### *Staffing*

All Maroon OEC teachers are employed by Education Queensland and registered with the Queensland College of Teachers. They possess a wide range of abilities and experience in outdoor education and its applications to the school curriculum.

### *Supervision*

During all activities, students are supervised by at least one specialist teacher skilled in the activity and first aid.

### *Camping*

Camping activities involve students 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.

### *Communication Network*

A safety network incorporating 2-way radios, power boats and four wheel drive vehicles is in place to support all student activity groups.

### *Facilities*

Each cabin contains four bedrooms with two double bunks in each room. Most cabins have toilets, showers and a common room.

Maroon OEC also has a dining hall, library and two classrooms.

### *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 contact details.

### *Expensive clothing*

It is advisable not 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.

### *Sun Safety*

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 and midriff tops are unsuitable for activities at Maroon OEC.

Program timetables and group management options attempt to limit the time that students are in direct sunlight during the middle of the day however the nature of an Outdoor Education program dictates that students will be in the outdoors for extended periods of time during their program.

### *Dietary requirements*

Parents must advise the school's program co-ordinator in writing of any special dietary requirements.

#### **For more information:**

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