

What's Underneath? Snorkeling Field Trip

Snorkeling Field Trip Information and Waiver Form

Each youth should have:

- **A swimsuit** (If possible, youth should wear their swimsuit under their clothing – a wetsuit will be provided for students to wear over their swimsuit.)
- **Towel**
- **Plastic bag** (for wet bathing suits)
- **Water bottle**
- **Dry underclothes** (to change into after the snorkel)

The Calapooia Watershed Council will provide:

- **Wetsuit** (5.5mm or 7mm suit keeps youth warm & provides buoyancy)
- **Wetsuit hood, gloves, and booties**
- **Snorkel mask**
- **Private changing space**



Upon arriving at the campsite, a member of the snorkel team will meet the vans. Parking is available at the day use area; there may also be parking at the reserved campsite. We will head down to the river for a welcome and introductions. After this, youth will be separated into their small groups. Depending on group sizes, one or two groups will head back to the campsite to change into wetsuits, and the rest will spend time exploring and experiencing the river bank and riparian area. Students may use one of 4 pop-up tents to change if they choose. Once the first group have changed into wetsuits, they will be escorted down to the river to begin their river exploration. The second group will head up to the campsite to change before entering the water themselves.

Upon entering the river, a team member will give a short safety talk and demonstrate how to breathe through a snorkel. When comfortable, the youth can explore the river for a designated period of time (approximately 1-2 hours). The study area will be clearly defined, and any bank hazards clearly marked. Students can follow their own curiosity as they observe behaviors of fish and other aquatic life, explore habitats, collect macroinvertebrates, and take in the lessons the river has to teach them.

Occasionally, team members may call youth out of the water to share their experiences with the group. At the end of the program, youth will gather to reflect on their experiences. The first group to enter the water will be the first to exit the water to get changed.

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Dear Guardians/ Parents,

As part of the Environmental Leadership for Youth program, youth will take part in the Calapooia Watershed Council freshwater snorkeling program. This is a unique opportunity for students to see below the surface of the river, learn about underwater habitats, and connect with their environment in a new and exciting way.

Participants will be wearing 5.5mm or 7mm wetsuits & DO NOT need to know how to swim. These are very thick wetsuits & provide excellent buoyancy.

Youth will snorkel in shallow, slow moving water of the upper reaches of the South Santiam River. All youth will stay together in a well designated area of the river. As the safety of students is of utmost importance to the Calapooia Watershed Council, all students will be trained and supervised by certified instructors.

A wet suit, gloves, hood, booties, and snorkel mask will be provided.

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Snorkel Field Trip Waiver 2023

Name of Participant: _____

Permission is granted

Permission is NOT granted

Emergency Contact _____

Phone # _____

Secondary Emergency Contact _____

Phone # _____

The Calapooia Watershed Council and Snorkeling Program Partners cannot completely mitigate the transfer of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, especially when involved in this snorkeling activity. Participation in the snorkeling program includes possible exposure to COVID-19.

See attached document for a list of COVID-19 protocols for the Freshwater Snorkeling Field Trip.

In consideration of the advantages of this activity, I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Calapooia Watershed Council, all agents and employees thereof from liability for bodily injury or property damage that might occur during this trip. If this participant has any medical conditions that require health services and/or medication(s) while on this field trip, I have indicated those needs in the space provided below.

Medical condition or health concerns (severe allergies or relevant medical conditions):

Your Name: _____

Relationship to Participant: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____