

Visiting the Oregon National Primate Research Center

Groups of up to 60 individuals may schedule visits to the Primate Center through the office of the Public Information Officer for Education Outreach, Diana Gordon (503-690-5201 or gordondi@ohsu.edu). There is no charge for tours, which are scheduled M-F, from 9-3 p.m. (tours beginning at 3 o'clock end by 5 p.m.).

For large groups (over 24 students), an advance visit to the school is required so that Diana can explain the history and mission of the Primate Center, and generally prepare the students for the visit. During this time, information about the science that is conducted here is relayed in an age-appropriate, interactive manner, and students have the opportunity to ask questions about research careers, etc.

For middle school level students the visit to the Center consists of a brief presentation focusing on monkey behavior and observation techniques, followed by a visit to the sheltered housing units where students conduct informal observations and collect data using an ethogram. Small groups of students are broken out from the larger group and taken to view the snow monkeys. The entire visit requires approximately 90 minutes. Since it is conducted largely out of doors, students should be instructed to dress for the weather.

Smaller groups (under 24 students) are in general easier to manage, and transit time around the Center is less of an issue. Plan for a 2 hour visit, and all information and activities (history, mission, observation exercise, etc.) will be covered.

There are currently many openings on the calendar for both fall and spring, but when school begins they go very quickly. Last year several groups were not able to schedule visits, due to the increasing popularity of this destination. You are encouraged to sign up as early as you can. Reminding students that photography is not allowed in advance can help reduce the disappointment that this announcement invariably brings.