

Summer 2018

Hi Back Country Adventure RAD Camper,

My name is Josh Thompson and I'm Big Lake Youth Camp's RAD Camp Director for 2018, and I'm excited that you have chosen to spend a week of your summer with the RAD team. You are registered for Back Country Adventure RAD Camp during July 29-August 5, 2018, and we will depart from Big Lake Youth Camp (BLYC) on Monday morning and will spend the next five days backpacking, exploring a wilderness area around BLYC, and practicing basic mountaineering. Our backpacking trip will end on Friday, when we'll be shuttled back to BLYC to spend the weekend enjoying the programming at BLYC's main campus.

The backcountry is an excellent classroom and provides a unique opportunity for learning. You will learn outdoor living skills (Leave No Trace, packing, campsite selection, basic cooking and food identification, staying warm and dry, and backcountry lightning), mountain travel (map reading, travel plans, route finding, compass navigation, hazard evaluation), environmental studies (tree ID, useful astronomy, citizenship, stewardship, and land management education), and risk management and assessment.

Summer in central Oregon is hot and the sun is intense. Your RAD camp instructors and counselors will do their best to minimize the group's time in the sun, but hydration and sun protection are extremely important while being outdoors in these conditions. Please be sure to pack a hat and water bottle as included on the packing list. It is important you come to camp prepared with everything on the packing list. Also, please bring light warm layers of clothing. It can get chilly and wet in central Oregon, even in the summer! Cotton is the worst type of clothing to bring because it holds water and will not insulate when wet. Please make sure that the clothes you plan to wear while on the trail are not cotton. Some suggested materials are wool or capilene.

Since we operate in remote wilderness locations, Big Lake's RAD Camp staff carry cellular and satellite communication devices in case of an emergency. Our staff are equipped with a variety of medical certifications to promote your health and well-being.

If you have any questions concerning your RAD Camp, curriculum, packing, or gear, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Sincerely,

Josh Thompson
RAD Camp Director
Big Lake Youth Camp
RAD@biglake.org