



Welcome to Mount Rainier Institute!

Your child is about to embark on an exciting learning adventure that they will never forget. The staff here at Mount Rainier Institute is eagerly awaiting their arrival and will do everything possible to make this a positive experience.

Mount Rainier Institute is an outdoor school operated by the University of Washington. Students will be engaged with hands-on science, team building, group games, investigating old growth forests, and exploring Mount Rainier National Park. This trip is a fantastic experience that is not only a lot of fun, but it is an educational adventure. For more information check out their website at <http://www.rainierinstitute.org>.

Our curriculum helps teachers meet state curriculum standards while incorporating traditional outdoor learning activities including campfire songs, games, night hikes, and much more. At Mount Rainier Institute, we strive for excellence and create an opportunity for your child to explore their world by learning, appreciating, and understanding the Mount Rainier region.

To immerse your student in the program, we ask that students not use phones while at MRI. If there is an emergency and you need to reach your child, please use the phone number and address below. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your school staff. If they are unable to address your concerns, feel free to contact the Mount Rainier Institute.

Mount Rainier Institute Address and Phone Number

9010 453rd St. East
Eatonville, WA 98328
253-692-4161

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hayes".

John Hayes
Director

Center Overview

In partnership with Mount Rainier National Park, University of Washington created the Mount Rainier Institute. Located at University of Washington's Pack Forest, Mount Rainier Institute is an overnight environmental learning center that uses the natural and cultural resources of Mount Rainier National Park and Pack Forest. Our mission is to provide outstanding nature-based education experiences that are rooted in science and nurture the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders.

Mount Rainier Institute provides schools in our region with in-depth, multi-day programs focusing on science/STEM education. Mount Rainier Institute helps connect students and teachers to Mount Rainier National park, and uses the park and Pack Forest as its "classroom." We partner with schools to provide experiences that enhance curriculum, enrich science, and build community.

Students from all backgrounds have an opportunity to develop their relationship with the environment at Mount Rainier Institute. Creating a multicultural, scientifically and ecologically literate citizenry that cares about the environment, National Parks and other public lands is essential to an environmentally sustainable future. Programs that foster an appreciation for science and nature, build confidence in being outdoors, connect students to National Parks, and introduce students to potential career paths in the environmental and conservation professions are crucial to this vision.

We believe in...

- **Education**
All those involved with Mount Rainier Institute grow and develop knowledge and understanding of science and the environment.
- **Place**
We strive to express the value of the Mount Rainier region.
- **Inspiration**
We believe it is essential to educate and to inspire an appreciation for the joy and beauty of nature, and to become active stewards.
- **Community**
It is essential to foster a sense of community amongst students, staff, and our partners. Meaningful collaboration with one another will to create a positive learning environment.

Student Expectations

These guidelines are meant to make it easier for all of us to live together and create an atmosphere where everyone feels safe and free to learn. To ensure that this happens, we have one rule- RESPECT:

Let's RESPECT yourself and others and keep this a safe place where no one gets injured.

- Follow all COVID rules and restrictions. These restrictions will be outlined prior to your arrival.
- Do not climb on trees, beams, and other high structures.
- Turn in all medication to your teachers.
- Use fire safety equipment only in real emergencies and do not play with or touch the sprinkler heads.
- Wear shoes at all times while outdoors.
- Do not run indoors.
- Do not use "put downs" or inappropriate words, or tease others.
- Respect other people's belongings and materials.
- Do not fight or hit anyone.
- Stay in your cabin.
- Only enter another cabin if you are invited and an adult is present.

Let's RESPECT this beautiful natural area.

- Stay on the established trails.
- Do not pick any plants unless authorized by an instructor.
- Return all animals we are studying to their proper homes.
- Respect all living things.

Let's RESPECT the buildings and keep them looking great for other students.

- Do not write or carve on walls, beds or dressers.
- Pick up your trash and put it in the proper container.
- Do not bounce on beds.
- Leave all food and snacks at home. You may attract unwanted visitors to the cabins, like mice and ants.
- Help us to keep the cabins neat and clean by doing your morning.

Let's RESPECT our teachers, chaperones, and instructors and make this a fun and exciting learning experience.

- Follow all program schedules and be on time.
- Stay within the campus boundaries unless you are led by an adult.
- Be good listeners to your instructors and do what they ask of you.
- If you did bring something you should not have, give it to your teacher right away.
- Remember that you must be with an adult at all times.
- Always bring your PMA (Positive Mental Attitude)

Those students who do not follow the rules are sent home. It will be the parent/guardian's responsibility to arrange and provide transport for their student.

Student Packing List

It is important to remember that you will be outdoors as much as possible during your stay at the center, so it is necessary that you come prepared. If you do not have some of the items **don't think that you need to buy them**; you should substitute, improvise, or talk to your teacher.

Prepare for the weather; it can be warm, cold, windy, rainy, sunny, or snowy in the Mount Rainier region.

Remember that you will be carrying your luggage, so do not bring more items than you can carry. We suggest you pack your backpack and luggage as follows:

BACKPACK

- 1 or 2 1-liter water bottles
- Rain coat and pants
- Sunscreen
- Sack lunch for the first day**
- COVID Masks**
- Small container of hand sanitizer
- Winter coat if appropriate
- Lip protectant (ChapStick) *Optional*

OTHER

- Bag for dirty clothes
- Plastic bag for wet shoes

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Reading books

LUGGAGE/DUFFLE BAG

BEDDING AND HYGIENE

- Pillow
- Sleeping bag or blankets (windows in cabins may be left partially open to allow for ventilation during COVID. Be sure to have warm bedding).
- 1 Bath towel and washcloth
- Comb or brush
- Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste
- Shower shoes *Optional*
- Bug spray *Optional*

CLOTHING

- 5 - 6 Pairs of underwear
- 5 - 6 Pairs of socks
- 3 - 4 Shirts, at least one long-sleeved
- 2 Extra sweaters or sweatshirts
- 3 Pairs of long pants
- 2 Pairs of shorts (if appropriate for the season)
- Pajamas
- 1 Hat (appropriate for the season)
- Warm gloves, scarf, etc. for cooler temperatures

FOOTWEAR

- 1 Pair of shoes/boots that can get muddy (Waterproof is preferred)
- Extra shoes

Students should not bring

- Snacks, food, drinks, gum, or candy
- Cell phones (unless approved by school), any other electrical devices (electronic games, hair dryers, etc.)
- Knives or weapons of any kind

NOTE ABOUT FOOTWEAR: We will be hiking each day at Mount Rainier Institute. Please bring sturdy tennis shoes or boots that can get wet or muddy. These shoes should have been previously broken in by the wearer and have decent foot and ankle support. This will help us greatly in avoiding blisters. If you are coming to MRI in the spring, you will likely be snowshoeing. Waterproof boots or sturdy waterproof shoes are best for this.