

Welcome to NCOAE – Education Without Walls Pisgah National Forest, Backpacking & Surfing Trip

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

WHAT: A scholarship package from Education Without Walls includes a 10-day summer expedition with our affiliates at [The National Center for Outdoor & Adventure Education \(NCOAE\)](https://www.ncoae.org/). This year we will be participating in a Backpacking & Surfing Trip, in Pisgah National Forest & Carolina Beach NC.

WHERE: Student check-in and pick-up will be at The National Center for Outdoor & Adventure Education / Education Without Walls campus at:
9809 River Rd., Wilmington, NC 28412.
The check-in table will be located in the main parking area.

WHEN: Check-in will be between 9:30am – 9:50am.

Programming will begin promptly at 10:00am. NCOAE staff will sign your student in, collect any medication, and do a bag check to ensure your student has all needed items for the trip. After check-in is complete, you may depart.

If transportation is needed, please contact EWOW at (910) 515-9157 or info@educationwithoutwalls.net to arrange pick-up for your student. All transportation will be provided by The National Center for Outdoor & Adventure Education (NCOAE).

IF DELAYED: If it becomes evident that you will not be on time for check-in or pick-up, please contact the EWOW office at (910) 515-9157 immediately.

- **THE FIRST DAY:** After check-in, students will meet with their group for a program orientation, team building activities, trip planning, and outdoor skill activities. NCOAE staff will share final trip details, distribute group equipment and food, and assist students with packing their backpacking packs. The next morning, students will depart for the Pisgah National Forest, just north of Brevard, NC. The real fun begins when we hit the trail!
- **THE LAST DAY:** After a hearty breakfast, students will spend the morning at the beach, practicing their surfing skills and enjoy fun in the sun! Afterwards, the group will return to NCOAE to clean-up, shower, and enjoy lunch. Then, we'll all come together for a one-of-a-kind closing circle, during Final Summit and Graduation.
- **PICK-UP:** Final summit and trip graduation, will begin at 3:00pm. *Parents, family, and friends should arrive by no later than 2:30pm.* At least one parent/guardian must attend, but we encourage multiple loved ones to participate in this important aspect of the program, as it is a time for students to showcase what they have accomplished. Graduation will last 1.5 – 2 hours, and is held outside, so bring a lawn chair or blanket, water bottle, and bug spray. Please do not bring any “goodies” for your student (save those for the car ride home). After graduation, students will be dismissed.

If transportation needed, please contact EWOW at (910) 515-9157 or info@educationwithoutwalls.net to arrange pick-up for family members.

- **EQUIPMENT & PERSONAL EXPENSES:** Please see the attached trip pack list for information on what to bring (and what not to bring) on your trip, as well as what equipment will be provided by NCOAE. EWOW and NCOAE cover all costs related to the trip, so there is no need to send money with your student.

FAQ'S:

Q: What is the Education Without Walls Backpacking & Surfing Trip?

A: The EWOW Backpacking & Surfing Trip is a 10-day outdoor education program that takes you to the Pisgah National Forest. While hiking and camping, students participate in Educational Groups, which include lessons on backcountry camping skills, interpersonal skills, and environmental sciences.

Q: Do I need to have any previous experience in camping or backpacking?

A: No. Previous experience is not required. NCOAE will teach you all the basics you need to know to thrive in the backcountry and then you'll have time to practice them throughout the trip.

Q: What activities will I be engaging in?

A: You will engage in a wide range of experiential activities, including backpacking, camp craft, map & compass, backcountry cooking, decision-making, leadership, environmental responsibility, and teamwork.

Q: How far will I be hiking and what will I be carrying?

A: Groups will typically hike 3-5 miles a day, as they explore cool mountain streams, beautiful mountain vistas, and cascading waterfalls. Each student carries their own backpacking pack, with their own gear and some of the group food and gear. Your pack will weigh between 30-40 pounds at any given time. You will be hiking over rugged terrain and crossing streams.

Q: Where will I be staying?

A: We'll be living in tents (separated by gender) and setting up camp in different areas most nights. Enjoy evenings around the campfire: roasting s'mores, identifying the stars, and sharing highlights of our learning.

Q: What is the average group size and instructor/student ratio?

A: Each group has two NCOAE field instructors with 8-12 students. We maintain an instructor-to-student ratio of no less than one instructor for every six students.

Q: What gear and equipment do I need?

A: NCOAE provides all necessary group gear and trail food, but you will be required to bring certain items for yourself. We encourage you to contact NCOAE with all of your packing list questions as early as possible. Start planning now by reviewing the attached trip pack list.

Q: What kind of food will I be eating?

A: Since we will be carrying all of our food on our backs, we'll be eating many of the items that begin in their dehydrated forms; water weight is not something we want to carry. Expect meat, vegetables, fruits, grains, and even fresh baked bread and pizza! Of course, you'll be making them all from scratch — learning to cook backcountry meals on the trail.

If you have any allergies and/or dietary restriction, be sure to note it on your health form. NCOAE can accommodate most dietary restrictions and preferences.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Please call the NCOAE office at (910) 399-8090 anytime between 8:30am – 4:30pm with any questions.