

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center School Group Information Guide

- Center Information:** All Interpretive Center Facilities and Gift Shop are fully accessible. The exhibits are self-guided. A self-guided tour can be done in approximately one hour. On arrival we will provide an orientation and briefly explain the interpretive programs and videos that are scheduled for that day.
- Special Events and Programs:** Please call in advance for information on Special Events and Programs. The Leo Adler Theater holds 140 individuals and is open to all visitors. If your group exceeds this number they may need to be split into smaller groups. When scheduling, discuss this matter with the Visitor Information Assistant.
- Location:** Five miles east of Baker City, Oregon. From 1-84 take exit 302, State Hwy. 86 to the Interpretive Center entrance.
- Summer Hours:** April 1 through October 31
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily
- Winter Hours:** November 1 through March 31
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily
Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day
- Entrance Fees:** All school groups including teachers, bus drivers and chaperones are free of charge.
- Trails:** Four and one half (4 ½) miles of outdoor trails lead to Oregon Trail ruts and Panorama Point overlook. Most Trails are fully accessible. The Oregon Trail ruts can also be accessed from Hwy. 86. Oregon Trail maps are available at the information desk.
- Special Information:** Only identified assistance animals are permitted inside the center. Fire restrictions prohibit smoking on site, except in your enclosed vehicle.
- Meals:** Vending machines (pop, water, candy, cookies and chips) and an outdoor covered picnic area are available on-site. We also have a small seating area indoors (12 seats), sack lunches are welcome.
- Lodging:** Lodging is available in Baker City, and nearby communities. For further information please contact: Baker City Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau : (541)-523-3356 1-800-523-1235 www.visitbaker.com
- Scheduling:** Please call in advance if possible, with the following information:
- 1.Name of school, address and phone number.
 - 2.Name of group leader, approx. number of chaperones, number of students, & grade level.
 - 3.Date of visit and approximate arrival time.
 - 4.Request for Education Resource Guide (if needed).
 - 5.Request for any Special needs
- Note: Guided tours depend on staff availability (please inquire when you call).
- Contact Information:** Bureau of Land Management
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
P.O. Box 987
Baker City, OR 97814
(541)- 523- 1843
oregontrail.blm.gov email: Nhotic_Mail@or.blm.gov



Interpreter in the Classroom



Looking for an interesting way to help your students learn history?

Interpreters from the **National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon** are available to bring lessons to the classroom.

Each year thousands of teachers and their students visit the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center to utilize the educational opportunities present at our site. **In an effort to expand our educational programs to the regional community, Center staff & contract interpreters can bring the Oregon Trail experience right to your classroom.**

Topics such as westward expansion, Oregon Trail history, local history, mining history, natural history and more can be brought directly to your door! Experienced educators utilize our "Traveling Trunks" with artifacts, replicas, games and activities, which can be personalized to your specific classroom needs and learning objectives. These off-site education programs are particularly aimed at the 4th and 5th graders but can be tailored to accommodate any grade level.

Off-site education and the "Traveling Trunk" presentations depend on staff availability, and are offered to schools or educational events within 90 miles of Baker City, Oregon. Most programs last 30 to 45 minutes, but can be adapted to longer duration, or to specific learning needs. During the spring and summer months the Center can be quite busy, so the earlier our staff is alerted to your needs the more likely we will be able to accommodate your request.

We are continually developing new products and programs to assist educators in teaching the history of the Oregon Trail and westward migration.

If you would like to know about our educational opportunities, or would like to arrange for an Interpreter in the Classroom, please contact us at (541)523-1843 or NHOTIC_mail@or.blm.gov.

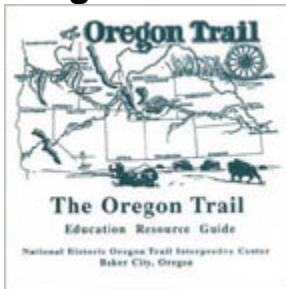
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Baker City, Oregon
541.523.1843 oregontrail.blm.gov

Education Resource Guides

Two Education Resource Guides are available for download to help with classroom study or group field trips to the Interpretive Center. Download at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/education-teachers-packets.php>

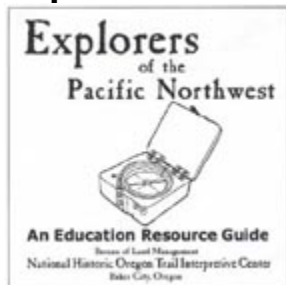
Contact us if you would like a CD or hard copy mailed to you. Please e-mail us at NHOTIC_mail@blm.gov, telephone 541-523-1845, or contact the Education Coordinator at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, PO Box 987, Baker City, OR 97814.

Oregon Trail Education Resource Guide



The Oregon Trail Education Resource Guide was developed by BLM staff, Trail Tender Volunteers, and Eastern Oregon University. The 158-page Resource Guide is designed for use by teachers and other educators who are teaching Oregon Trail history. Some activities are designed for the classroom while others are specific to the Interpretive Center and would necessitate a field trip to the site. The guide is designed for use by fourth grade teachers who traditionally teach Oregon history, but many activities can be adapted to younger or older students. Copies are available at no charge to educators. Copies may be downloaded, or a hard copy can be mailed upon request. Teachers may make copies of any portion of the guide for classroom use.

Explorers of the Pacific Northwest Education Resource Guide



A 148-page education resource guide on the topic of explorers who blazed the trails to the Pacific Northwest. Includes background history, classroom discussion activities, site-visit activities, worksheets, coloring sheets and references. Developed by BLM staff, Trail Tender volunteers, and Eastern Oregon University. Hard-copy and CD version are available. The Guide can downloaded using the link below.

Please note: Free copies of the video "Towards a Distant Land" are no longer available with the Education Resource Packet. If you would like to purchase a copy of this video, or other Oregon Trail related videos, please contact the Oregon Trail Shop at 541-523-1844.

Oregon Trail Institute

Baker City, OR

Oregon Trail Symposium April 19, 2008

Experience life on the Oregon Trail - a one-day, interactive, hands-on workshop using art, music, dance, and food science to teach history.

For educators, interpreters, volunteers and anyone interested in history of the westward migration.

Sessions held at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Full registration includes workshop sessions, teaching materials, Dutch Oven lunch, and Spring Bounty dinner.



Space is limited

Register

Before April 1, 2008- \$185

After April 1, 2008- \$200

For program information contact
Baker County Visitors Bureau
541.523.5855 ~ 800.523.1235

www.visitbaker.com

Oregon Trail Institute

“Tell Me, I’ll forget, Show Me, I’ll remember, Involve Me, I understand!”

The Oregon Trail Symposium - Teachers Workshop, offered by the Oregon Trail Institute, will be held at the National Historic Interpretive Center in Baker City, OR on Saturday, April 19, 2008. Experienced educators, practicing artists and musicians will lead each session, sharing their techniques for creating and presenting successful – and fun – activities with specific curriculum objectives. All sessions include lesson plans that can be taken home and utilized in the classroom. Furthermore, each session’s curriculum is specifically designed to meet Oregon curriculum guidelines for 4th and 5th grade in social sciences and the arts. The workshop is suitable for anyone interested in learning about the Oregon Trail, and how to use pioneer activities to teach others about history and western culture.

The Oregon Trail Institute has combined classroom sessions, social activities and free time to explore Historic Baker City, Oregon. All class sessions will be held at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. The Interpretive Center, located on 500 acres of a sagebrush intermountain environment with inspiring views of the Blue and Wallowa Mountains, includes exhibits, theater programs, gift shop, picnic area, hiking trails, gold stamp mill, and an outdoor pioneer wagon encampment. Weather permitting, some of the sessions will take place outdoors, so please wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes.

Share a noon time meal of Bison stew and dried fruit cobbler while learning the historic technique of Dutch oven cooking. The participatory Dutch oven noontime demonstration will incorporate history, science, and economics into a delicious lunch. A “Spring Bounty” dinner, included in the workshop price, will be held Saturday night. The dinner, cooked with fresh local ingredients from Oregon, will feature music, dancing, and fun.

Oregon Trail Workshop ~ Course Syllabus

Saturday, April 19

8:30 ~ Registration Meet at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, 22267 Hwy 86, for registration, introductions and an overview of the workshop. View the special children’s exhibit with interactive displays on pioneer skills.

9:00 – 12:00 ~ Storytelling: Bringing History to Life Presenter: Dylan Pritchett, nationally recognized storyteller, has been telling stories and teaching workshops full time since 1990. Sharing his folk tales with thousands of children and adults throughout the country in more than 200 performances a year. Dylan is inspired by cultural folk tales with a positive message that crosses cultural boundaries. Through story telling, he hopes to encourage and bring joy to people from all walks of life. This workshop is intended to help individuals develop activities centered around researching and creating historical stories in a fun, educational way. Workshop participants will learn storytelling exercises for creative play, understanding character, presentation skills, conveying mood, body language, presentation techniques, literary nuances, and a whole lot more!

12:00 -1:15 ~ Pioneer Cooking ~ Wagon Encampment NHOTIC staff will demonstrate a simple pioneer cooking reenactment that can be replicated in a school yard or day camp setting. Using the art of dutch oven cooking, this activity will incorporate history, science, and economic lessons with a tasty hot lunch of bison stew and dried fruit cobbler.

1:30-4:00 ~ Shape Notes Presenter: Pat Nida holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction of Education from the University of Washington with a special emphasis on Language Arts and Social Studies. She has taught methods classes at the university level and worked for Northwest Regional Education Laboratory doing workshops around the Northwest on ways to teach standards-based lessons with highly engaging activities. In addition to her academic achievements, Pat is a Shape Note Singer. Shape Note Singing is the oldest form of written American Music and Pat teaches methods to sing this music with children, as it is a wonderful way to get "non-singers" to participate in singing and music. Pat is from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Teaching actual songs from Oregon Trail era, this music inspired session is designed to research, teach, and present pioneer music. Learn the art of Shape Note singing and how to teach this historic style of music to students.

5:00-6:30 ~ Oregon Spring Bounty Join the group for an evening of food, music, and fun. A local caterer will provide an exceptional meal made from Oregon’s finest ingredients. Guests are welcome for an additional \$25.00 per person.

6:30-7:00 ~ Dancing activity Learn two pioneer era dances that can easily be taught to elementary age students with no previous dance experience. Music will be played by a local group and instructions and copies of music will be provided so the dances can be re-taught in the classroom. The Dancing activity will be followed by dessert, coffee, drawing for a door prize, and social time until 8:00 pm.

Special
Exhibit!

Pack Your Wagon: Critters, Costumes, and Curiosity

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Baker City, Oregon

I-84, Exit 302
oregontrail.blm.gov

This is an exhibit for students and younger visitors which can help teachers achieve many curriculum goals.

Guided group activities can be arranged for school visits.

Pack & repack a full-size wagon replica. Map your route to Oregon along a 20-foot magnetic map of the Oregon Trail. Try on pioneer costumes & pose for a photograph. Animal track rubber-stamping activity, wildlife memory game, & piles of animal puppets add to the experience.

For more information
or to arrange group
visits, please call:
(541) 523-1843

**Group Visits
Welcome**

February 1
through
June 8
2008



Interpretive Trails at Flagstaff Hill:

Visible from the trails are the remnants of the historic Flagstaff Mine, the outdoor Lode Mine Exhibit and gold panning demonstration area, panoramas of the Blue Mountains and Wallowa Mountains, and the historic route of the Oregon Trail across Virtue Flat and Baker Valley. The Panorama Point Trail and Ascent Trail both lead to ruts of the Oregon Trail. Trail ruts are fragile – please take care not to erode rut traces.

In 1843 emigrants sent a wagon and team ahead to break down the sagebrush on Virtue Flat. Over time the dusty earth on the flat gained the distinct imprint of several sets of parallel ruts, the traces of thousands of wagon wheels and animal hooves carrying the goods of the pioneers to the Pacific Northwest. Oregon Trail ruts resemble a swale of slightly packed earth, rather than the more familiar set of parallel tracks typically made by automobiles.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center has a 4.2 mile trail system and leads visitors to a series of viewpoints and historic sites. Level 1 and Level 2 trails are paved and barrier free, and designed at grades no greater than 5%. The total trail system covers elevation changes of 372 feet. There are no drinking fountains or restrooms along the trail, however there are shade shelters and benches. Smoking is not permitted on trails due to potential fire danger. The top of the hill is over 3,900 feet in elevation, and summer temperatures may exceed 100 degrees. Trails are not cleared of snow in winter, but otherwise are open year round. Entrance gates close at 6:00 pm April 1 through October 31, and at 4:00 pm November 1 – March 31. Visitors should plan at least 1 hour and 15 minutes to hike the entire trail system and return to the parking lot.

Along the Trail Ruts Loop at the base of the hill, you will also see a small granite marker erected by Ezra Meeker in 1906. Meeker, a pioneer of 1853, retraced the Oregon Trail from west to east and erected markers throughout the route of the Trail. He inaugurated preservation efforts and championed the Oregon Trail until his death at age 98 in 1928. BLM carsonite markers and concrete obelisks are also present; part of a program throughout the American West to preserve and mark historic trails and wagon roads.

* For those short on time, the Ruts Access trail starting from Highway 86 offers a quick and easy way to view the ruts. A traffic pullout .6 of a mile west of the Interpretive Center entrance has information about backward migration on the Oregon Trail during the gold rush era, as well as information on how to identify and preserve historic ruts. A 180-foot long, level surfaced trail takes visitors to an observation point adjacent to the ruts, and is particularly useful for visitors with physical limitations or time limitations that may prevent them from taking the longer interpretive trails.



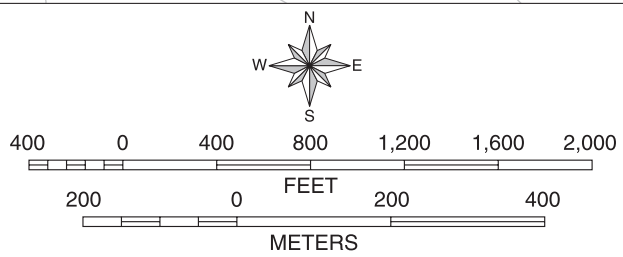
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Baker City, Oregon

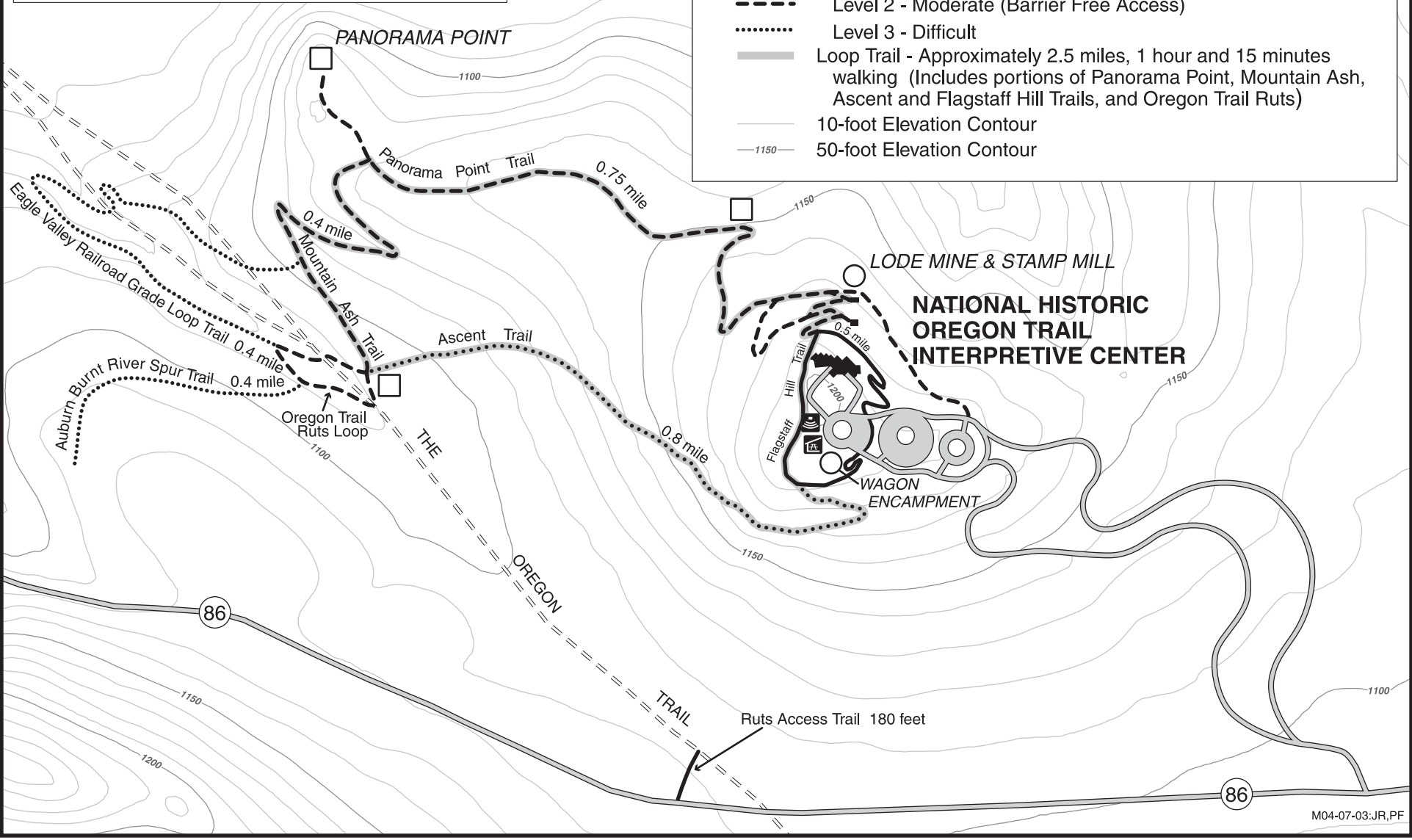
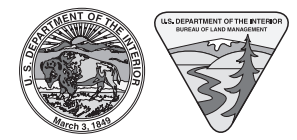
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(541) 523-1843

I-84, Exit 302



- Amphitheater
- Picnic Shelter
- Living History Exhibit
- Shade Shelter & Bench
- The Oregon Trail
- Trail System Difficulty**
- Level 1 - Easy (Barrier Free Access)
- Level 2 - Moderate (Barrier Free Access)
- Level 3 - Difficult
- Loop Trail - Approximately 2.5 miles, 1 hour and 15 minutes walking (Includes portions of Panorama Point, Mountain Ash, Ascent and Flagstaff Hill Trails, and Oregon Trail Ruts)
- 10-foot Elevation Contour
- 50-foot Elevation Contour





Oregon Trail Shop

Box 987 • Baker City, Oregon 97814

Books
Videos and DVDs
Music CDs
Toys and Gifts
Clothing
Reproductions

located inside the
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Baker City, Oregon

(541) 523-1844
FAX: (541) 523-1855
ots@eoni.com

or shop and order online at:
www.oregontrailshop.com