



# Maroon Outdoor Education Centre

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### 1. MAROON OEC

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre is operated by Education Queensland and is located on the shores of Maroon Dam, approximately 120 km from Brisbane. Maroon OEC programs use outdoor experiences to assist students learn about themselves, each other and their environment. All programs focus on Teamwork, Resilience and Leadership. Programs are developed through a consultative process involving Maroon OEC staff and teachers from the visiting school.

A copy of the medical forms, our curriculum and program for your school can be found at:

<http://www.maroonoec.eq.edu.au/forparents.htm>

### 2. PROGRAM BENEFITS

An effective outdoor education program can provide students with the opportunity to:

- ◆ Enhance Teamwork, Leadership and Resilience skills
- ◆ Develop quality relationships.
- ◆ Enjoy being active in a unique and supportive environment.
- ◆ Share experiences with their classmates that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

### 3. MANAGING RISK

Programs conducted at Maroon OEC involve a high level of physical activity and are conducted predominantly outdoors. Maroon OEC is a 30 minute drive from the nearest ambulance, doctor or hospital and, in some instances the response time for medical attention may exceed 3 hours.

All outdoor adventure activities will be conducted by a Maroon OEC teacher with specialised skills and training. As an Education Queensland school Maroon OEC implements risk management procedures that adhere to Education Queensland's Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment guidelines.

While all care and attention is paid to student safety and well being, the nature of being actively engaged in outdoor adventure activities can be unpredictable. Should an incident occur Maroon OEC is able to respond quickly and efficiently through a safety network incorporating 2-way radios, power boat and four wheel drive vehicles. Students can minimise the risk of an incident with thorough preparation and by demonstrating personal responsibility.

### 4. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The concepts below are central to a student's responsibilities while at Maroon OEC, ensuring safety and maximum benefit for all program participants.

#### Respect

Students have the responsibility to respect themselves, others, the natural and built environment. Students must:

- ◆ Accept the rights of others.
- ◆ Care for all equipment and property.
- ◆ Respect the belongings of others.
- ◆ Only enter their own rooms and tents.

#### Co-operation

Students have the responsibility to cooperate with others to assist in the effective functioning of the programme. Students must:

- ◆ Be prepared to participate in all programmed activities.
- ◆ Strive to be part of the group and assist the group to achieve their goals.

#### Safety

Students have a responsibility to act safely and reasonably in accordance with Maroon OEC procedures and regulatory laws. Students must:

- ◆ Follow all safety directions.
- ◆ Accept responsibility for their own and others safety.
- ◆ Wear footwear at all times (fully enclosed shoes during activities).
- ◆ Swim only when supervised.
- ◆ Protect themselves from exposure to the sun and from dehydration.
- ◆ Use activity equipment only under the supervision of a Maroon OEC teacher.
- ◆ Ensure alcohol, cigarettes, illicit substances/articles or drugs are not in their possession.

#### Participation

Students have the responsibility to participate in the program to the best of their ability for the benefit of all participants. Students must:

- ◆ Ensure their own alertness, attentiveness and punctuality.
- ◆ Endeavour to foster positive relationships with others.
- ◆ Comply with school and Maroon OEC policies regarding electronic equipment.
- ◆ Remove all jewellery prior to adventure activities. If jewellery is unable to be removed, or suitably taped the student will not be able to participate.

**Students who are unable to abide by these responsibilities present a danger to themselves, other participants and the success of the program. Parents of such students will be contacted. These students may be returned to school/home. Parents will be responsible for their transportation from Maroon OEC to school/home.**

**EVERY STUDENT REAL ADVENTURE REAL ACHIEVEMENT LEARNING OUTDOORS**

## 5. LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences are selected and sequenced to assist students to achieve program outcomes. All activities are conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified Maroon OEC teacher. Students may be involved all of the following adventure activities:

### Team Building

These activities require the initiative of the individual or group to complete a task. They utilise a variety of equipment with the safety of each person being a key component of the task. They do not require safety ropes and harnesses.

### Aquatics

All participants are required to wear covered shoes and a correctly fitted personal flotation device:

- Canoeing –using a single blade paddle in on open canoe.
- Kayaking – using a double bladed paddle in an enclosed double kayak.
- Rafting – using a range of equipment to design and build a raft for their group.

### Swimming

Supervised swimming may be conducted in Lake Maroon or freshwater swimming holes. Participants are required to wear covered shoes and may be issued a correctly fitted personal flotation device.

### High challenge

Activities higher than 3 metres such as High ropes, Rockclimbing and Abseiling. Students use harnesses, helmets and ropes to remain safe while attempting challenges on constructed equipment and natural surfaces.

### Bushwalking and Camping

Camping and bushwalking involve students sleeping in tents or shelters at campsites away from the facilities of Maroon OEC. In many instances students will bushwalk or canoe to and from their campsite. Many of these campsites are accessible by vehicle (4WD) however some campsites are only accessible on foot.

Students may be driven to and from campsites or bushwalks in Maroon OEC vehicles driven by Maroon OEC staff.

### Orienteering

Students are taught how to use a map and compass and undertake a series of sequenced courses to find locations that have been marked on a map.

## 6. MEDICAL AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

A Student Medical and Parental Consent form must be completed in detail. This information allows us to ensure the well-being of all students and is crucial in times of medical emergency. The contents of these forms are treated confidentially.

Students with medical conditions such as asthma, allergic reactions, diabetes and other serious conditions are required to complete a Maroon OEC management form. Parents must advise the school's program co-ordinator in writing of any special dietary requirements.

**All student medical and parental consent forms must be completed, signed and dated by a parent/guardian.**

## 7. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Mobile Phones

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre programs are designed and implemented for students to develop personal and social capabilities such as Teamwork, Resilience and Leadership. This is achieved through adventure based learning and community living. To enable the program to be optimally beneficial it is Maroon OEC policy that **mobile telephones, electronic games and music devices are not permitted by students at Maroon OEC**. Maroon OEC provides cameras for use during programs and photos are made available to each school. If you need to contact your child during their stay please use the Maroon OEC phone or email contacts.

### Sun Safety

The nature of an Outdoor Education program dictates that students will be in the outdoors for extended periods of time during their program. It is strongly recommended that all students apply full block sun screen and wear broad brimmed hats and long sleeved shirts to minimise the harmful effects of the sun. Singlets tops are unsuitable for activities at Maroon OEC.

### Vocational Education in MOEC Programs

Students in Year 10, 11 & 12 may be offered the opportunity to enrol in Vocational Education as a part of their program. Students who successfully complete their program will be eligible for a statement of attainment outlining their results. This statement can be used for credit towards other vocational courses and may also appear on their Queensland Certificate of Education.

#### For more information:

**Phone:** 5463 6333  
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**Website:** [www.maroonoec.eq.edu.au](http://www.maroonoec.eq.edu.au)