

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a question that is not answered on this page - feel free to call or email us!

How do I schedule a program?

Call or email our staff to explore available dates. Our staff will ask you some general questions about your group and discuss program/activity options. More substantial information regarding the needs and expectations of your group will follow once a date has been established. At this time a contract will be developed and sent for your approval and signature. A lead facilitator will be assigned to your program who will discuss program development with you in more depth.

What does it cost?

The cost of a program depends on three factors: length of program, type of program/activity, and participant to facilitator ratios for specific activities. Our fee schedule differs for Georgia College, not-for-profit, and for-profit groups.

When do I need to get there?

We suggest adding some travel time for first visits to our program sites. Plan to be at the program site 5 minutes in advance of the program start time. If you are bringing food or equipment, plan enough advance time to unpack.

Where do I park?

Parking is available at two locations: Lake Laurel Lodge (LLL) and the Biology Field Station (BFS). Coming from Milledgeville, on Lake Laurel Road, LLL is the first entrance and the BFS is the third entrance. Look for signs!

BUSES: please park at the Biology Field Station.

What should I wear? Clothing depends on the season, weather, and type of activity. Check the weather forecast beforehand. For colder seasons, plan to dress in layers so you can add or remove clothing layers accordingly. Hats, gloves, long pants, sweaters, fleeces and jackets will help keep you warm. During the warmer months clothing can help keep you cool. Wear loose fitting (but not overly baggy) clothing and a hat to help protect your face from the sun. A rain jacket is suggested for occasional showers and provides protection from the wind. All programs require that participants wear closed toe and heel shoes. Groups who are participating in water based programs may also bring water shoes. Overly baggy clothing, loose or hanging jewelry, and protruding rings and ear-rings should be avoided.

What should I bring?

Unless otherwise specified by your staff contact, there are a few things we recommend each participant or the sponsor bring. Water (in a

plastic bottle), bug spray, and sunscreen are recommended, depending on the season.

iPods, cell phones, and other electronic equipment are not permitted!

What if it rains?

Our facilities include a number of indoor options that allow us to hold most programs indoors, depending on the size of the group and the duration of a storm. We make every effort to do so without compromising the success of a program. In the case of an electrical storm, our policy is to stop program action as quickly as possible and move participants to a protected location. Normally, we will cancel a program well enough in advance, based on the weather forecast, to permit a group to make alternative arrangements.

Do you serve food?

Our staff can arrange to have food provided by the university caterer or you can bring or arrange for food to be delivered to our site. Our kitchen facilities are limited, so we recommend easy, time efficient meals and encourage clients on short programs (1-2 meals) to take advantage of one of the above options.

Who are the instructors?

The Outdoor Center staff are Georgia College faculty, staff, alumni, and students. Check our [Staff](#) page to get to know us!

Do I have to participate in everything?

"Challenge of and by choice" (CxC) is central to our group development and outdoor recreation programs. CxC is our commitment to encouraging participants to ask for what they need and explore alternative ways to participate. Some technical training and leadership development programs require specific competencies to be demonstrated by participants.

Do groups swim or boat in Lake Laurel?

Lake Laurel has been designated a protected American Alligator habitat and boating and swimming are not permitted. Supervised fishing may be negotiated.

Can I use tobacco products?

Georgia College is now a Tobacco-Free campus. The University System of Georgia, Board of Regents, voted in March of 2014 that all forms of tobacco products on property owned, leased, rented or in the possession of the USG will be prohibited effective Oct. 1, 2014. This affects all schools within the University System of Georgia including Georgia College.

What are the cancellation policies? The Outdoor Center requires that either party may renegotiate terms of the contract no later than 14 days in advance of a custom program. The registration deadline for most Outdoor Center open enrollment programs is normally one week

prior to the program, unless otherwise negotiated by a third party vendor. A non-refundable deposit of no less than \$50 for open enrollment programs is required, with the balance of the fee to be paid by the registration deadline. Registration fees less than \$50 do not require a deposit. Full payment made prior to the registration deadline will be refunded less the deposit. Participants who cannot attend a program may send a replacement participant.