Ellies Field Trips Summer 2012
*All Field Trips on Tuesdays Unless Otherwise Noted

Week 1: 6/26  Tree Climbing and Dexter Lake, Lowell, OR

This is the first of our 6 week summer explorer program that we partner with the City of Eugene River house program and Centro Latino Americano. In the morning we will be climbing ropes in trees under the guidance of the experts from the river house program. It is a beautiful quiet experience where children are instructed in climbing skills and then encouraged to climb as far as they are comfortable! Some only make it a couple of feet others to the top of the tree but all feel a sense of accomplishment and pride for trying something new! In the afternoon we head up to Dexter dam and check out the fish hatchery then go play in the lake for awhile. Moss St. provides life jackets for all children and the adults are in the water and limit the depth the children may go. If they don’t abide by the limits the first time they are sent to the beach for 5 minutes, the second time they are out for the remainder of the day...we take safety very seriously!

Week 2: 7/03  Canoeing on either Dorena Reservoir, Cottage Grove, OR or Clear Lake, Hwy 126, OR

This is another city of Eugene lead trip. They have a giant canoe that holds about 20 people and they go out exploring the lake and learn how to paddle a canoe as a team. When not in the canoe the children explore the banks, play games, and paint their beautiful surroundings! Life Jackets as always are provided.

Week 3: 7/08  Heceta Beach and Lighthouse, Florence, OR

This is an amazing location for children to explore. In the morning when we arrive if the tide is low enough we go and explore the tide pools. If it’s not a good low tide day we will go up as a group to the light house and explore it and/or play in the sand and fly kites on the beach. We then return for lunch in the picnic area. In the afternoon we go to the creek that flows into the ocean and play in the sand and the water. The creek is only ankle deep and great for filling moats! Often we don’t go to the ocean’s edge but when we do it is 3 or 4 kids at a time between 2 teachers to “jump the waves”( our wave jumping is not out deep... mid-calf to knee only.)

Week 4: 7/17  Rafting the McKenzie, Vida, OR, or Willamette River, Springfield/Eugene OR

This is a kid Favorite and is led by the Experts at The Eugene River House. This will be our 5th year of this fieldtrip and I promise we never tire of it! It’s a great way to experience nature on the river and learn the skills it takes to negotiate the river safely! We stop at a half way point for lunch and have snack at the end. As always we all wear life jackets and the City does a great job of teaching the basic skills before we head out!
Week 5: 7/24  
**UO Tour followed by a Tie-Dye Party at Moss St.**  
Eugene, OR

We will enlist the help of some of our student staff and have a guided tour of campus as an actual student experiences it then we will return to Moss St. and tye dye some shirts and things from home while showing our Centro friends what it’s like at Moss St.

Week 7: 7/31  
**McDowell Creek, Sweet Home, OR**

McDowell Creek is the first place I started taking Moss kids to way back in 1999 and its still one of our favorites. There are 3 beautiful waterfalls in a hike less than a mile and it is beautiful. This park was hard hit back in the wind storm during the early 2000’s and there is still evidence of what happened and how it is repairing itself. We talk about stewardship of the land and the trail. We also wade in the water at the base of the 3rd falls where the water is only ankle deep yet there is drift wood to build with dams to make and just the perspective of being at the base of the falls!

Week 8: 8/7-8  
***Cascadia St. Park Overnight Stay, near Sweet Home, OR***

This is a beautiful park with a great group camp site and many trails and a waterfall to hike to. The Children Dave and I cooperatively set up camp using tents that families send and that moss St.’s owns then we work together making dinner and in the evening sit around the campfire and tell stories, make smores and just enjoy each other! Camping together brings out the best in all of us and it’s amazing the caring shown for each other and the new skills and confidence these trips develop. Don’t worry if you don’t have a tent or sleeping bag. Blankets work and tents are made to be shared!

Week 8: 8/14-15  
**McMinnville Air and Space Museum and Water Park, McMinnville, OR**

Our final overnight of the year is to The McMinnville air and space Museum and Water Park! We will leave after breakfast Tuesday August 14th and return Wednesday August 15th. This is our second year in a row here because it was such an amazing trip! The have a campground on site where we will spend the night in the shadow of the 747 on top of the Water Park. On Tuesday we will explore the museum with a guide and take part in a learning project, and view an IMAX presentation. When we are all done we will retire to the camp ground and set up camp and cook together. Wednesday we will prepare a simple breakfast, break camp then spend the day in the Water Park exploring the exhibits and just enjoying the Fun together! There are appropriate options for all levels and abilities in the park so a great experience will be had by all! There is usually an additional fee for this trip of about $20.00 but this year the plan is to have the kids do some fund raising to offset the cost!