Mallard Fieldtrips Summer 2014

Week 1—Wednesday, June 25th
Fall Creek Dam
We will go to Fall Creek Dam and hike the dam and picnic on the beach.

Week 2—Tuesday, July 1st
Willamette Fish Hatchery
This week we will be visiting the Willamette Fish Hatchery and interpretive trail in Oakridge. I scoped out this hatchery last fall and just loved it! We will get a tour of the facility, and get to play on their mini golf course, picnic and hike their interpretive trail! I’m looking forward to a completely new adventure!

Week 3—Tuesday, July 8th
Heceta Beach and Heceta Head Lighthouse
This week is our trip to Heceta Beach on the Oregon coast! This is a trip with so much to do we always run out of time! While on the beach we will visit the tide pools, build in the sand with the driftwood, paint seascapes, play by the creek that runs into the ocean. For those who want to, we can make the hike up the hill to the lighthouse and take a tour, but that’s up to the children, and they can also choose to stay on the beach! Often we divide up into 2 groups (one hiking and one on the beach) and we are connected by walkie-talkies.

Week 4—Tuesday, July 15th
McDowell Creek Waterfall Explore
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 along a hike that is less than a mile in distance. 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. When we are done exploring the falls we will head back to camp where there is a little beach where we can fill our water toys, throw rocks and just hang out and paint (with our Art Kits) the beauty around us! Swimsuits, towels and/or a change of clothes are always good ideas with all the squirters and other water games we will be playing. Be sure the shoes your child will be wearing are good for hiking, running and getting wet!
Week 5—Tuesday, July 22nd

**Shotgun Creek**

Shotgun Creek is a beautifully maintained park outside of Marcola. It offers a creek to explore, a playground, open fields to chase butterflies in, letterboxes to find, and a sandy beach.

Week 6—Tuesday, July 29th

**Waterboard Park at Leaburg Dam**

Leaburg Dam and Waterboard Park is located up the McKenzie River about 20 miles outside of Springfield and is one of our favorite fieldtrip locations! Even though this park is on the river, we will not play in water on this trip due to the many fisherpeople that use this same spot. The fun of the dam is the EWEB supported park that is around the Fish Hatchery! We will check out the dam, explore the hatchery and the fish pond full of rainbow trout and sturgeon. We will also play some games and hunt some letterboxes. We never run out of things to do here!

Week 7—Tuesday, August 5th

**Enchanted Forest**

This is an Annual Kid Favorite!!! We will explore the park, attend the play, and ride some rides! The kids have such fun exploring the park with their friends!!

Week 8—Tuesday, August 12th

**Dorena Lake**

For our final adventure we will head up the Row River Trail on bikes (or wheels of one type or another) to Dorena Lake for water play, letterboxing and just good country fun! We will divide this trip into 2 groups to facilitate hauling bikes up to the trail! **Mallards** will go on Tuesday, August 12th and Ellies will go on Thursday, August 14th! We’ll ride (preferably) bikes, or scooters, roller or inline skates (no skateboards, please) up to the lake. We will play in the lake, letterbox if we want, picnic and just relax! At the end of the day we will ride down the gentle hill back to the bus! The trail crosses the road and has access to parking lots where children can go if they get tired. (We can also take children who can’t bike or wheel up there as helpers in the bus!) I have done this ride several years with children from 7 up and they have all been successful with the ride! It’s a great trip to end the field-tripping season with!