



## St Leonard's College

An education for life.

April 2025

### Year 9 Outdoor Education Program

Dear year 9 parents and students,

The year 9 outdoor education program is a 5-day self-sufficient hike/canoe journey in Gunditjmara country along the beautiful Great South-West Walk and/or the Glenelg River, located in far western Victoria. The whole year 9 cohort will participate in the last week of term 3, **Sunday 7 – Friday 12 September**. Students will be dismissed by 4pm on Friday 12 September upon their return to school and after all equipment is returned. Please make sure you do not book holiday plans for early departures, as students are not permitted, and it is not possible to leave the hike/canoe journey early.

The students spend the week living and travelling with a small group (usually 12 students with 2 staff). They travel each day by hiking or canoeing, journeying between 10–20 km to the next camp site. The camp sites are pretty clearings on the riverbank, or in the bushland. Most have composting toilets, shelter and rainwater tanks. There will be 16 groups, all spread out in the area, all completing a similar journey, along different sections of the river and/or walking track. The entire Great South West Walk is a 251km loop from the coastal town of Portland. The students carry everything they need for the week in their hiking pack, which typically weights approximately 15kg. Building on the skills and concepts from previous camps, the students self-cater for this program.

In the lead up to camp, students will be permitted to request tent partners and food groups.

This experience is a 6-day program. Day 1 is a preparation day at the College from 10.00am–3.30pm on Sunday 7 September. On this day, students will meet their Outdoor Education leaders, collect all specialist gear, (which is supplied) such as tents, back packs, rainwear, Trangia stoves etc. Staff will check all clothing and food for suitability and teach students how to pack and adjust backpacks for best fit. Group gear (such as group tarp, fuel, water bladders, hygiene and safety equipment) will be shared amongst the students to take responsibility and carry in their packs for the camp. They will also organise their food for a food drop, whereby one group tub of food for the second half of the week will be dropped along their route to pick up mid-week. This helps keep the weight of back packs down.

If there are any conditions that may affect your child's ability to fully participate, please advise us as soon as possible, so we can work on alternative arrangements.

An optional information session for parents and students will be held at the College at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30 July. In the lead up to the program, Outdoor Education staff and year 9 mentors will spend allocated sessions with the students, carefully explaining all the equipment, food and program details. A copy of all documents will be made available to parents via the [STL link year 9 Outdoor Education page](#).

It is highly recommended that a good pair of hiking boots is purchased to use on this hike. The year 10 Outdoor Education Program is a 6 day bushwalk in the Alpine National Park and proper hiking boots are essential for this program. The College has arranged a special deal with a local outdoor retailer, Vast Outdoors. Vast Outdoors is located at 880 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin (9555 7811). The boots selected by Outdoor Education staff and Vast Outdoors is the **One Planet Cobbler** hiking boot. One Planet is an Australian company, and the boot is named after one of the peaks in the Howqua area that students may hike over in their year 10 program. If these boots do not fit, other styles are available. For St Leonard's College students only, Vast can provide this boot for \$150 (rrp \$200).

Hiking boots require a breaking in process. If this process is not applied, it is likely that students will develop hot spots and/or blisters. This can be a very painful experience when carrying a pack and walking in the wilderness. It is also recommended that a good quality pair of merino wool socks is worn with the hiking boots as much as possible in the lead up to camp. During Term 3, students are permitted and encouraged to wear their hiking boots to school with the school uniform.

To provide enough planning and purchasing time for other essential clothing and equipment, an equipment list is attached. Many of these items can be borrowed or they can be purchased from second hand/opportunity shops. If you wish to purchase new items, Vast Outdoors offer discounts of 20% to students of St Leonard's College upon presentation of a valid Student ID Card. Please consult the St Leonard's College Outdoor Education buying guide via <http://learn.stleonards.vic.edu.au/outdoored/outdoor-education-buying-guide/> to ensure your purchases are suitable. If you don't want to buy hiking boots, sleeping bag, sleeping matt and/or gaiters you may hire these through One Planet and Vast Outdoors by clicking [here](#).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [benjamin.woolhouse@stleonards.vic.edu.au](mailto:benjamin.woolhouse@stleonards.vic.edu.au) or on 9909 9487.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ben Woolhouse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Benjamin Woolhouse  
Head of Outdoor and Experiential Education

# Outdoor Education

## Year 9 Equipment and Clothing List



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### PROVIDED BY COLLEGE (Students can bring their own if suitable)

Hiking Rucksack	Large (65-80 Litres).
Waterproof jacket	Gore-Tex or japara, must have hood.
Overpants	Gore-Tex or japara.

### STUDENTS TO BRING Please pack everything **inside** a duffel bag, small suitcase or similar.

Toiletries	Toothbrush and toothpaste. Hair brush, deodorant (must be roll on). Tampons/pads for girls.
2 x 1L water bottles	Strong, durable and leak proof.
Head torch and spare batteries	Spare batteries in zip lock bag for waterproofing.
Spare plastic bags	5 x recycled plastic shopping bags, 5 zip lock sandwich bags
Whistle	On lanyard, for emergency use only

### CLOTHING

Beanie	Wool / fleece must be able to pull down over the ears.
1 x Sun hat	Full brimmed - floppy, bucket or legionnaires hat. <b>No peak caps.</b>
3 x Collared shirts	College sport top + house top + extra.
2 x Jumpers	Must be fleece or wool. One could be down jacket. <b>No cotton.</b>
1 x Hiking Pants	Loose and comfortable, quick dry material. Alternative is knee length shorts worn with knee high gaiters
3 x Pairs socks	High quality hiking socks, we recommend merino wool
2 sets of Thermal top and pants	Polypropylene or wool, long sleeve and long pants (to be worn under wetsuit and at night).
Underwear	A change for each day
Hiking boots/Runners	We strongly recommend hiking boots. Otherwise cross trainers are ok.

### MESS KIT

Plate and bowl	Durable strong plastic or tin. Needs to be appropriate for camping. <b>No ceramics or glass.</b>
Mug	Durable strong plastic or tin. Needs to be appropriate for camping. <b>No ceramics or glass.</b>
Knife, fork, spoon	Durable strong plastic is best
Tea towel	
Steel wool soap pads	For cleaning stove & pots
Matches	In waterproof container/ziplock bag for lighting cooking stove

### BEDDING

Sleeping bag	Good quality. <b>MUST</b> have a hood and draw string and be rated to at least -2. Pack down no larger than 20L.
Sleeping mat	Air mat, self-inflating or closed cell foam
Pillow (optional)	Very small inflatable travel pillow
Sheet liner (optional)	Protects the sleeping bag and gives extra warmth
Bedding items available for hire or purchase through "Camplust" by ONE PLANET <a href="#">here</a> . Or in store at Vast Outdoors, Nepean Highway.	

### MEDICAL

Personal medical requirements must be clearly labelled, be in its commercial packaging and instructions provided. This is to be given to staff prior to departure.
Personal first aid kit and medication. Which may include: Asthma inhaler, band-aids, lip balm, sports tape, insect repellent and 50+ sunscreen (roll on is best, no aerosols please).



# Outdoor Education

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### OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Camera	In waterproof bag.
Book / cards / travel games	
Pants	Second pair of warm pants. Polar fleece preferred material.
Gloves	Polypropylene, fleece or wool.
Bathers	Girls – one piece, boys – boardshorts or quick dry shorts
Wet shoes / camp shoes	Lightweight, enclosed toe shoes for canoeing and / or wearing around camp. Eg. Old sneakers, crocs.
Travel towel	Microfibre / lightweight travel towel

### FOOD

4 Breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners, scroggin/snacks, 1 emergency meal.
Details on suitable food to bring can be found on the <a href="#">Year 9 Outdoor Education STL Link page here</a> .
Morning tea and lunch for Monday – packed in a plastic bag / packable shopping bag for the bus.

### ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

The College Anaphylaxis policy seeks to minimise the risk of students coming into contact with nuts and nut products. Students should not bring any products containing nuts or nut products to College activities.

Please consult Outdoor Education recommended buying guide on STL Link before purchasing any equipment.  
[learn.stleonards.vic.edu.au/outdoored/outdoor-education-buying-guide/](http://learn.stleonards.vic.edu.au/outdoored/outdoor-education-buying-guide/)

