Freshman Outback Trip

Canoeing & Backpacking to Upper Priest Lake

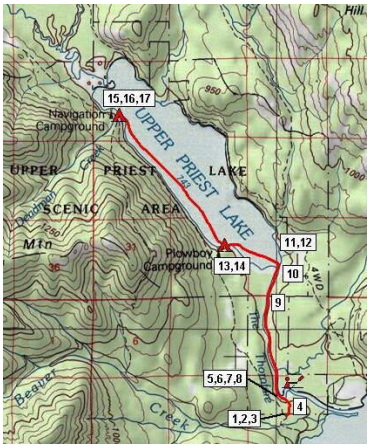
August 25th – 27th, 2026

The Outback Trip is the kickoff event for the class and a great way to start freshman year! Our group of students and teachers will backpack and canoe to the north end of Priest Lake for two days of exploration and fun. During the trip, we will swim, eat, camp, and prepare for a great year.

Enclosed is information regarding the schedule, equipment, map of the route, and directions for filling out the waiver. Please note that this trip is suitable for all experience levels and abilities so everyone can participate. The excursion is part of the freshmen curriculum; cost is included in tuition, and the trip dates will not affect sports.

So get your bag packed and get ready to go! If you have any specific problems with equipment, let us know as we have extra gear that we can loan out if needed.

We will have more than enough food, drinks, and snacks. Please leave the energy drinks, sodas, cellphones, electronics and other unnecessary items at home for this trip. Also, remember that there is no need for valuables. If you do not want to lose it, leave it at home. Thanks!



Timeline:

Monday

8:20 a.m. Arrive at school with your packed backpack!
During our Class meeting time, we will frontload the trip, do a pack check, break into tent groups and lend out gear to those who need to borrow items. We will establish the two groups for the hike or float in.

Tuesday

8:20 a.m. Arrive to school
8:30 a.m. Depart for Upper Priest Lake
Bring your own packed lunch for the first day
Depart for campsite on Upper Priest Lake
Set-up camp, dinner, and evening campfire

Wednesday

Explore Upper Priest Lake and get to know your classmates

Thursday

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast and prepare for departure
11:00 a.m.	Arrive back at Beaver Creek, eat lunch, pack and depart via bus
2:30 p.m.	Arrive back at SGS hopefully in time for the school bus home!

Expected Equipment List
Freshman Outback

Equipment provided by the student:

- ❑ packed lunch for the 1st day
- ❑ backpack (large enough for your things and group gear; w/waist belt) to wear hiking
- ❑ garbage bag for your backpack in the boat to stay dry
- ❑ 2-3 upper body layers (no cotton)
- ❑ 1-2 lower layers (no cotton)
- ❑ sun hat and warm hat
- ❑ 2 pair of socks (no cotton)
- ❑ Water shoes with rubber bottoms (shoes that will not come off your feet in the water, no flip-flops! This is mandatory.)
- ❑ rain top and bottom
- ❑ lightweight hiking boots or running shoes
- ❑ sleeping bag (mummy style and no cotton)
- ❑ sleeping pad
- ❑ 2 filled water bottles or camelback (can carry at least 2 liters)
- ❑ sunglasses and sunscreen
- ❑ swim wear
- ❑ headlamp or flashlight
- ❑ bandanna
- ❑ toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, and not much else)
- ❑ camera (optional)
- ❑ optical needs (contact stuff and/or a pair of glasses)
- ❑ necessary medications
- ❑ personal eating utensils (cup, bowl, fork and spoon)
- ❑ Backpacking tent if you have one and are willing to share with other students. We will break into tent groups during our class meeting. The outdoor program also has some to lend out to students.

NO COTTON and that includes **JEANS**

Remember your packed backpack for the 1st day of school!!!