



BIG LAKE

YOUTH CAMP

Summer 2025

Hi Advanced Rock Climbing Camper,

My name is Zach, and I'm the RAD Director here at Big Lake Youth Camp (BLYC). I'm excited that you've chosen to spend part of your summer with us! You are registered for Advanced Rock Climbing RAD Camp, July 20-25, 2025. We will spend our nights at BLYC's private reserve, just 15 minutes north of Smith Rock State Park, where we'll spend Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday climbing with a rest day out rafting the Maupin section of the Deschutes River on Wednesday.

This Rock Climbing RAD Camp will teach climbing movement, knots, rope management, belaying, rappelling, and risk management related to a rock climbing environment. We also will be taking time to teach you any new skill you are wanting to learn or accomplish a goal you might have set for the week. We are excited to facilitate and support you in getting out of your comfort zone. Throughout the week we want to equip you with the knowledge and confidence to expand your climbing horizons.

Summer in Oregon is hot and the sun is intense. Your RAD Camp instructors and counselors will do their best to minimize the group's time in the sun, but hydration and sun protection are extremely important while being outdoors in these conditions. Please be sure to pack a hat and water bottle as included on the packing list. It is important you come to camp prepared with everything on the packing list. BLYC will provide you with rock climbing gear, but if you prefer your own climbing shoes and harness, you are welcome to bring them. Any personal climbing gear will be inspected by our RAD staff before it is used.

Since we operate in remote wilderness locations, Big Lake's RAD Camp staff carry cellular and satellite communication devices in case of emergency. Our staff are equipped with a variety of medical certifications to promote your health and well-being.

If you have any questions concerning your RAD Camp, curriculum, packing, or gear, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Zachary LeClerc, RAD Camp Director
Big Lake Youth Camp
RAD@biglake.org

Packing List: Rock Climbing and Advanced Rock Climbing

Equipment	#	Description
T-shirts	2	T-shirts for being in camp
Sun shirt or quick-drying shirt	2+	Button-up, or other shirts that are quick-drying and will protect you from the sun
Sweatshirt or fleece	1	Evenings at camp are cool
Rain jacket	1	In case it rains
Down/synthetic layer	1	Optional: If you get cold, having a heavier layer for cool evenings and mornings is recommended.
Hiking/climbing shorts	1	Shorts made out of durable material are best, as they're less likely to rip, and are more comfortable with a climbing harness on. However, gym or athletic shorts also work well and are light/breathable.
Swimsuit	1	Guys: regular swim trunks or board shorts Girls: One-piece or tankinis are encouraged. Board shorts or athletic shorts are recommended to protect legs from rubbing against raft.
Underwear	3+	Capilene, Coolmax, or silk are recommended
Hiking/climbing pants	1	Light but durable pants for cool evenings/mornings. If you choose to climb in your pants (good sun protection), be sure to bring something durable and flexible, or they may be ruined from rubbing on rocks. No jeans, please.
Baseball cap or sun hat	1	Sun protection
Wool or fleece hat	1	For cool evenings/mornings
Camp shoes	1	Light-weight and comfortable shoes to wear around camp (e.g. tennis shoes, Sanuks, Chacos, Keens, etc.)
Hiking boots	1	Ankle or mid-height is fine (approach shoe recommended for climbing approaches)
Sandals/Crocs	1	Optional: for showers
Water bottle	2	1 liter or greater each (Nalgene bottles or similar work well)
Toiletries		Travel-sized toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.
Sunscreen		SPF 30 or greater, 60 oz or more
Zinc		Offers total sun protection--great for nose and ears!
Sunglasses	1	Don't bring your best shades--bring a pair that can get a little beat up
Lip balm		Required: SPF 15 or greater
Bandana	1-2	Sun protection
Watch	1	Water-resistant, alarm, light
Bible	1	Used for worship and solo time. Put in plastic bag to protect from weather
Journal/small notepad	1	Small, light-weight for note-taking
Sleeping bag, pad, pillow	1	High desert nights can be cool and frosty.... Closed-cell foam or inflatable pad is recommended to insulate between ground and sleeping bag. Bag: rated for 35 degrees or colder.
Daypack	1	For carrying shoes and harness

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