GOOGA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

We trust this information will meet your needs. For additional information, contact the Good Shepherd Googa Coordinator at googa@gslc.qld.edu.au or the Director of Googa Outdoor Education Centre, Mr. Paul Hodges, Paul_Hodges@glc.qld.edu.au



Contents

Contact Information 2
Important Dates for the 2027 Googa Group 2
Outdoor Education 3
Curriculum outcomes 4
General Information 5
The Googa way of life 6
The four-week Program 7
Daily Program Example 7
Packing List 8
Medical Form 9
Medication and First-Aid 9
Pocket Money 9
Attendance and behaviour 10
Parents' Responsibilities 10
Photos during the Program 10
Family Day 11
Cost 11



CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:
Googa Outdoor Education Centre
571 Nukku Road, Googa Creek QLD 4314

Telephone: **(07) 4163 0266**
Students may receive a call from parents on their birthday at 7.30am. Please arrange this with Googa Staff prior.

Email: googa_studentservices@glc.qld.edu.au
Unless requested, please do not use the email for personal letters.

We trust this information will meet your needs. For any further information, please contact the GSLC Googa coordinator or Paul Hodges (Googa Director) but first please check this Information Booklet thoroughly.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2027 GOOGA GROUP

Group	Depart	Family Day	Return
Group 1	Monday 12 April Meet at 8am HPE	Saturday 8 May	Saturday 8 May
Group 2	Monday 10 May Meet at 8am HPE	Saturday 5 June	Saturday 5 June



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

What Is Outdoor Education?

- Learning outside of a normal classroom setting
- Learning about self
- Learning about others
- Learning about nature
- The chance to learn about God in a natural environment

Why is Outdoor Education needed?

- To enhance resilience and encourage a spirit of adventure through challenge/adversity
- To accept responsibility for their own actions and foster compassion and empathy
- To connect with the environment and acquire an understanding of our dependence on it and the need for good environmental management/practices

How do we achieve Outdoor Education?

- Experiential learning, perceived risks from adventure activities, logical consequences
- Assuming responsibility for self and others, building trust
- Reflection on and transferal of lessons
- Creating room to make mistakes providing a safe space to make mistakes
- Building a culture of respect and integrity

Outcomes and Benefits

- Goal setting, problem solving, planning and organising
- Working cooperatively and developing a 'can do' attitude
- Develop sound judgment and risk analysis for expeditions

The 'Major Goals' of the Googa Outdoor Education Program are:

- To develop in participants an understanding of human being's relationship to the physical and biological aspects of God's creation as expressed in the Australian countryside.
- To promote initiative and self-reliance to students by presenting a challenge beyond that presented in the usual academic and sporting areas of the schools.
- To increase the opportunity for participants to develop a sense of co-operation, interdependence and community spirit and to encourage self-expression.
- To deepen the participants' spiritual life and to encourage interest in the work of the schools and the church.



CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

How the Googa Program aligns to the National Curriculum:

Community Living

Self-Awareness

- Recognise emotions
- Recognise personal qualities and achievements - celebrating success
- Understand themselves as learners in a new environment
- Develop reflective practice in order to make better choices

Self-Management

- Express emotions appropriately
- Develop self-discipline and set goals
- Work independently and show initiative
- Become confident, resilient and adaptable to change

Social Awareness

- Appreciate diverse perspective
- Understand relationships
- Contribute to building culture

Social Management

- Communicate effectively Develop leadership Skills
- Negotiate and resolve conflict
- Work collaboratively and make decisions

Survival

Creative and Critical Thinking

- Plan, prioritise and delegate
- Develop group dynamics
- Risk assessment and time management
- Complete tasks unaided
- Accountability
- Patience and perseverance
- Effective decision making

Ethical Understanding

- Be inclusive
- Empathy towards inequality
- Gratitude
- Environmental impact
- Appreciation of farmers' lifestyle and struggles

Personal and Social Capability

- Develop work ethic
- Learn social and emotional resilience
- Develop independence
- Expanding comfort zones
- Creating fairness and equality
- Community safety and wellbeing

Hike

Critical and Creative thinking

- Planning and preparing as a group – transfer learning into action
- Navigation and radio communication skills
- Responsibility and delegation
- Growth Mindset
- Exposure to different environments and how to effectively interact with them
- Goal setting - challenge by choice
- Experiential learning in a new context
- Processing new experiences- deeper learning

Ethical Understanding

- Key Googa activity- connection to past student experiences
- Navigation and radio communication skills
- Learning resilience
- Living simply- self sufficiency
- Responsibility and delegation
- Exploring leadership
- Respect and understanding of environment + wider community
- Connectedness with peers through shared experience
- Experiential learning of the Googa Values

Social Awareness

- Adventure and journey- preparation, implementation, celebration
- Indirectly supervised – being responsible for their actions
- Active/dynamic risk management
- Living simply- self sufficiency
- Use and care of critical resources and equipment
- Understanding hiking nutritional needs
- Exposes negative traits and encourages self-management
- Learn to assist others in various ways- physical, emotional support
- Building culture - Work with a new group of people
- Growth Mindset
- Experiential teamwork
- Self-reliance
- Deepening perception of limits
- Perseverance- accepting challenge
- Effective communication
- Achievement – self-worth

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Googa Outdoor Education Centre is owned and operated by three Lutheran Schools: Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell and Caboolture; Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Noosa; Grace Lutheran Primary School, Clontarf.

The centre, a former forestry camp, is set in the beautiful Blackbutt Ranges and located nine kilometres from the township of Blackbutt. The centre has a lease over six hectares of land adjacent to a further 120 hectares owned and managed by Googa. The centre has access to large areas of State Forests and private land for hiking and camping.

Following the example of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Outward Bound and drawing heavily on the experience of other Queensland Lutheran Schools, it was felt by staff at Grace College that students could benefit greatly from an extended, residential, out of the classroom experience. As time at the existing centres was limited, it was decided to pursue the possibility of another centre.

Through the co-operation of Lutheran Schools and the Forestry Service, Googa became available in late 1988. After many working bees and weekend visits, the old camp was transformed from a single men's forestry camp into a centre capable of accommodating a co-educational group of up to 48 students.

Four extra buildings were moved in. They were the hall, staff building, a fourth dormitory and a new dormitory fitted out for students with special needs requirements. In addition, an extra male and female dormitory have been added to cater for the school's increase in size. Growing Googa's capacity to 80.

A Director was appointed in September 1989 and the first Grace students began their four-week course in January, 1990.

As part of Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Year 10 students participate in a four-week experience at the Googa Outdoor Education Centre. During this time students are involved in a wide variety of activities and educational experiences that could not be duplicated in a normal classroom environment.

Facilities at the camp are deliberately simple. As far as possible, the physical environment has been left as it was in the days of the forestry camp. No electrical appliances, apart from refrigerators, are used in the dormitories. There are six dormitories consisting of three cabins, a kitchen and a cookhouse in each. Kitchens are fully equipped with the basics - crockery, cutlery, pots, pans and other utensils. Cooking takes place over an open fire in the cookhouse. Wood-fired ovens are also operational in all cookhouses. The site has a central food preparation area equipped with a stainless-steel kitchen and appliances.

Other facilities on the property include the six different high adventure activities, multi-purpose hall, large grassed areas, initiative activities, volleyball and basketball court. The campus and surrounding country have been mapped for rogaining and hiking activities.

The centre has laying hens, cattle, sheep, goats, horse, a vegetable garden and an avocado plantation. Students are involved in working in these areas under the supervision of staff in addition to being rostered on the daily operation of a dairy. Googa is accredited with Safe Food Queensland for all food safety and as a dairy producer and processor enabling the centre to provide pasteurized milk to students.

GOOGA STAFF

At present, there are 25 staff at Googa. The staff come with varied areas of expertise, some are registered teachers, some have a Bachelor of Outdoor Education, some have a Certificate IV in Outdoor Education/Outdoor Leadership, some from rural background, others may be part way through a degree.

All staff are trained for Googa specific activities and are dedicated to encouraging and nurturing a caring Christian community with the students in their care.

THE GOOGA WAY OF LIFE

Daily, students are responsible for the maintenance of the camp and participate in a variety of jobs to ensure the smooth running of each day. Some of these activities include feeding animals and preparing food for students, milking cows, preparing devotions, cleaning living areas, chopping wood, washing clothes, journal and letter writing and some free time.

At all times the emphasis is on community living, students making their own entertainment, doing as much as possible for themselves and being responsible for their own actions. There is an emphasis on both working as part of a group and on accepting individual responsibility. Each participant should expect to be extended physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

A feature of Googa, and the lifestyle at the centre, is its isolation from modern day conveniences. The emphasis is on camp, bush life and making students responsible for their own entertainment and leisure.

During their stay, students will be involved in various activities which may include hiking, camping, and an overnight solo and high adventure activities. They will also be instructed in areas such as bushcraft, map reading, navigation, knot tying and camp craft, as well as taking part in decision making activities.

A daily spiritual journey is encouraged with students participating in a daily guided journaling and meditation time and worship sessions.

Not all experiences can be offered to all students due to varying circumstances. In all situations all program variations will be in accordance with the stated 'Major Goals'.



THE FOUR WEEK PROGRAM

The Beginning

The major focus of the beginning is buildings 'The Googa Community'. Students are involved in a variety of group initiatives, projects and other activities to assist with the process of establishing a cohesive working community. Students settle into the responsibility of managing their working and living conditions and are involved in many decision-making processes. Towards the end of the first week, students start preparing their navigation skills and participate in an orienteering activity and a 3-day hike where they learn many skills such as navigation, managing first aid requirements, sustainable practices and connection and respect for the land.

The Middle

Students will be involved in survival and High Adventure Activities. The Survival experience is designed to give the students an experience of a very basic campout where their only main goal is to survive with their limited resources and rations. Emphasis is on group cooperation and personal responsibility as well as strengthening community bonds in a bush setting.

The End

During the last week of Googa, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their experiences through an overnight solo activity. Special evening events during this stage include a large bonfire, Celebration Nights, a hungi meal prepared by staff and the viewing of the class video as a final overview of their Googa experience.

DAILY PROGRAM EXAMPLE

6.15am	Morning Run
6.45am	Journaling and Meditation
7.30am	Breakfast
7.45am	Medication
8.00am	Clean up
8.30am	Morning Program
12.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Afternoon Program
3.30pm	Jobs
4.45pm	Medication
5.30pm	Dinner
6.00pm	Clean up
6.30pm	Evening Program
7.30pm	Showers
9.00pm	Bedtime
9.15pm	Lights out

PACKING LIST

An 'Authentic' Googa experience is going without simple luxuries and devices – phones, magazines, make-up, music etc. Googa staff strongly encourage all students to fully participate in this once-in-a-time challenge.

Please keep luggage to a minimum. Ensure all items are clearly marked with your name.
Prohibited items will be confiscated and returned upon arrival back at school.
Any white clothing may be ruined by the red dirt. Do not bring anything you cannot afford to have ruined. Op shops are great resources for any items you do not already own but it is highly recommended to have shoes that will last the distance.

Daily activities: Day clothes need to be tough, comfortable and able to get dirty.
□ shirts must have sleeves (at least three with **collars**)
□ Long Pants
□ respectable length shorts (no shorter than mid-thigh)
□ broad-brimmed sun hat (not straw)
□ at least 6 pairs socks (long and short) and underwear
□ no bare midriffs, singlets or 'short' shorts.
□ daily water bottle x 2
□ sock protectors (optional)
□ gardening gloves (not essential but recommended)

Evening
□ modest casual clothes
□ modest pyjamas
□ flannelette for Bush Dance night

Warm Clothes *(Winter temps can drop below 0)*
□ jumpers & tracksuits
□ warm jacket
□ rain jacket –**no ponchos**
□ thermals-top and bottom

Footwear
□ A minimum of 2 pairs of closed in shoes/boots
□ supportive running shoes in good condition for running and hiking
□ hiking or work boots allowed but **not** essential. (please wear them in prior to camp).
□ thongs/slides/ugg boots for inside dorms only
□ one pair of shoes that can get wet / muddy

Hiking / Camping:
□ lightweight long-sleeved shirt with collar and long pants
□ 2 pairs of additional thick socks for hiking
□ torch – preferably a head torch with spare batteries so that students can do tasks hands free
□ 1 roll mat for sleeping on-basic foam mats are best
□ (examples shown on final information night)
□ 1 sleeping bag appropriate for the season
□ sleeping bag liner (optional)
□ water bottles/bladders to carry minimum **3 litres** for hiking (Cheap water bottles tend to break very easily. Old cordial or juice containers are great low cost and durable options.)

Dormitory Bedding
□ 1 pillow and 2 pillowcases
□ 2 fitted sheets
□ 2 flat sheets
□ 1 Doona, quilt or blanket (not sleeping bag)
□ 2 towels
□ 1 face washer

Toiletries
□ toothpaste
□ soap
□ shampoo and hairbrush
□ roll-on insect repellent
□ roll-on deodorant **(no aerosols)**
□ sunscreen
□ lip balm (not tinted)
□ hand cream/moisturiser
□ tissues or hankie

Aerosol cans, Make-up, hair clippers/ electric razors are not permitted

Daily Living
□ washing powder (septic friendly), laundry bag, clothes pegs, 2 garbage bags
□ medication/first aid items (must be in original packaging, named, labelled and stored in a zip lock bag and handed to teachers prior to boarding the bus)
□ Disposable/Film Camera **Only**
□ watch/battery alarm clock (no radios)

Stationery
□ envelopes and stamps (note-stamps are now $1.50)
□ notebook/writing paper
□ pens and pencils
□ books to read (fiction or non-fiction) – age appropriate please
□ Art and craft (optional)
□ board game/cards (optional)

All hike packs, tents and cooking equipment provided

Do not bring aerosol cans (shaving cream, hair spray or mousse, deodorants, etc.), makeup, smart devices (phones, tablets, watches), radios, electric shavers, hair dryers/straighteners, hair clippers, any food or drink, magazines, pocketknives, hunting knives or flick knives. Do not bring electrical appliances of any kind. Board/card games created for 18+ will not be permitted (Cards against humanity).

MEDICAL FORM

Parents will receive a link via email to fill in their child's relevant medical information. This will be accessed by staff at Googa. To provide the best care for your student, it is important that you provide as much information as possible on this form. If you would like to speak to staff regarding your student's needs, please email googa_studentservices@glc.qld.edu.au to arrange a call. Additionally, asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis or other medical alert plans can be emailed to this address. It is important that your students' medical care is current, this includes dental checks, vaccinations (tetanus). We request that this form is filled out ASAP, as this assists us with planning our program to suit the needs of all students.

MEDICATION AND FIRST-AID

All staff at Googa are Remote and/or Wilderness First-Aid qualified. More serious cases will be transported by staff or by ambulance for further treatment. Googa has a store of all the required first aid and medical supplies if the need arises. This includes, but is not limited to, paracetamol, ibuprofen, cough lozenges, antihistamines, itch + burn lotions. As specified in the medical form, you will give permission for any of these items to be administered. If you wish to send your student to Googa with these things, they must be in their original packaging inside a clear plastic bag with your student's name written on the bag and sent on the bus. Your student will have access to these whenever they need but they will be kept in the office.

In addition to general first aid supplies, all general and essential medication must be sent on the bus in the same way as specified previously. We require details of when this medication is to be administered and the correct dosage. Please be reminded, by law we cannot dispense prescription medications unless a script has been provided by a doctor and the appropriate pharmacy label has been attached; a signed parental note will not suffice. Preferred medication times are 7:45am (After breakfast) and 4:45pm (Before dinner). However, medication can be administered at any time i.e. 5:45am before morning run, 12noon and/or 8:45pm (before bed). 'Essential' medications are items that MUST be administered when required throughout the program- this is specified by the parent. 'General' medications are items which include strapping tape for injuries, creams/lotions, and any 'non-regular' items.

We also ask that students who require 'strapping' for injury management bring their own tape/braces. Students should not rely on staff to manage pre-existing injuries and should have management plans in place for staff to follow.

All prescription and non-prescription medication must be handed to the accompanying teacher at the bus before departure.

POCKET MONEY

As a standard procedure, Googa 'lends' an allocated sum of $80 pocket money to each participant. Money spent will be charged to the school and passed on to the parents for collection.

Incidental costs – Medication, stamps, envelopes and breakages.

Googa merchandise – t-Shirts, beanies, hats, buffs and Googa postcards.

Expenses more than $80 will be discussed with the parent/guardian if the need arises. During the program, students will use Googa equipment, and students are expected to be responsible for all gear they use. The cost of breakages may be passed on to students.

FAMILY DAY

It is the intention that students will remain at Googa for the entirety of the program. Exceptions to this are very rare and are limited primarily to medical reasons.

For students with documented needs that require differentiation and adjustments, it is the College's intention for them to be able to be provided with a level of participation, challenge and success from this program which they will be able to realistically achieve. Prior to them attending Googa, meetings will be arranged between parents and staff to work out the most suitable program and to discuss support strategies on a case-by-case basis.

If a student needs exemption from any part of the program, this must firstly be discussed with College Googa Coordinator at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please be aware that behavioural expectations are as set by the College and disciplinary action will be taken for breaches of these expectations. Students are expected to obey the College Code of Conduct, the moral code and civil law. This is particularly important in the camping and boarding situations while at Googa. The use or possession of alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs, or substance abuse is also strictly forbidden.

Above all, common sense, respect and co-operation are the principles which help create a positive community. Students are challenged to create a group culture which accepts diversity and encourages initiative. We have every confidence that each group is up to the challenge.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Write 1-2 letters to their child per week. Staff will encourage all students to regularly write home; however, this is not monitored and is up to the responsibility of the child.
2. Attend Family Day (information in booklet)
3. Do not send parcels of food. (Please contact Googa if you have any dietary concerns regarding your students' needs)
4. Make sure your student does not bring items that are not required or considered contraband.
5. Encourage your student to participate fully in all aspects of the program.
6. Please ensure the online medical form has been completed at least 2 weeks prior to your student arriving to Googa.
7. Ensure all your students' medical needs are up to date.
8. Hand student's prescription and non-prescription medication, along with the medical form that will be emailed to you a few days prior to departure, to a staff member on the day of departure.
9. Trust the process. Often letters sent home during the first week will reflect homesickness etc., however by the second week students will settle into the new routine. Googa will do a welfare check during week one and liaise with parents and the College should there be wellbeing concerns.

PHOTOS DURING THE PROGRAM

Staff will be regularly taking photos and videos of your student's experience at Googa. This will be put together in a movie at the end of the program. Please note, Googa staff will do their best to send regular photo updates to the school, but this is not Googa's priority. Rest assured staff will be capturing as much of the program as possible as a memory for your student. Videos and photos will be distributed to the school after the program. A brief newsletter will be emailed home during weeks 2, 3 and 4 with a mixture of photos of the weekly activities. Photos may also be posted on our Googa Facebook page as we share 'happenings'.

FAMILY DAY

Googa invites parents to visit their children and meet with staff on Family Day, Saturday 8 May or Saturday 5 June 2027 before returning home with them in the afternoon. You will also receive an email from Googa with more information closer to the date.

Program:

9:00am – 10:30am	Arrival (no earlier please) for morning tea
10:00am	Morning Tea and Tour
11:00am	Presentations at the Bush Chapel
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch and Relax Families are free to picnic and explore after the presentations or stay until 2:00pm

Please note:

Cars must be parked in the designated area (grassy area behind GOOGA OEC sign) and must remain there for the whole day. Cars are not to be driven through the campus unless with permission from a senior supervising staff member. Googa can offer car rides to the Bush Chapel for those needing assistance.
Fold-up chairs or blankets to sit on are recommended. Smoking and alcohol are not permitted on site. Please do not bring your family pet. An email with further details will be sent out closer to the day.

COST

The cost of the Googa program is covered within the College fee structure.

