

FAQs

Registration/ General enquiries

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| 1) Where can I register for my child? | Please refer to the link provided in Parents Gateway for the e-Registration. Do note that SingPass login is required. |
| 2) When does the registration start? | The e-Registration period is from 16 September to 7 October 2022. |
| 3) Is OBS open to all Secondary 3 students or only for selected students? | MOE-OBS Challenge Programme is open to ALL Secondary 3 students in 2023. |
| 4) Will my child be required to wear a mask at all times? | We will adhere to the national posture at the point in time when the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme is taking place. Based on the current status, mask wearing is optional. |
| 5) Why is this OBS programme not carried out after Term 1 WA? | The dates for OBS are assigned to the school to spread the opportunities across all secondary schools, and we are unable to change the assigned dates. |

Course/ Activities enquiries

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| 6) Can my child opt out from kayaking activities? / If my child does not know how to swim, will he or she be required to take part in the water activities? / How do I decide whether to declare my child as 'swimmer' or 'non-swimmer'? | <p>You can declare your child's / ward's ability to swim in the e-registration form. OBS will take note of your child's / ward's water proficiency.</p> <p>In addition, when taking part in any water activities, OBS will issue a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) to each participant. A water confidence test will also be done to assess the participant's comfort level.</p> <p>Lastly, OBS has a policy of "challenge by choice", therefore, if your child / ward is not comfortable to take part, he / she can highlight to the instructor.</p> |
| 7) Do we need to prepare basic medication (e.g. Panadol) for my child? | It is not necessary as OBS has on-site medical facilities and personnel to attend to students who are unwell. |
| 8) If my child has a medical condition (i.e. knee problem), can he or she attend OBS? Must I get a certified letter from a doctor for my child to go? | <p>Yes, your child can take part if he/she has a doctor's memo to certify that he/she is able to participate in the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme.</p> <p>Please proceed to declare the medical condition in the form during e-Registration.</p> |

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| 9) What kind of medical check up will be conducted? | <p>During the medical check up, the onsite doctor will measure your child's blood pressure, ask questions and use the stethoscope for checks on the heart or lungs.</p> <p>In addition, if your child has declared a pre-existing condition, the doctor will review his/her readiness to participate in OBS based on the medical advice of your doctor.</p> |
| 10) If there is heavy rain, will all activities continue as per normal? | All activities will be assessed by the OBS instructors on whether to proceed in the event of inclement weather. |
| 11) Will the students have access to their mobile phones? / Does this mean that I will not hear from my child for 5 days? | The MOE-OBS Challenge Programme is designed for students to immerse themselves in an outdoor environment. Hence, students will not have access to their mobile phones during the course and you will only hear from your child after the camp. |
| 12) Will parents get updates of their child's activities during the camp? | <p>Parents will not receive notification unless there are issues which require their attention, e.g. student is feeling unwell.</p> <p>We will encourage all students to update parents of their experiences after the camp.</p> |
| 13) If my child falls sick during OBS, will we be informed by OBS directly or will OBS send them back to school? | OBS will assess, manage and monitor the condition of the child and provide the necessary support. If the student is assessed to be unwell and unable to continue, OBS will contact parents through the school for them to bring the student home directly from OBS campsite. |
| 14) My child might be going through teeth braces treatment. Will it affect him/ her? | Based on the planned activities, it should not affect your child's OBS involvement. Do consult your dentist if you have concerns. |
| 15) What is the ratio of OBS instructors to students? | The ratio of an OBS instructor to students is between 1 : 12 to 1 : 14. |
| 16) Does this mean that there will not be any teacher(s) accompanying the students? | <p>As the OBS programme is run entirely by their staff, teachers will only accompany the students to the campsite, after which, the OBS instructors will take over for the next 5 days.</p> <p>Teachers will return at the end of the camp to accompany the students back to school.</p> |
| 17) What is the insurance coverage for the MOE OBS Challenge Programme? | Students are covered by both OBS and school's insurance. We will advise around the various complications in the unlikely event that a student needs to make a claim. |

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| 18) Is the food served Halal? | Yes it is. |
| 19) Can our Muslim students carry out their daily prayers during OBS? | <p>Muslim students will be able to perform their prayers during the pockets of free time (such as lunch time and rest breaks). Depending on the day's programme, they might have to perform their prayers in a different environment that they are used to (e.g. outdoors, by the trails). They will also have access to water.</p> <p>On the first day of the programme, please remind your child to inform the instructors-in-charge so they can keep a look out for your child. Do prepare the required equipment such as extra water bottle for ablution and small plastic/waterproof mat for praying outdoors.</p> |