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Oregon Student Essays 2021 Web Exhibit

About the 2021 Exhibit



This colored image by Halle Krom is part of a larger drawing that depicts some of the fun things to do in the Wallowa Lake State Park area.

As part of this edition's theme of the Oregon State Parks centennial, we asked Oregon students to write essays describing their favorite state parks. We selected the top essays from the large number of submissions to be displayed in this edition of the *Oregon Blue Book*. All of these essays are illustrated with drawings by the authors. The essays and drawings help us see the wonder of state parks through the eyes of young students and further reinforce the value of the parks system to all Oregonians.

What is your favorite state park in Oregon and why?

Contestants were asked to limit their essays to about 350 words and to illustrate their essays with drawings. This exhibit features the seven winning essays. The essays are displayed as written and are presented alphabetically.

Essays

Emma Arvin

Ivy Elseth

Jacob Hurd

Lucas Hurd

Halle Krom

Luther Lawson

Aidan Lin

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Silver Falls State Park

Emma Arvin

Jessica Sloan's 8th Grade Class

Duniway Middle School, McMinnville

Essay Drawing



This drawing by Emma Arvin shows a downed tree at Silver Falls State Park.

Essay Text

Silver Falls State Park is one of my all-time favorite state parks. There are many different trails you can explore, different sights to see. There are tall, green trees and plants littered along the ground. You can spot different types of animals, like deer, birds, insects, and some really cool slugs! It is a great place to go with my family. Everyone loves it! The trails range from easy to a bit more challenging, from a few miles to several miles! Along these trails you can see ten stunning waterfalls.

But my favorite part of Silver falls is hiking along the trail called South Falls and Maple Ridge Loop where you can walk behind the South Falls. When you are behind it, you can feel the spray of water

against your face and the roaring of the rushing water is so loud you can't hear anyone talking. Walking behind it though can be sort of challenging though, there are gianormous puddles you have to skip around and a giant cliff above your head, but it makes it even more fun!

All in all, Silver Falls is a fantastic place to visit with the wildlife and the different trails, no matter if it is rainy or sunny, I guarantee it is the funnest State Park to visit!

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Oregon Student Essays 2021 Web Exhibit

Harris Beach State Park

Ivy Elseth

Mrs. Thompson's Kindergarten Class

Lincoln Elementary School, Grants Pass

Essay Drawing



This drawing by Ivy Elseth shows a campsite at Harris Beach State Park.

Essay Text

Note: The text is displayed as written.

At Harris Beach State Park I like to walk by the water and roast marshmellow by the fire and one time me and my sister and my uncle climd up a boulder. Me and my sister like to bick around the block. Sum time we go a difrit way. We like to invite my gramo and my grapo, my cusins to.

I like to invite to my capsite. We like to talk. My dad made hot dog and for breakfast, backin, eggs, pancakes. And for luch we sum time go out. Sum time we go to Zola's pizza and at Zola's we git to draw on the table and on every pizza box there is a difrit picsr. Wen we wit there was a Z on are pizza box. And sum times we breing chips – fredos. Are dog Kima always wit into the wotr. My sister, me and my dad wit into the water.

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Oregon Student Essays 2021 Web Exhibit

The Cove Palisades State Park

Jacob Hurd

Ms Campbell's 3rd Grade Class

Buff Elementary, Madras

Essay Drawing



This drawing by Jacob Hurd shows camping, boating, and hiking at The Cove Palisades State Park.

Essay Text

Note: The text is displayed as written.

I am writing about Cove Palisades. The Cove has two camp grounds and cabins. I piked it because there is a lake in the hight desert.

To start there is a lake in the high desert. Did you know you can do tons of stuff at the lake. You can water ski with your frinds. You can go fishing for kokahee, bull trout, bass and crayfish. And you can go swiming with your family.

Next you can explor in the hight desert. You can go camping and hiking. You can look at the nature. My favoret is the balancing rocks. My favoret hike is the Tamat'an trail. It is cool because it over looks the lake. They call the hight desert that because it is very dry.

Last I piked the cove because there is a lot to do at the cove like camping, boting, hiking and exploring. It is rilly cool because there is a lake in the hight desert.

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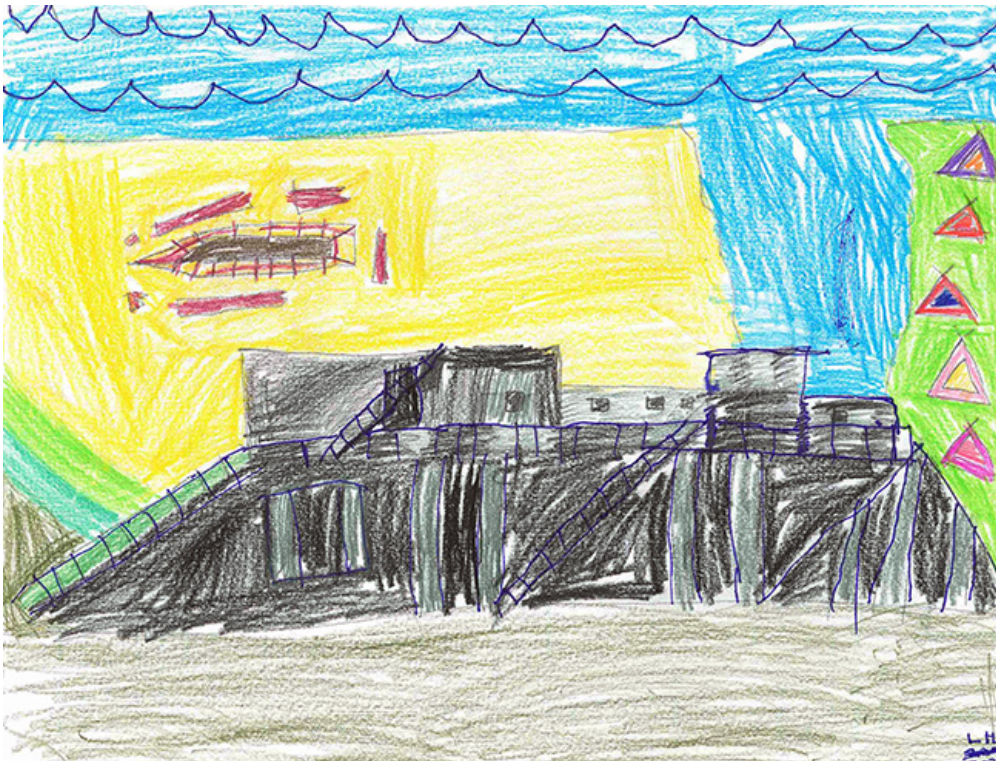
Oregon Student Essays 2021 Web Exhibit

Fort Stevens State Park

Lucas Hurd

Mrs. O'Leary's 5th Grade Class
Buff Elementary School, Madras

Essay Drawing



This drawing by Lucas Hurd shows one of the military structures at Fort Stevens State Park at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Essay Text

Note: The text is displayed as written.

The state park I am writing about is Fort Stevens. Today Fort Stevens is calm but it was once booming with excitement. Fort Stevens is really cool because it is right between the Columbia and the coast. Another reason it is amazing is because it is a retired military base.

Fort Stevens is amazing because it right between the coast and Columbia. You can drive on the beach once a year. You can fish on the Columbia. Fort Stevens even has a camp ground for camping spots.

Fort Stevens astoshing because it is a retired military base. Fort Stevens was used in the Civil War, World War I and World War II. Fort Stevens even has army truck and fort tours. Fort Stevens even has a museum. You can go climb on all the forts.

I picked Fort Stevens. Fort Stevens is tremendous. Because it is right between the coast and Columbia. I was also an active military base. Can you imagine what Fort Stevens was like when it was active?

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Wallowa Lake State Park

Halle Krom

John Scanlan's 8th Grade Class
Sunridge Middle School, Pendleton

Essay Drawing



This drawing by Halle Krom depicts some of the fun things to do in the Wallowa Lake State Park area.

Essay Text

This might seem very cliché, but my favorite Oregon State Park is Wallowa Lake. I can say with 100% confidence that this is my favorite park, even though I've only been there once.

Wallowa Lake has such amazing views, and just thinking about my experience there brings me great euphoria! The tramway is outstanding and is such a fun little way to the restaurant on top of the mountain. The views up there are even better than the views from down below.

There are quite a few cafes and gift shops if you drive around the area, and each one of them are filled with superior food, and the nicest employees!

There are countless amazing and fun experiences to have at Wallowa Lake, but I'll leave it up to you to check it out for yourself. The fun is endless at Wallowa, and these are just a few of my reasons why I love it so very much.

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Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

Tumalo State Park

Luther Lawson

Kellie Eldridge's 6th Grade Class

Elton Gregory Middle School, Redmond

Essay Drawing



This impressionistic drawing by Luther Lawson shows the Deschutes River at Tumalo State Park.

Essay Text

My favorite State Park is Tumalo State Park because I love swimming through the river and fighting against the rapids. Also I like walking up the trails to the bridge and putting my donut shaped float tube into the water and going through the rapids and usually falling off and hitting my butt on the rocks because I slip off the donut shaped float tube all the time.

Another thing that I enjoy doing at Tumalo is bringing my dogs, Ruby a German Pointer who is extremely energetic. I've had Ruby for 3 years and she doesn't like the water, but when there's a bird she does not care if she gets wet are not.

Then when my friends come to Tumalo with me we get our donut float tubes and go to the bridge and tie all of our tubes together, then go down the rapids. We all usually fall off because the rope gets stuck on a rock and we have to swim up the rapids to get the tubes that got stuck on the rock. Also, sometimes we try to block off the rapids with rocks. Also we try to get to this picnic table that is on the side of the river somewhere, I don't know if it's still there, but we just sit there and talk, while people going down the rapids look at us like we are crazy people.

And that's my favorite state park and probably always will be because it requires the least amount of hiking.

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Oregon Student Essays 2021 Web Exhibit

Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park

Aidan Lin

Brenda Jensen's 4th Grade Class

Ashbrook Independent School, Corvallis

Essay Drawing



This drawing by Aidan Lin shows people playing on the sand dunes and Cleawox Lake at Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park.

Essay Text

I woke up to some pitter pattering. My eyes opened to a rising sun. I got out of my blue sleeping bag and looked out of our tent. My eyes were greeted by the beauty of the droplets of rain on the grass. We arrived at Honeyman State Park yesterday night for a camping weekend. I was already having an extraordinary time! I learned about the lake's inhabitants at the visitor's center and we made smores over a campfire. Today was going to be even better. We were going to the lake.

As we walked through the luscious green trails, a massive sand dune appeared. It was like a mountain of sand. At its edge, you could see a sparkling lake with hundreds of trees on the other side. I sprinted down, hopped onto my hands and knees, and started building a sand castle. When I went to get wet

sand, I saw something squiggly in the corner of my eye. It was a salamander! And there wasn't just one, there were tons!! I started to dig a watery hole by the water, and filled it with salamanders. This was by far the most fun I had at the park.

After a day of playing in the sand, paddle boarding, and sand boarding, we went back to our campsite. We were leaving early the next day. As I packed up my things, I hoped we would come back again. Honeyman was by far, my favorite park I have ever visited.

End of Exhibit