



Bend Parks and Recreation District

Serving Deschutes County

Overview

Bend, Oregon is the county seat of Deschutes County and the largest and principal city in Central Oregon with an estimated population of 87,000. It is home to Central Oregon Community College and the OSU-Cascades Campus of Oregon State University which combined offer 2 and 4 year programs. The Bend-La Pine School District serves the cities of Bend and La Pine and the surrounding area including the community of Sunriver. The district has 18 elementary schools, 6 middle schools (1 is an alternative school), and 5 high schools with a total enrollment of nearly 18,000 students.

Fast Facts

- All staff receive criminal background checks and trainings in child abuse awareness, CPR/ First Aid, and various areas of child development.
- Scholarships are available through the Bend Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund and many families receive child care assistance from the state as well.
- Children that may need special accommodations to participate and be successful in programs will be provided with additional support including a recreation companion when needed.
- Bend Parks & Rec is an exceptional employer and therefore experiences very little staff turnover. Staff receive professional development and any necessary support. They are made to feel they are career professionals and are rewarded as such.
- Some sites take part in service projects which increase awareness of their community and the important roles they have in their neighborhoods and communities.

“Everyone benefits from KIDS INC...Kids benefit through self-discipline, skill development, and enhanced self-esteem. Parents benefit through services that help families lead balanced lives, reducing stress and giving them the peace of mind that their children are safe and engaged in positive activities. And, the community benefits when children are involved in positive lifestyle choices that encourage service and a connection to the community which result in reduced anti-social behavior and more productive citizens.”

--Sue Jorgenson, Founder of Kids Inc. (Bend Parks & Rec afterschool and before school program)

Program Details

Bend Parks & Rec offers a variety of *Enrichment Opportunities* for ages 6-18. Depending on the age group, Enrichment Opportunities cover the full gamut from foreign language classes, tae kwon do, art, pottery, martial arts, music, and theatre, to skate camps, cheerleading, gymnastics, and other specialty camps.

Bend Parks & Rec also offers *Rec Zone* at one school location. Rec Zone is self-guided physical activity, socialization, and play time with staff supervision. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:30-4:30.

Kids Inc, the fully inclusive before and after school program of Bend Parks & Rec, provides care for K-5 children at 14 elementary schools. During the school year, this high quality program provides children with safe, enriching recreation and enrichment activities that are conducive to learning and social interaction. Students are encouraged to pursue their interests, develop friendships as well as a sense of independence, and gain self-confidence. The program is designed to give children the opportunity to choose from a variety of theme and outcome based activities such as arts and crafts, cooking, science, nature exploration, games, and community service projects. Hours of operation include before school (7-8:30), after school (3:30-6), and early release Wednesday (2-6). An average of 40 staff are maintained every school year. Staff consistently work on program improvement through feedback from parents, children, schools, and staff.

For kids ages 3-5, Parks & Rec has something for you, too. *Busy Buddies* Preschool is held at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center during the school year. The program encourages social and self-esteem development through a range of fun, creative, and healthy activities. In small groups, participants enjoy activities such as arts and crafts, dramatic play, show and tell, and circle time. Basic educational concepts are introduced such as numbers, letters, phonics and more. Times are Mondays/Wednesdays OR Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:15-4:00. A similar program is available during the summertime.

The PAC at the Pavilion is for grades 3-5 and 6-8. The Pavilion is Bend's newest recreation center that turns into a youth wonderland during summertime. At The PAC, participants decide how to spend their day! Choices of activities include group games and art projects, as well as opportunities to try new things and plan off-site adventures. There are designated areas and lockers including time on the skatepark features and rock wall. A full day is from 7:30AM-5:30PM and a half day is from 12:30-5:30. Those over 12 are able to check themselves in and out with parent pre-approval and go off-site during the day as needed. Half day PAC programs are able to be matched with half day outdoor programs, or Camp Excel and Camp G.R.O programs (therapeutic recreation).

For more info, please visit

www.bendparksandrec.org

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