



Nighthawk Naturalist School Air Quality Response Procedures

For all programs

Created October 2020

Updated August 2021, June 2023, July 2024

In the event of poor air quality in program areas due to wildfire, pollution, or other environmental issues, refer to the guidelines below for program health and safety.

General Information

We monitor the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) [Air Quality Index](#) (AQI), Paku Air, Oregon Air, Air Visual, and Watchy Duty Apps. During times of poor air quality.

For regional fire information, visit the [Central Oregon Fire Info](#) website.

Please remember that children are particularly sensitive to smoke because their respiratory systems are still developing.

Parents: Watch the smoke forecast and decide when to limit your child(ren)'s activities. If you do not wish for your child to spend time outdoors, please consider if the activity or program is the right choice for your family this day.

Nighthawk Naturalist School Policies around Air Quality

*If changes in program duration or location are needed or in the event of necessary cancellation, Nighthawk will inform participants and/or guardians by 1-2 hours before the start of their program programming via email and/or text message (when a mobile number is provided). Cancellations/shifts are on a **day-by-day** basis. If Program Directors opt for half-day youth programming upon arriving and assessing the day's location AQI, participants may be notified of updates at Sign-In. For each full day of programming canceled due to air quality, a credit may be applied to the participant for future programming.*



When AQI according to the above sources at the closest stations are between **1-100** (Good and Moderate), recreation program operating status for outdoor activities will continue as planned.



Measurements between **101-150** (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) will result in modified activities at reduced physical intensity and/or duration at the discretion of facility managers and program coordinators. For staff, outdoor duties will be modified with increased rest periods throughout time of reduced air quality.



Measurements between **150-200** (Unhealthy to Hazardous) may result in shortened program days, a shift in location (including possible indoor location), and/or changes in the day's planned activities. If none of these changes are possible or available to us, a program day may be canceled or rescheduled.

For staff, outdoor duties will be modified with increased rest periods throughout time of reduced air quality if outdoor activities continue at the discretion of administration.

The following day or when AQI drops below 200, outdoor activities may resume to modified activities with admin approval.



Measurements above **200** (Hazardous) will result in mandatory closure of all outdoor activities. We will do our best to host the program day, which may result in shortened program days, a shift in location (including possible indoor location), and/or changes in the day's planned activities.

For staff, outdoor duties will be suspended and indoor only duties will continue in accordance with supervisor and work needs.

The following day or when AQI drops below 200, outdoor activities may resume to modified activities with admin approval.

Additional resources

Oregon Health Authority:

[OHA's information for student-athletes – English](#)

[OHA's "Wildfire & Smoke" information webpage](#)

[Bend-La Pine School](#) information for its activities, delays and closures.