



## Teen Nature Team (TNT) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### 1. Will I have to pay any money to do the program?

TNT is FREE, so you will not pay any money. If needed, we give bus passes and provide winter coats, backpacks, water bottles, hand sanitizer, and food for youth to use at TNT.

### 2. Where does TNT meet?

*Normal years:* We meet at East Portland Community Center ([740 SE 106th Avenue, Portland, OR](#)), and travel together in a bus to parks.

*During COVID:* We meet at local parks in Portland. Park locations switch each month or each week, and all locations can be reached by bus or MAX. We visit Mount Tabor Park, Whitaker Ponds, Powell Butte, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, etc.

### 3. What time does TNT meet?

TNT usually meets from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Meeting times may change.

### 4. Do I need to bring anything?

No, you do not need to bring anything. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes. We will have some outdoor clothing for you to borrow. You may bring your own lunch and snacks if you would like to.

### 5. How long does the program run?

The program runs year-round meetings on Saturdays, school breaks, and holidays. Participants can attend until the summer before their 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year.

### 6. Do I get paid to do this program?

No, you will not get paid. TNT is a volunteer program.

### 7. What will you feed my child?

We always have snacks such as granola bars and fruit for youth.

*Normal years:* We provide sandwich supplies such as bread, cheese, turkey slices, peanut butter, and jam. Sometimes we order food from local restaurants.

*During COVID:* We purchase prepacked sandwiches from grocery stores or order food from local restaurants.

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### 8. What if I need translation or interpretation to talk to the teachers?

We have interpretation and translation services available. You can let us know which language you need for interpretation and/or translation in the application or call us, and we will include the interpretation service for the call.

### 9. How many youths are in the program?

20, but we split into smaller groups of 10 or less for each day. We may join together at certain times if current guidelines allow.

### 10. What safety precautions are the program taking during COVID?

At TNT we follow current guidelines, which include:

- Wear masks
- Remain outside 100% of the time
- Stay socially distant
- Minimize and sanitize any shared equipment
- Follow CDC guidelines on contact tracing

### 11. What will my child do and learn in the program?

Your child will learn about things they see in nature, including animals (birds, frogs, salamanders, snakes, insects, etc.), plants, and other topics. They will explore, hike, play games, go on outdoor adventures (kayaking, canoeing, etc.), take care of nature (removing invasive plants, planting native plants, watering, mulching, etc.), and work on job skills.

### 12. What does a day at TNT look like?

We are outdoors all day. We focus on a different topic each day, but our schedule usually looks like this:

9:45 am – 10:00 am	Arrive at the site and get ready for the day
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning Circle
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Hike, explore, play games, and learn about the topic of the day
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Hike, explore, play games, and learn about the topic of the day
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Sit spots (quiet individual time in nature)
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Hike back to the meeting spot
2:45 pm – 3 pm	Closing circle



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### 13. Do I have to attend every TNT session?

We hope you attend as much as possible, but it is not required. We do **prioritize** youth who can commit to all sessions but are **flexible** with situations. We ask that participants tell us if they will or will not be in attendance in advance.

### 14. What benefits come with joining the program?

Benefits are long-term support and opportunities that include help in applying for jobs, resume workshops, providing recommendation letters, paid internships, ongoing outdoor events, and many more. 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students may also earn High school credit for the summer program.

### 15. What accommodations do you provide?

We try to make our program as **accessible** as possible and **accommodate** needs based on language, diet, transportation, clothing, learning, and mobility levels. Each individual is different, so if you are unsure, please get in touch with us.

### 16. Who will be working with my youth?

Crew leaders have years of experience working safely in the outdoors with youth. All crew leaders are certified in CPR + First Aid and Severe Allergic Reaction training. Some crew leaders also have other health and safety certifications. Most crew leaders also come from the same communities as our participants, so they identify as Immigrant, Refugee, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and/or have a disability.