

KHOC: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Do all teachers in the program need to attend an orientation?

A. Yes, all teachers, even if they're from the same school, need to attend at least one **virtual** orientation. Teachers can choose to attend any virtual orientation. Attendance will be recorded and only teachers who complete an orientation will be eligible for free bus transportation.

Q. What's the difference between a virtual orientation and an in-person orientation?

A. At the **virtual** orientations, Administrative, Naturalist, and Parks Transportation staff provide a comprehensive overview of the KHOC program and the many elements of it. This includes a history of KHOC, requirements and expectations of participation, a full timeline, and how to request a Naturalist program and bus transportation. A virtual orientation must be attended **before** an in-person orientation.

The **in-person** orientations are designed to **supplement** the virtual orientations. In a park setting, Naturalist staff provide resources and hands-on demonstrations to comfortably prepare an outdoor field trip. This includes the use of a Teacher Kit (backpack), classroom management tips, and general guidance for connecting lessons from the classroom to the outdoors. Additionally, at the in-person orientations KHOC printed materials (booklets) are distributed.

Q: Can I still participate in KHOC if I cannot make any of the orientation dates?

A: Participation in KHOC and eligibility of bus transportation funds is dependent on each participating teacher having attended a virtual orientation. Exceptions cannot be granted for missed virtual orientations; however, if another teacher from your school attends a virtual orientation (and is therefore eligible for bus transportation funds), you may choose to use the KHOC booklets and join the other teacher's field trip as there is often sufficient room on each bus for more than one class. You will need to coordinate with the other participating teacher and the Parks Transportation department to ensure bus capacity.

Q. Are the park locations where the in-person orientations are held the only parks available to schedule our field trip?

A. No. Each teacher who attends a virtual orientation is eligible to receive free bus transportation to **any** Regional Park, not just the park where the orientation is held. Some parks are better equipped for field trips than others, and teachers may consider a **Naturalist-Led** field trip at a Visitor Center of their choosing, **or** they may opt to **Self-Guide** their class to either one of four designated (pre-planned) parks or to any park of their choosing.

Q: What are the printed materials (booklets) for?

A: There are two types of printed resources that each participating teacher will need to obtain, regardless of taking a Self-Guided or Naturalist-Led field trip: a **KHOC Teacher Guide** and a **KHOC Student Booklet** (one booklet per student; available in English and Spanish.) The Teacher Guide is designed to help teachers incorporate nature-based lessons into the classroom. The Teacher Guide also prepares teachers to host their

class on a field trip. The Student Booklets contain various interactive lessons (10 in total) that connect students to outdoor concepts.

Note: Participating in KHOC requires completing the Introductory lesson **and** 3 of the 10 lessons outlined in the Teacher Guide and Student Booklets. Teachers can select those lessons which are most supportive of their classroom learning goals.

Q. How do I obtain the printed materials (booklets)?

A. Printed materials are distributed at in-person orientations and are also available to pick up at select Visitor Centers during normal business hours. Alternatively, a teacher/representative from each school may pick up printed materials on behalf of all KHOC teachers at their school.

Q: If I'm not eligible to apply this year, can I still get KHOC booklets for my class?

A: Please contact us with your request for booklets at KHOC@ebparks.org. If we have extras after supplying this year's participants, we'll be happy to distribute these.

Q. What's the difference between a **Self-Guided field trip and a **Naturalist-Led** one?**

A. Self-Guided field trips are hosted exclusively by the teacher without oversight from a Naturalist. A Self-Guided field trip can occur at any Regional Park; however, there are four designated (pre-planned) field trips designed specifically for the KHOC program. A Teacher Kit (backpack) may also be checked out in advance of a field trip. Teachers participating in their second or third year of KHOC are *encouraged* to opt for a Self-Guided field trip, thus yielding Naturalists' time to teachers who are not yet comfortable instructing outdoors.

Naturalist-Led field trips are hosted by a Naturalist at a Visitor Center (or specific park) of a teacher's choosing. Teachers arrive with their class and the Naturalist delivers a program on a topic pre-selected by the teacher. Teachers are encouraged to observe how Naturalist staff engage with students in an outdoor setting to enhance their own skills instructing outside.

Q: What's a Teacher Kit how is it used?

A: A Teacher Kit is a backpack which contains resources, guides, and equipment a teacher might find useful when hosting their **Self-Guided** field trip. A Teacher Kit can be reserved (at least a week in advance of a planned field trip date) from one of four designated Visitor Centers. Use of a Teacher Kit can be demonstrated by Naturalist staff upon pickup from a Visitor Center.

Note: Teacher Kits are to be used on **Self-Guided** field trips only.

Q: Can more than four teachers from my school participate?

A: Please email KHOC@ebparks.org with details about your individual request to have more than four teachers participate. This may be possible if there are sufficient resources to allow more teachers to participate after all the applications have been processed.

For additional questions, please refer to <https://www.ebparks.org/khoc> or email KHOC@ebparks.org.