

# **Guidelines for the Responsible Use of the Eiland Cahaba River Outdoor Laboratory of Judson College**

## **Purpose of the property**

The primary goal of the Eiland Cahaba River Outdoor Laboratory is to provide a setting for outdoor field experience for the faculty and students of Judson College, particularly for those in the Science Division. Other employees and students are welcomed and encouraged to use the property for teaching or recreational purposes, provided that such use does not jeopardize its value as a learning environment for science students and does not violate the following guidelines or any published policy of the College, including those set forth in the *Judson College Student Handbook*, *Faculty Handbook*, or *Personnel Manual*.

Guidelines and policies governing the use of the facility are subject to change by the administration of the College at any time and without prior notice. The College reserves the right to suspend or terminate the visitation privileges of any student or employee at any time.

## **Access to the property**

Key holders, which include members of the Biology and Chemistry faculty, the Director of Student Activities, the Director of Facilities, and the Senior Vice President and Dean of Students, may access the property at any time if no students are present.

Faculty and staff members may request to use the property for recreational purposes without students present by submitting a completed "Request for Access to the Eiland Outdoor Laboratory" form to the Office of Student Activities. A key to the property will be temporarily issued by the Director of Student Activities, Director of Residence Life, or Vice President and Dean of Students for such use. The key to the property should be returned to the Office of Student Activities on the next business day following the approved visit to the property. Failure to return temporarily issued keys on time may result in a loss of visitation privileges.

Guidelines for visiting the property with students present are outlined below.

Non-student guests are also allowed to accompany faculty and staff members granted access to the laboratory. All faculty and staff members are responsible for the behavior of their guests on the property.

## **Supervision of students on the property**

Students are not allowed on the property without the supervision of an approved Judson College employee, who must accompany students at all times. Student use of the property without the supervision of an approved employee is a violation of behavioral expectations set forth in the *Judson College Student Handbook*.

Faculty or staff members wishing to become approved supervisors should contact the Vice President and Dean of Students. Approved employees must complete a Laboratory Orientation Session before they are granted supervisory status. For overnight trips, at least one female employee who holds supervisory status must be present. The College reserves the right to suspend the supervisory privileges of any employee at any time.

To ensure the safety of students, the College may require any adult who wishes to be on the Eiland property when students are present to submit to a background check at their own expense.

## **Rules for use of the property**

Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in loss of visitation privileges for students, faculty or staff members. Questions about the guidelines should be addressed to the Head of the Biology Department.

1. Lock the gate going in and coming out. Return temporarily issued keys no later than the next business day.
2. No firearms, illegal drugs, or alcohol are allowed on the property at any time.
3. Be a good land steward. Keep the property clean and neat. Do not litter.
4. Do not remove mussels, shells, or other artifacts from the rock bar.
5. Fires are allowed only on the rock bar.
6. Drive only on roads, not through the woods or on the rock bar.
7. No off-road vehicles are allowed on the property. This includes motorcycles.
8. Leave no vehicle on the property when canoeing the river. Shuttle all vehicles to the take-out area.
9. Stay on the leased property. Do not cross a fence.
10. Use a camping spade to bury all toilet paper. Spades may be borrowed from the Biology Department or from the Office of Student Activities.

## **Reservation of the property**

Student groups have priority access to the Eiland Outdoor Laboratory, with academic trips taking precedence over co-curricular events. There may be occasions upon which the cabin, rock bar, or other areas of the property are reserved for such events.

## **Camping equipment**

A limited amount of camping equipment is provided by the College and may be requested by contacting the Director of Student Activities. The trip supervisor is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is returned clean, dry, and in working order. The trip supervisor is responsible for replacing equipment that is not returned, is incompletely returned, or is returned broken.

## **Precautions advised by the College**

The Eiland Cahaba River Outdoor Laboratory is a Cahaba River floodplain bottomland natural area. There is a large gravel and sand bar with a well-developed riparian environment. There are snakes in the woods and along the river bank and around the old hay barn beside the club house. There may be an alligator near the property. The woods have poison ivy, ticks, mites, chiggers, and mosquitoes. There is a moderate risk of Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, which are acquired from ticks. Use ample insect repellent during warm weather.

No firearms or hunting are allowed on the property; however, hunting occurs on all property surrounding the Outdoor Laboratory. A hunter's orange vest or hat is advised for all people in the Outdoor Laboratory woods during hunting season.

The property is usually flooded during late winter and early spring. Access to the river by driving on the dirt road is usually impossible and always inadvisable during the flooding periods.

## **Support for the laboratory**

The Eiland Outdoor Laboratory project is supported by in-kind gifts and other financial contributions by private donors. Information about making a contribution to the project may be obtained from the Head of the Biology Department, the Director of Development, or the Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Additional information about the project is available at <http://judson.cahaba.edu>.