

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian

We are ready for your arrival at Colorado Outward Bound School and are excited to be part of a transformational experience with the outdoors as our classroom. Outward Bound uses the challenges inherent in the wilderness to reveal a student's perseverance, boldness, and compassion. As you enter this new environment, you will learn new skills and gain new knowledge about the risks you might face in this new environment - Outward Bound has been leading programs since 1941.

One risk that we face in recent times in North America is the transmission of vector (most commonly mosquito and tick) borne illnesses. Coupled with the high-water levels in Colorado and Utah this year we want to educate and protect against vector-borne illness transmission.

The most important thing you can do to prevent mosquito and tick bites is to prevent them from reaching the skin. The CDC and State Departments of Health recommend insect repellent with up to 50% DEET which can be applied to the skin to repel ticks and mosquitos and most other vectors.

You should include this with your child if it is mentioned on your child's packing list. Insect repellent containing DEET will also be supplied on all courses where there is a significant chance of vector-borne illness transmission.

Additional information on vectors, vector borne diseases and their prevention can be found on the CDC, WHO, and the state department of health [Colorado](#), [Alaska](#), [Utah](#). Additionally, consult with your doctor about travel to this course area.

Sincerely,

Victoria Kerr  
Safety Director  
Colorado Outward Bound School