**OJAM Kids**

Youth are the future! We have to include them!

What can my child do at OJAM? Was a recent question posed to us on our Facebook page.

The answer of course is it depends on the kiddo. We have had 7 and 8 year-old kiddos work all day on their bow with the attention of an adult. We have had 18 year-olds give up after trying to chase a ring for twenty minutes. It varies tremendously from person to person on their attention level and interest in the subject.

OJAM is advertised as a family fun free event. You can come to OJAM, register at the trailer, walk around, and take in the beauty of the lake and fellowship of our community. You can watch the demos on bow building, visit the camps where most of the teaching is going on, visit the Flintknapping area where folks are making stone tools such as arrowheads and knifes, you can visit vendor row and gander at the shopping area where folks are selling incredible items and goods related to archery, outdoor items, clothing, black smithing, leather goods, and of course treats and food. You can do all this without getting out your wallet!

Our *primary* goal, as far as the OSS is considered, is to pass on the heritage and art of bow building, arrow smithing, and flintknapping. To accomplish this, we have come up with a system that works for us. We like to place individuals with a group of teachers (accomplished bowyers or “Yellow and Red Hats”) in a camp to receive one-on-one instruction. To do this, we ask that you become a member of the Oklahoma Selfbow Society. Individual membership is $25, family membership is $35, corporate membership is $100, and youth is $10.

**Bow building for kids!**Children are encouraged to participate in building their own bow. Again, every kid is different. The OSS sells white wood staves just for the kiddos. They are $30. Building a white wood bow does a couple of things, 1) The child gets to participate in all the bow building fun but they don’t have to chase a ring like you would have to on an Osage stave. Chasing a ring can be the most stringent part of bow building and sometimes it takes up the whole first day for adults!, 2) White wood staves are available for almost half the cost of a decent Osage stave. With the help of the instructors in camp, the kids can have their bow cut out and tillering on the first day! Your child can be shooting their bow in a couple of days if they work hard. Building a bow of their own, children are learning how to use the tools of the trade such as a drawknife, wood rasp, and cabinet scraper. They are going to learn all the concepts with half the work. Then, come next OJAM, they may want to build an Osage bow!

**Shoot the 3D course!**There is a 25-target 3D range setup. Kids must be accompanied by an adult at all times on the range. The cost is $5 per round or $20 for a weekend pass. Kids 12 and under are free. So don’t forget to bring your archery gear!

**Fishing!** Back this year is that fishing is allowed! When you register you will get a wrist band from us which will allow you to participate in all things Lake Carl Blackwell. So that means you do not have to purchase a separate fishing permit to fish the Lake. Anyone 16 or older must have a valid Oklahoma fishing license. Some popular species of fish in the lake are Channel catfish, crappie, saugeye, hybrid striped bass, and largemouth bass. So bring your fishing gear!

**Shopping!**Go check out all the neat vendors. There will be all kinds of stuff for sell! Items such as food and snacks, archery gear, arrows, clothing, and all kinds of treasures!

**Rocks!**Let’s not forget about the Flintknapping! There will be a tarp full of rock that kids can watch as one of the knappers makes projectile points out of. Safety glasses are a must for anyone on the tarp. Lots of knappers are happy to share their rocks and expertise with anyone that asks! Especially the kiddos!

**Hiking!**LCB (Lake Carl Blackwell) has hiking trails. So, if you get bored or worn out from working on a bow go take a hike!

**Friends.**You may ask why friends is an item on the list? Well I have to young boys Aspen and Huck they are 12 & 10 years old. I asked them what their favorite part about OJAM and they will tell you playing with and meeting new friends! (my best friends are a part of this club)

**Rattan Bows** At 10:00am on Saturday we will give every kid 12 or under their very own rattan bow along with 3 arrows. Also Saturday at 4:00pm there will be a clout shoot. The clout shoot is where all the participants shoot at a far target. Everyone shoots at the same spot! The 10 closest shooters to the center bulls eye will receive some awesome prizes! Cost to participate is $1 per arrow or 12 arrows for $10. We will sell chances till everyone has finished shooting, trying to get in that top 10. This is our biggest fundraiser at the event. We have had kids with their rattan bows hit the target!

**Sunday** is clean up and tear down day. Early that morning, we will have a Sunday worship service and then it’s all hands on deck to help pick up!

In conclusion, if I was a kid on spring break, I would want my parents to take me to OJAM for a four day camping adventure where you will meet your next best friend!

Jason Grace