Dear Macaulay Participants and Staff,

The staff and instructors at NYC Outward Bound Schools look forward to seeing you at your upcoming Macaulay Honors College Freshman Orientation program in August 2021!

**What is NYC Outward Bound Schools?**

NYC Outward Bound Schools operates a citywide network of public schools that fully embody our educational approach. NYC Outward Bound Schools’ educational approach challenges and supports students to do their best work, injects elements of adventure and discovery into schooling, provides opportunities for leadership, and places character and intellectual development on equal footing. Our approach joins together demanding and engaged learning, character, and community. Everything we do is shaped and guided by this approach.

Besides leading our network of schools, NYC Outward Bound Schools also works with organizations that serve NYC. We provide adventurous programming that uses our educational approach to build relationships and strengthen communities - whether that community be a sports team, a virtual classroom of middle-schoolers, a group of NYC teachers, or the incoming Freshman Class of Macaulay Honors College!

**What will happen at the NYC Outward Bound Schools Community Building part of Freshman Orientation?**

This event will take place in-person and outdoors, at the John Jay College Campus. During the approximate 3.5 hour day, freshmen, with the guidance of Macaulay’s Student Leaders and NYC Outward Bound Schools’ Instructors, use problem solving, constructive communication, and team approaches to work collaboratively and navigate the day. Participants work in small teams to overcome challenge activities, problem-solve initiative games, and creatively share with one another. The purpose of this day is to help strengthen the inter-campus network to ensure students feel included in the greater Macaulay Honors College Community.

We are excited and are looking forward to your upcoming experience with NYC Outward Bound Schools! Continue reading for more details about what to bring and where to go.
What to expect: Half-Day Community-building

**Community-building portion of Orientation only**

Course Location: John Jay College: You will check in at the main entrance of John Jay College at least a half hour prior to your program time. Check your group number assigned date and times posted on the Freshman Orientation Web portal. Staff will meet you at **524 West 59th street between Amsterdam and West End Ave.** (A, D, B C to Columbus Circle) and direct you to your group. The entire program, after check-in, will take place at John Jay’s campus green space one story above street level. The green space is enclosed and not open to the public.

Date and Time: Check the assigned times for your group number on the Freshman Orientation Web portal

COVID-19 Mitigation: As part of the admissions process, participants will go through a very brief health screening upon arrival. They will be asked if they, 1) had any known exposure to anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days and, 2) are currently experiencing any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Participants will wear masks while participating in community building activities, sanitize frequently and practice physical distancing with their peers and instructors. (Please see Participant Expectations Concerning COVID 19 for more info)

Participation: No previous experience, outdoor, or athletic ability is needed—check the ‘stuff to bring’ section and come as you are. The challenges and games the instructors will lead for your group require primarily creativity, communication, problem solving—and a dash of emotional courage! If, after you’ve heard the briefing of an activity, you do not feel you should participate, please talk to your instructor. All of our activities are challenge-by-choice.

Clothing: The course will be outdoors the entire time. Dress as if you are going to gym class; in clothing that can get dirty and closed toed shoes. Please don’t wear open-toe sandals during the course (sneakers and crocs are examples of closed toed shoes that would be fine for this day)

Bring/Leave
- Bring a **water bottle**.
- We invite and encourage you to silence your phone while participating in the course to stay in the present and focus on yourself and your peers.
- Bring a **mask** to wear during the program (we ask that masks are worn instead of bandanas - we will have some on hand if you need one).
- Please bring any items that will bring you comfort in the summer heat and sun like a **brimmed hat or sunglasses**.
- **NOTE: The program runs rain or shine – you may want to come prepared with a rain jacket or rain poncho**

Please reach out with any questions or concerns for your participation.

Sincerely,

Jeff Grinnell (he/him)  
(347) 302-7445  
Jgrinell@nycoutwardbound.org  
Course Director

Lisa Coffey (she/her)  
(845) 421-8463  
Lcoffey@nycoutwardbound.org  
Admissions Director
Expectations of Participants on NYC Outward Bound Schools Courses Considering COVID-19

NYC Outward Bound Schools is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, and information and recommendations from the national and state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The health and safety of our participants and staff is a top priority, and NYC Outward Bound Schools is working diligently with our local public health authorities and our medical advisors to develop mitigation controls and procedures in alignment with current data. The risk of contracting COVID-19 can be reduced but not eliminated.

This document outlines the mitigation efforts participants are expected to practice.

In order to participate in this NYC Outward Bound Schools course, participants must be symptom-free at course start and agree to observe physical distance rules and good hygiene practices on course along with the following:

- Wearing a mask when in close proximity to others and when asked by NYC Outward Bound Schools’ staff
- Washing or sanitizing hands frequently, and always after touching surfaces that other people touch (hand sanitizer will be available)
- Follow health and safety instructions as demonstrated or explained by NYC Outward Bound Schools’ staff
- Report any symptoms of illness and/or have their temperature taken
- Advise NYC Outward Bound Schools if they have tested positive for or have symptoms of COVID-19 following a course

Participants are expected to follow hygiene practices that reduce the risk to themselves and others as taught, demonstrated or otherwise explained by NYC Outward Bound Schools’ staff. Neglecting to do so may result in that participant’s dismissal. Despite the precautions noted above, NYC Outward Bound Schools cannot ensure participants will not be exposed to or contract COVID-19.

Please be advised, older adults and people of any age who have underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

NYC Outward Bound School may implement other COVID-19-related requirements before or during the course based on medical advice and the judgment of NYC Outward Bound Schools’ staff. Course activities or locations may need to be altered or discontinued, potentially at the last minute or during the program. If a participant presents symptoms of COVID-19 during the program, that participant will be isolated from others and plans will be made to remove them from the course.

Participants must also adhere to all CUNY requirements regarding vaccinations for in-person student events. Visit macaulay.cuny.edu/orientation for details.