Vision for Environmental Education in Ontario

“Ontario’s education system will prepare students with the knowledge, skills, perspectives, and practices they need to be environmentally responsible citizens. Students will understand our fundamental connections to each other and to the world around us through our relationship to food, water, energy, air, and land, and our interaction with all living things. The education system will provide opportunities within the classroom and the community for students to engage in actions that deepen this understanding”


At Camp Kawartha, we inspire stewardship by:

- Connecting students to their local environment
- Teaching skills in order to enjoy the outdoors
- Providing innovative examples of sustainable living in action
- Building knowledge about ecology, sustainable living and environmental issues
- Working with community partners to coordinate our stewardship efforts
- Encouraging citizen science and local action
- Fostering environmental leadership skills.

Our programs are divided into 5 broad categories:

1. Environmental Science
2. Environmental Arts
3. Canadian History
4. Adventure and Leadership
5. Physical Education and Recreation
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Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
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For more details, visit www.campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education/programs

Please feel free to select any program, as it can be modified to suit older or younger students.

Seasonal Availability Legend:
- Fall
- Winter
- Spring

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
2½ day School Trip Package

Our comprehensive fees include:

- typical 2½ day booking is Monday 9:30am - Wednesday 1:15pm, OR Wednesday 1:30pm - Friday 2:00pm
- a teacher’s planning guide
- three (3) program choices rotating through three program periods, plus our popular “Survival Game”, all led by our instructors
- two (2) evening programs led by our staff, example campfire and night hike
- low student to instructor ratio – your group will be assigned one of our instructors for every 10-12 students
- two (2) nights accommodation
- six (6) wholesome meals made with fresh ingredients and local produce, served family style, plus nutritious snacks
- people with special dietary needs are given individual attention and alternate menu options. **Please note:** our facility prohibits any foods with nuts or traces of nuts.
- exclusive use of the site and facilities (only one group in residence at a time)
- complimentary use of sports equipment (basketball, volleyball, soccer, broomball, lacrosse, frisbee, skis, snowshoes, crazy carpets) for use during free time
- teachers and parent volunteers free of charge at a ratio of one free adult for every six students
- wireless internet access – teachers & parent volunteers can bring their laptops and check their email
- and coffee is always on during the daytime for adults!

We also offer 1-night and week-long bookings. Call us for details.

Typical Monday to Wednesday schedule:

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<td>9:30 a.m. - Arrival</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - Breakfast</td>
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<td>Tour &amp; Co-operative Games</td>
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<td>12:00 noon - Lunch</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - <strong>Program Period Two</strong></td>
<td>9:30 a.m. <strong>Survival Game</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 p.m. - <strong>Program Period One</strong></td>
<td>12:30 p.m. - Lunch</td>
<td>12:00 noon - Lunch</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. - Recreation/Free-time</td>
<td>1:45 p.m. - <strong>Program Period Three</strong></td>
<td>1:15 p.m. - Departure</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. - Dinner</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. - Recreation/Free-time</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. - Teacher Led Program</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. - Dinner</td>
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<td>7:45 p.m. - <strong>Campfire</strong></td>
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<td>9:15 p.m. - Evening Snack</td>
<td>7:45 p.m. - <strong>Night Hike</strong></td>
<td>9:15 p.m. - Evening Snack</td>
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Environmental Science

Adaptation
Best curriculum fit - grades 2, 4
This program is action-packed, full of games, stories and exploration. Understand the complex concept of adaptation in a fun and simple way. Learn how mice build nests, how foxes stalk, how geese migrate and what animal signs to look for.

Alternative Energy
Best curriculum fit - grades 5, 9,11
Most scientists agree that the world’s dependence on fossil fuels resulted in serious and perhaps irreversible, climate change. As sources of fossil fuels run out, our need to find alternative sources of clean energy becomes that more urgent. This program familiarizes students with the kinds of clean, renewable sources of energy that will create a sustainable future. Students will experiment with solar panels, working models of wind turbines and other sources of energy. Students also tour the unique sustainable buildings at Camp Kawartha including our solar straw bale greenhouse featuring “barrelponics.”

Option Two: Alternative Energy and the Wind Controversy
Best curriculum fit – grades 7, 9-12
Same program as above except with an emphasis on wind turbines as an example of alternative energy. We’ll explore how wind turbines generate energy and students will have a chance to experiment with simple turbine design. What blade configuration works the best? We’ll provide students with the resources to create a colourful town hall meeting back at your classroom. In this simulation game, students play the role of various stakeholders in a proposed large-scale wind development for Amherst Island, Ontario.

Am I Alive?
Best curriculum fit - grades K, 1
Living things move and grow, right? A stick floating down the river moves and a crystal grows – but are they alive? In this interactive program, primary students explore the world of living and non-living things via a scavenger hunt. To reinforce the difference between living and non-living things, we end the program by planting seeds and growing crystals for the classroom. As both the crystals and plants change over time, children can be challenged to ponder what it means to be part of the living world.

Amphibians
Best curriculum fit - grades 2, 4
Ever wonder where salamanders might lurk and how frogs catch insects? Discover this and more, by observing real frogs and amphibians in action! We sing genuine frog songs and call for them in our local wetland. We show you the different stages of a frog’s life cycle and we hunt for red-backed salamanders in a nearby deciduous forest.

Astronomy
(an evening program option)
Best curriculum fit - grade 6
For thousands of years people have been fascinated by the night sky. Explore the universe with our unique Starry Night program. Use a telescope to see the man in the moon, the planets and the stars in distant galaxies. Hear tales of ancient constellations, and the creation of the Northern Lights. Elements of this program can also be incorporated into our Night Hike Program.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Be a Bird Brain
Best curriculum fit - grade 2, 4
Everyday experiences can become unique, if you approach them with a new perspective. Help your students gain an entirely new perspective on birds, with this engaging, hands-on bird program. Learn how birds protect themselves from danger; participate in some intricate bird dances and sing with the birds using tapes and special bird callers. We’ll watch birds forage at the feeders and we’ll stalk wild birds in the woods with binoculars. Let us take away some of the dryness associated with bird watching, by giving your students a taste of our bird program.

Biodiversity
Best curriculum fit - grades 6, 9, 11
The world is a diverse place. There are over 400,000 species of beetles, 8,000 species of reptiles and an estimated 1.5 million different species that populate this planet. The number of species that live in a particular area is a measure of its biodiversity. Diverse ecosystems tend to be healthier and more stable than less diverse systems. In this program, students will conduct a short biophysical inventory in two different locations to examine the variety of life. Using field guides and dichotomous keys, they will attempt to identify as many species as possible and they will collectively make a determination as to which area has the most diversity.

Can you Dig it? A Program about Archaeology
Best curriculum fit - grade 3, 4
There is something magical about digging up a story of the past. Archaeologists do this all the time. In this program, students go on a simulated “dig.” Just like a real archaeologist, they record where the object was found, they carefully clean and study the artifact. Next, as a team, they will try to decide what the artifact is and what it was used for. We unearth arrowheads, scrapers, bits of bone and other objects from the past.

Climate Change and Carbon Footprint
Best curriculum fit - grades 9-12
The single biggest challenge to face humanity is climate change and it can be a daunting topic to teach. At the Camp Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre, students will analyze samples of various gases to compare concentrations of carbon dioxide. Students will also participate in a demonstration, simulating the green-house effect. We’ll consider the effectiveness of alternative energy sources and observe carbon neutral construction techniques used at Camp Kawartha. Students will play an active game that explores where carbon comes from and what processes release it. We round out the program by discussing how students can reduce their own carbon footprint in their daily lives.

Creatures of the Night
(an evening program option )
Best curriculum fit - grades 2, 4
Ever wonder how an owl can see in the dark? How a fox stalks and finds its prey under the cover of darkness? How does a bat locate a moth as it twists and weaves? In this creative program, students learn about the amazing adaptations nocturnal animals have to help them survive in low light.

Diamonds of Water (Snow)
Best curriculum fit - grades 2
Unravel some of the mysteries of one of Canada’s most ubiquitous substances - snow! Students will capture snowflakes and examine their crystalline structure up close, discover the many different types of snow and learn what kind of snow insulates animals most effectively. Students will find out how much water is in snow, and make some accurate and beautiful six-sided snowflakes to take home. Loads of learning packed into two hours.
Dramatized Animal (or Bird) Hikes

**Best curriculum fit - grades 2, 4**

Experience a year in the life of one of the following - squirrel, mouse, rabbit, fox, white-tailed deer, bear, beaver and chickadee. These are creative programs designed to provide students with a first-hand, realistic depiction of what these animals do during the course of a year. Students will move like these animals, forage for food, hide from danger and construct authentic animal shelters. We use music, storytelling, drama and a host of other teaching techniques to foster an awareness and appreciation of our native animals and birds. One of our favourite programs!

Endangered and Invasive Species

**Best curriculum fit - grades 4, 6, 9-12**

When does a species become endangered, extirpated, threatened or vulnerable, and what can we do to protect these animals from further decline? What happens when a species, kept in check by natural predators, is moved to an entirely new location? In this interactive program, students will find out how invasive species affect ecosystems, which animals are endangered in this area, and how important cover, range, and a diverse habitat are for animals. We’ll use games, activities and hands-on exploration to expose your students to some of the complex issues involved in protecting wildlife.

Flight

**Best curriculum fit - grade 6**

Just how do birds, insects and some mammals (bats, flying squirrels) do it? How do they conquer gravity and soar through the air? In this fascinating program, learn about the basic principles of natural flight. Find out how a bird’s wing is structured, how bumblebees hover and flying squirrels glide. Role-play the different flight techniques of hawks and songbirds. We’ll also study how other living organisms such as spiders, caterpillars and even seeds make use of air currents to move from one location to another. An informative and interactive introduction to flight!

Habitat-tat-tat

**Best curriculum fit - grade 4**

All living beings have a place that they call home. Animals and plants have homes too. The place where a living thing finds its food, water, shelter and space is called a habitat. Here at Camp Kawartha we have beautiful examples of meadow, forest and wetland habitats. Students will play games, participate in scavenger hunts and explore each of these areas, learning about how they are the same and how they are different. We’ll also discuss ways in which students can enhance their own schoolyard and backyard habitats.

Habitat Enhancement

**Best curriculum fit - grades 9-12**

The eminent ecologist, E.O. Wilson, estimates that we are losing 3 species every single hour. Not since the time of the massive extinction of the dinosaurs have so many species disappeared so quickly. One of the principle reasons is habitat loss. During this program, we’ll explore why many of our local species are in decline. For example, tree swallows like to live in the cavities of old, dead trees and since these are being removed, there is less habitat for these birds. Their numbers have declined by 1 percent per year between 1966 and 2010 - a 36% loss in population. We want to empower students to make a difference. That is why we’ll be spending time during this program providing students with direct action to enhance schoolyard and backyard habitats. We’ll be building one or more of the following: bird boxes, butterfly houses, bat houses, loon nests. Please give us plenty of notice if you would like to select this program, so that we can prepare materials.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Healthy Food

Best curriculum fit - grades 3-8

“The healthiest food” argued writer Wendell Berry, “is the shortest distance from the Earth to your mouth.” In this program, students will learn where their food comes from through interactive and educational activities, and they will visit our organic garden and solar straw bale greenhouse. Students will harvest fresh herbs and they’ll make a healthy snack. Students will also learn how to read nutrition labels properly and how to interpret Canada’s Food Guide. Subjects such as the benefits of an active lifestyle, healthy eating and local food will be emphasized so that students can make more informed choices the next time they are choosing their meals.

Hide and Seek: A Program about Camouflage

Best curriculum fit - grades K, 1, 2

Most of us have had the experience of walking through the woods when something suddenly scurries away right in front of us. We didn’t see that creature, but they sure noticed us! Camouflage is the art of staying hidden. In this program, students learn how animals and insects use colour, pattern and behaviour to melt into the landscape. Students also learn that certain colours can warn of poison, while some colours are used to attract a mate.

Honing in on Homes

Best curriculum fit - grade 1, 4

That might look like a plain hole in a tree to you, but to a black-capped chickadee or to a red squirrel, it is an important refuge from danger and cold. And a home is every bit as important to them as yours is to you. In this program, students become familiar with what characteristics make for an effective shelter. Students will have an opportunity to construct accurate robin nests, investigate various nest designs, examine a variety of real bird nests, and participate in some fun and educational bird nest games. They will also learn about the critical components of habitat, recognizing that habitat depletion is the single most important reason for loss of wildlife in Canada. Investigating tree cavities, exploring galls, hiding under thickets, students come to experience first hand, the importance of shelter, food and space in a well-structured ecosystem.

Instincts for Survival: The Survival Game

Best curriculum fit - grades 2, 4, 6, 7

Ever wonder why a squirrel is constantly on the lookout, head darting from side to side, nose twitching and ears scanning for sounds? All it takes is one moment of carelessness and a squirrel could find itself caught in the claws of a hungry red-tailed hawk. To survive means to be wary. In this fun and interactive game developed by a professor from the University of Waterloo, students experience firsthand the challenges that animals face while trying to survive. They will learn to stalk, to find food and water, and to avoid disease and the hunter. Lots of rich ecological learning occurs as the game unfolds.

Invertebrate Study

Best curriculum fit - grade 6

How do invertebrates breathe, forage for food and escape from danger? Find out in this fascinating program, which compares and contrasts the physiological and behavioural characteristics of invertebrates found in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

It’s a Bug’s Life

Best curriculum fit - grade 2

This we know, kids love bugs! Our popular insect program capitalizes on student’s enthusiasm for invertebrates of all kinds, from centipedes to cicadas. Students learn to stridulate (sing) like crickets, hunt like a praying mantis and play exciting games based on insect movements. And of course they will have the opportunity to catch, observe and release a variety of invertebrates.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Landform Liars Club
Best curriculum fit - grades 7, 8, 9-12
Put your students’ mapping skills and natural knowledge to the test! Explore a unique alvar ecosystem, while looking for geological clues to help solve the mysteries of this fascinating place. This program uses critical thinking and analytical skills to determine the geomorphological story of the area around Camp Kawartha.

Mind Your Mammals
Best curriculum fit - grade 2
From the lessons taught by real animals, to specimens, skulls, scat and track replicas, students will learn the characteristics that make mammals unique in the animal kingdom. Observe squirrels and chipmunks in action, simulate the walking and running gaits of predator and prey animals. Hunker down and stalk like a fox, follow vole tunnels through the grass or snow, and discover some of the unique and surprising escape techniques of mice and rabbits.

Patterns in Nature
Best curriculum fit - grade 5
From the whorls of branches on a red pine tree to the delicate plume of a dandelion seed, nature exhibits beauty and symmetry in a variety of striking patterns. Help your students develop an “eye” for discovering micro and macro patterns in the field, forest and wetland ecosystems that are an integral part of our natural communities.

Plantasia: A Program about Plants and Trees
Best curriculum fit - grade 3
They provide an elegant and beautiful backdrop to our daily lives, but few people stop to consider plants: the only living organism that can manufacture their own food and supply the world with oxygen. In this introduction to the world of plants, your students will learn about the various parts and functions of a tree in a tree drama exercise, identify coniferous trees and deciduous trees and discover which local plants are edible and many more activities. Guaranteed to be treerific!

Mind Your Mammals
Best curriculum fit - grade 2
From the lessons taught by real animals, to specimens, skulls, scat and track replicas, students will learn the characteristics that make mammals unique in the animal kingdom. Observe squirrels and chipmunks in action, simulate the walking and running gaits of predator and prey animals. Hunker down and stalk like a fox, follow vole tunnels through the grass or snow, and discover some of the unique and surprising escape techniques of mice and rabbits.

Mom, it’s not Dirt, it’s Soil!
Best curriculum fit - grade 3
One cubic centimeter of soil contains more life than people on earth! Learn all about the creation of soil, the critters that inhabit it, and its importance in terrestrial ecosystems.

Natural Neighbours
Best curriculum fit - grade K, 1, 2
Just who are the critters in your “neighbourhood”? In this interactive program, we explore the natural history of the commoners - animals, birds and insects we see every day. They are part of our neighbourhood too! We use stories, games, activities and exploration as a way for us to reveal the fascinating world of our natural neighbours.

Restaurants
Best curriculum fit - grade 4
It is hard to imagine touching something that is 450 million years old, but with the help of the many fossils found here, students can hold the remnants of creatures that once swam in ancient seas. Students find out how fossils are made, cast their own fossils from plaster and explore with magnifying glasses the imprints of shells, brachiopods, crinoids and cephalopods embedded in layers of limestone. Students also participate in a simulated “dig”, locating bones and reconstructing a skeleton of a mystery animal. We’ll also explore some of the unique land features and rocks on Camp Kawartha’s range area. Who knows what future palaeontologist might be inspired?

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Seeds and Seed Dispersal
Best curriculum fit - grade 3
Some pop, some glide, some stick and many float in the air or on the water. Every spring we see that there is enduring evidence of our local plants’ ability to survive and spread in the vibrant new growth that carpets our forests and fields. How seeds travel merits closer investigation! Some, incredibly, are spread by animal scat (poop). Your students will participate in some hands-on activities, which simulate the dispersal of seeds (except the scat one!), sort and collect wildflower seeds and examine in detail, their methods of dispersal.

Signs of the Seasons
Best curriculum fit - grades K, 1
Crunching leaves underfoot, ice on the pond, flowers in the field and geese migrating south... How do we know what season we are in? In this program students begin to understand phenology or seasonal change. We measure the length of shadows, the temperature, and we embark on a seasons scavenger hunt. By tuning children into the rhythms of seasonal change, we encourage them to appreciate the wonderful interconnectedness of the natural world.

Sustainable Living
Best curriculum fit - grades 5, 7, 8, 9-12
Camp Kawartha has a number of sustainable features including examples of straw bale construction, passive solar design, plus solar and wind energy. Discover how a straw bale building can be stronger, more fire resistant and warmer than a conventional home. Explore the Camp’s alternative energy systems. Students will have access to models and hands-on demonstrations to better understand these techniques. Camp Kawartha provides an inspiring venue for students to discover how the green design and construction of buildings can significantly reduce our impact on the environment.

Taming the Wildflower
Best curriculum fit - grade 3
With storytelling, a little detective work, and dramatic movement, we will help to generate enthusiasm for Ontario’s wildflowers. Students re-enact how flowers are pollinated, how bees dance to find wildflowers, and by following a series of clues, students discover the beauty and diversity of 6 local species.

The Web of Life
Best curriculum fit – grade 6
“When you tug at a single thing in nature”, wrote John Muir, “you’ll find it attached to the rest of the world.”
The study of wildlife involves much more than the study of individual species; it means attending to the connection between species, their habitat and of course, the impacts of human activity on wildlife. In this simulation activity, students follow several food chains, beginning with the sun’s energy and ending in nutrient rich soil. All the student’s food chains are symbolically depicted in a large hand-held, interconnected food web.

Tracking and Trailing
Best curriculum fit - grades 2, 4, 6
Everywhere animals go, they leave subtle signs of their presence. The art of tracking and trailing is a life-long endeavour that begins with this program. Find out about the various tracks animals leave behind. Try on our giant animal footprints. Follow our mystery trails. Take home a realistic track cast. This is an interactive, hands-on program that requires students to use problem-solving and observation skills. Appropriate for students of all ages.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Traditional Ecological Knowledge
Best curriculum fit - grades 3, 4, 5, 6
For thousands of years, First Nations and Inuit peoples sustained and nourished their cultures by harvesting what they needed from the land. They used plants and animals for medicine, for food, clothing and for building material. Their survival depended on having a positive relationship with the natural world. This ethic of stewardship became an important part of their belief system and culture. The land around Camp Kawartha is the traditional land of the Anishinaabe. In this program, we’ll explore some of the traditional foods, medicines and skills used by the Anishinaabe. We’ll suggest resources that will help you extend your First Nations awareness.

Water Cycle: “What goes around comes around!”
Best curriculum fit - grade 2
Water is amazing! It is a substance that can travel through air, it can wear away the hardest rock and it gives life to every living thing. With over 2 million lakes and rivers in Canada, we sometimes forget that water is a limited and precious resource. Less than 1/10 of a percent of all the water in the world is available as fresh water. In this unique program, students follow the complete water cycle using drama, games and hands-on exploration.

Water Stewardship
Best curriculum fit - grades 7, 8
Water is as life-giving as it is fragile. Over 70% of the earth’s surface is covered with water. And yet, the amount of fresh water available for humans to use is a mere 1%. In this hands-on program, students use an interactive watershed model to learn about the importance of watersheds in maintaining water quality. They also participate in a variety of hands-on, investigative activities to assess water quality and the biodiversity of a local watershed.

Weather or Not!
Best curriculum fit - grade 7
Wouldn’t you like to make a cloud? How would you like to explore the factors that contribute to distinct microclimates and formulate a scientific prediction for the next day’s weather - just like a real meteorologist? In this program, your students will learn how to construct and use a variety of homemade weather instruments including a hygrometer, a barometer and a thermometer. Students will also investigate how animals deal with challenging weather conditions and search for effective shelter spots. An interactive and engaging program with plenty of follow-up ideas.

Wetland Wonders
Best curriculum fit - grades 4, 6
Wetlands are vibrant ecosystems, among the most rich and diverse of all natural habitats. We’ll visit a nearby pond. There we’ll see evidence of beavers at work; we’ll catch water bugs and discover some of the amazing adaptations of aquatic invertebrates. If time permits, we’ll use a digital microscope to showcase how bugs breathe, swim and catch their prey. We’ll also listen and look for, the many wetland birds that inhabit this beautiful wetland.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS

From the Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: The Arts, 2009 (revised), pg 49:
“There are many opportunities to integrate environmental education into the teaching of the arts. Nature often provides an inspirational starting point for creativity in both representational and more abstract art forms. “
“The arts can also be used as powerful forms of expression for students to use to explore and articulate the social and political impact of issues related to the environment. They can also serve as effective media to advocate protection of and respect for the environment. As well, the actual use of arts materials can be related to environmental education.”

Nature Arts and Crafts
Suitable for all grades
Using found natural objects, make a unique craft to take home. From clay bowls, to birch bark containers, from forest weaving to natural dyeing, this is a wonderful way for students to connect with the natural environment. Check with our staff to see which craft is available.

Nature Music
Suitable for all grades
There is music in the woods! From the rustling of leaves, to the clacking of rocks there are a variety of musical tones to discover in the natural world. By experimenting with the sound qualities of found natural materials, students create a musical piece that we record. We end by making simple musical instruments to take home.

Nature Sculpting
Suitable for all grades
Using a variety of found materials, students plan and design a series of 3-dimensional sculptures. Students learn how to use nature’s colours, textures and patterns to create an artistic piece that depicts a set of feelings and impressions. Inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, we capture these pictures digitally to be shared by classmates and parents.

Sensorama
Best suited for grades K to 4
One of the best ways to facilitate a life-long appreciation for natural places is to enhance a child’s sensory awareness. Based on the ground-breaking “acclimatization” work of Steve Van Matre, these activities encourage children to explore the natural environment by using all of their senses. Tune into the soundscape of a field and listen to richly textured nature sounds with specially constructed animal ears, then reproduce this experience in an eco-symphony. This is just one example of the many activities in this imaginative and interactive program. A wonderful program for younger grades!

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Canadian History

Fur Trade Program

(2½ day program)
Best curriculum fit – grades 5, 6, 9-12

Bring history to life for your students by having them participate in a simulated historical fur trade from the early 1600’s New France. A wonderful learning opportunity that leaves textbooks and overheads far behind as students re-enact an exchange of trade goods and fur between Coureurs de bois (early French fur traders) and the First Nations people of the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River area. Students outfit themselves with trade goods and they must barter these goods for fur. Students learn about the differing social, cultural and economic approaches to trade by Europeans and Indigenous peoples. This is a remarkable program that involves role-playing, strategic thinking, planning and teamwork. Our site has a log trading post outfitted with replicas of many of the trade goods used in the fur trade.

A Day in the Life of a Voyageur

Best curriculum fit – grades 5, 6, 9-12

Now here is a creative approach to historical education! In this all-day program, students “live” the life of a voyageur by donning simple costumes, eating authentic food and paddling a 26’ Voyageur Canoe under the guidance of an historical persona. In the winter, students experience the thrill of being part of a student-powered dog team. Students sing French Canadian songs, listen to stories and participate in an unforgettable adventure from Canada’s past.

Traditional Games

Best curriculum fit – grades 5, 6, 9-12

Games are an important part of many cultures, but particularly those in which good hunting skills such as strength, balance and agility are a matter of survival. Students will try some of the amazing traditional games of the Metis, First Nations, and Inuit such as the Inuit blanket toss, the kneel jump challenge and others. Some games involve light-hearted competition while others involve teamwork but all are entertaining and engaging.

Traditional Skills

Suitable for all grades

Learn how indigenous people survived in harsh northern conditions. See an authentic traditional encampment complete with a wikiup (a kind of thatched shelter), a wigwam and authentic stone tools. Build a fire by using the bow drill, hand drill, and the flint and steel method. Learn how to make natural cordage and how to make a warm shelter using natural materials. An exciting hands-on program.
ADVENTURE & LEADERSHIP

(Please note: there are links to the physical education curriculum connection for all grades.)

Character Education and Leadership Program
(2½ day program)
Teaching students about leadership and responsibility is a fundamental precept of good citizenship. We spend 2½ days in this special program building trust, developing effective communication skills and promoting respect through a series of creative activities. Examples include a series of challenging initiative tasks in which students must strategize in order to solve problems. Our climbing wall and high ropes course teach students about commitment, support and the nature of challenge. During this leadership experience, students discover what kind of personal attributes are important in fostering a close-knit and trusting team.

Climbing Wall
Strive to do your best while learning to support others. We use our 32 foot wall as a way to help students become aware of the nature of trust, to teach students how to give and receive effective support and how to honour and respect the efforts of each team member. Students also become aware of “edgework”, how personal striving and challenge makes each of us more effective members of a team.

Co-operative Games
In a series of fun and action-packed games, students explore how working together in a team accomplishes far more than any individual effort. Students also participate in games and activities that encourage each team member to depend upon and trust their fellow teammates.

High Ropes
Our two high ropes courses help students to learn about the importance of setting goals. By being involved in a perceived “high risk” activity (actual risk is very low), students come to understand the various roles team members play in a group environment. These exciting elements bring the idea of “teamwork” to life in a way which cannot be replicated by other activities.

Initiative Tasks
Initiative Tasks are a series of creative problems which the group, as a team, must solve. They become more difficult as the program progresses. Tasks may involve creating the highest free standing tube tower, walking on land skis 6 students at a time, or moving a marble through fitted PVC tubing from one location to another (the tubes fit together only in a certain way). These tasks demand strategic thinking, effective communication, leadership and most importantly, co-operation. Our debriefing techniques are thought-provoking and engaging. We can emphasize themes such as inclusion and bullying.

Trust Activities and Low Ropes
Through increasingly more complex activities, students experience the power and potential of trust and especially what it means to honour the trust of others. We begin with a series of trust activities and we end by using a number of creative low rope elements that emphasize mindfulness, focus and group commitment. Low rope elements can also be combined with initiative tasks. Feel free to ask our educators to focus on key themes you would like to emphasize for your class (for example, positive communication).

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

(Please note: there are links to the Ontario Health & Physical Education curriculum connection for all grades.
From The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health and Physical Education Curriculum, 2015 (Revised), pg 65:
“Health and physical education offers many opportunities for accomplishing these goals. The learning environments for health and physical education include the school grounds, fields and trails in the vicinity of the school, and various other outdoor venues. Teaching students to appreciate and respect the environment is an integral part of being active in these spaces.”

“Living skills, which are integrated throughout the health and physical education curriculum, are also closely tied to environmental education. As students learn more about themselves through the development of personal skills, they learn to work effectively and respectfully with others through the development of interpersonal skills, and acquire the capacity for systems thinking through the development of critical and creative thinking skills, they increase their capacity to make connections with the world around them and to become environmentally responsible citizens.”

Single A – Archery
Best suited for grades 3 to 12
With a steady aim and a determined stance anything is possible. Can you hit the bulls-eye? In this exciting program, students learn the basics of archery from how to correctly string a bow, to how to notch and release an arrow.

Double A – Archery & Atlatl
Best suited for grades 5 to 12
As well as archery (see above), we also provide students with an opportunity to try out our “atlatl,” a traditional spear thrower than can hurl a feathered spear for distances of more than 100 metres.

Triple A – Archery, Atlatl and Axe Throwing
Best suited for grades 9-12
As well as trying our Archery and Atlatl, students can try their hand at traditional axe-throwing. Students try to embed the axe in a target 3 metres away. Note: We use stringent safety protocols as outlined by the Ontario Physical Education Association for all throwing activities.

Canoeing or Voyageur Canoeing
Learn the basic skills of canoeing from our qualified instructors.

Cross Country Skiing
Don’t be driven indoors by snow! Discover an exhilarating way to experience the wonders of a winter landscape and work on your fitness level at the same time. Students learn basic ski techniques (the diagonal stride, double poling, how to descend and ascend hills), as well as how to ski safely. We’ll explore our 180 acres of field and forests on the “range” area using skis. Students will participate in a series of fun interactive games and activities to help them feel more comfortable on skis.

Lost in the Woods
Ever wonder what to do if you were lost? In this engaging, hands-on program, students learn about lost-proofing (how not to get lost), shelter building, using natural materials to keep warm, how to find wild edibles, make cordage and other survival skills. This program teaches an important set of outdoor skills as well as helping students to feel more comfortable in the woods.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Maps and Mapping

Suitable for all grades

Where am I? Where am I going and how do I get there? These are important questions that help us navigate the landscape. In this program, students learn how to orient themselves using a three dimensional model of the camp. They then find hidden objects and markers using a simple map. A great way for younger students to learn the art of orienteering.

Quest for Fire

Here is a great way to combine adventure, map reading skills and fire making. Students use maps and/or GPS units to locate wooden boxes hidden along the trail of our range area. Each box has a little something to start a fire. Find all the boxes and be the first to start a fire and boil up a taste of the woods (forest tea).

Snowshoeing

We begin by teaching students what traditional types of snowshoes were used by First Nations people in this area. We use our modern snowshoes to explore the trails of our 180 acres of forests and fields. This is a fun and invigorating way to enjoy the winter landscape and a great way to promote fresh air and exercise.

Orienteering

“Well, I’m not lost! I just don’t know where I am.” Move beyond this excuse with our tried and true orienteering program. Learn the language of a map, how to orient a map, how a compass works and the best way to use one. Can you find the hidden markers in record-breaking time? This is a wonderful introduction to orienteering, a unique and challenging sport that combines physical fitness, strategy and persistence. For older students we have a more advanced Map and Compass course.

Voyageur Orienteering

Best curriculum fit - grades 5, 6, 9-12

Why not try orienteering with a Voyageur twist? After students have gained an understanding of map reading, they dress up as Voyageurs, complete with shirts, sash and a hat. Using an authentic-looking parchment map, students must find a series of wooden boxes hidden on our range area. Each box contains a different type of fur that was used in the fur trade over 150 years ago (fox, lynx, coyote, beaver and fisher). This program is a wonderful way to inspire interest in the Voyageurs and the fur trade.

Geo Caching: Global Position Systems Mapping (GPS)

You’ve always wondered, now is your chance. Just how do those GPS systems work? Students will be introduced to a basic Garmin GPS unit. They’ll use the GPS units to find hidden boxes with “prizes” inside. A wonderful way to weave together technology and exercise along with an exciting treasure hunt! Students will learn about the fine art of geocaching and how to find out if there is a course near your school.

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

We are committed to providing students, teachers and parent volunteers with the best outdoor education experience possible. Below are some letters and comments we have received from teachers about their visit to our Centre:

“I have taken by class to MANY outdoor education camps over the last 15 years and Camp Kawartha is, by far, the BEST. The educators, staff, facilities and focus on REAL outdoor EDUCATION are unmatched. Thank you.”
   - Grade 4-6, Glebe Montessori School, Ottawa

“Experiential learning in the outdoor environment is not something we can provide within our school, therefore having facilities like this one greatly improves our student’s education.”
   - Grade 10 Academic, Emergy Collegiate Institute, North York

“Camp Kawartha is a treasure allowing children the opportunity to interact with the natural environment in a positive way. Students absolutely love Camp Kawartha and remember their experiences forever.”
   - Grade 6, North Cavan Public School

“Camp Kawartha staff are fantastic. The kitchen staff accommodated all dietary restrictions and made sure our students were well fed with healthy meals. Program staff were very flexible in supporting students with special needs so they were included. Activities were differentiated to allow all students an entry point regardless of previous experiences, ability or interests. Thanks!”
   - Grade 8, Dr. M.S. Hawkins Public School, Port Hope

“We have been coming here for a number of years to be with our Columbian penpals (15 yrs) and it continues to be an important highlight for our Gr. 5 students/school community. We greatly appreciate the enormous efforts of the Camp K staff to integrate/encourage both groups of students.”
   - Grade 5, Edmison Hights Public School, Peterborough

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
“Programs such as this one are essential for students who are looking for an experience that can teach them leadership & wilderness skills, educate them about nature, and let them learn about Canadian history. This facility is one of a kind and I am grateful to be able to offer this experience to our community @ New College (UofT)”
- 1st-4th year, University of Toronto

“Our experiences at Camp Kawartha have been phenomenal! Our “city kids” have truly gained a greater appreciation for nature and our environment, as well as have experiences and take risks they would never have had the opportunity for in their daily lives. We love Camp Kawartha and will be back again next year!”
- Grade 4-7, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj Catholic School, Toronto

“I have brought students from three different schools for over ten years now. Every year students claim their CK experience is the best part of the year. I have students from years gone by who keep in touch & still talk about the trip to CK. A jewel that needs to be treasured. Every child should get the opportunity to go at least once.”
- Grade 6, North Cavan Public School, Cavan-Monaghan

“Camp Kawartha is a rich learning experience for all students. Learning goes beyond the curriculum and includes life skills such as: community building, curiosity, and a joy of our Ontario environment. I will always bring my students here.”
- Grade 6, Westmount Public School, Peterborough

“Our students had a great time. The hands-on experiences outdoors lent themselves to some great exploration of some big ideas. They created a springboard to further enrich classroom discussions. The knowledgeable staff was highly valued as you could tell they believed in what they were doing. The food was also really good – dedication to local & healthy products valuable lessons for our students too.”
- Grade 4, The Bishop Strachan School, Toronto

“We are truly happy with the experience. The knowledge, professionalism, quality and experience of your staff are what keeps us coming back! Thanks again for another amazing 3 days, our students love it! We will see you next year.”
- Grade 9, Brock High School, Cannington

Visit us online at: campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education
Camp Kawartha
Outdoor Education Centre

1010 Birchview Road
Douro-Dummer, ON K0L 2H0

Phone: 705-652-3860
Toll-free: 1-866-532-4567
Fax: 705-652-1500

campkawartha.ca/outdoor-education

“Environmental education is the responsibility of the entire education community. It is a content area and can be taught. It is an approach to critical thinking, citizenship, and personal responsibility, and can be modelled. It is a context that can enrich and enliven education in all subject areas, and offer students the opportunity to develop a deeper connection with themselves, their role in society, and their interdependence on one another and the Earth’s natural systems.”