



Hamilton Conservation Authority

**Outdoor Environmental Education
For Elementary Schools**

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

2016 - 2017

Program Guide & Booking Information



Phone: (905)-627-1233 Fax: (905)-627-9722

Email: beth.stormont@conservationhamilton.ca

**Connect your class to the outdoors through year round outdoor
Environmental Education Programs offered by the Hamilton Conservation Authority.**



2016-2017 School Year

Outdoor Environmental Education Program Guide

Interactive Outdoor Environmental Education

Connect your class with the outdoors through year round outdoor environmental education programs offered by the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- Each program is two hours, (10am-12pm or 12:30 2:30 pm)
- Any two programs can be combined to make up a full day (10 am – 2:30pm)
- Program times can be adapted to suit your transportation schedule
- Cost is **\$255** per class for a half day, two hour program
- Class Size: Maximum of 30 students
- \$5 for each additional student over the maximum

PROGRAM LOCATION:

- Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governors Road, Dundas, Ontario
- 60% - 75% is spent out of doors (*weather depending*)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEAM:

Our staff are enthusiastic Naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge and appreciation for the natural world with you and your students.

- Beth Stormont, B.A., B.Ed., Program Manager
- Sandra Root H.B., Ph.Ed., M.Sc.Ed.; HCA Environmental Education Specialist
- Fiona Van Wissen B.A., B.Ed., HCA Environmental Educator Specialist
- James O'Neill, Outdoor Recreation Specialist

EXTREME WEATHER:

- During weather extremes programs will be modified with a greater portion of the programs conducted indoors.

BOOKING PROCEDURES

- Complete the following **2016 - 2017 Booking Request Form** and fax or email it in
- Teachers will be emailed a **Trip Confirmation Letter, Directions** and **Pre-Trip Preparation Information** with all the details pertaining to the field trip once a trip date has been finalized.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$50 (*payable by credit card*), is required at the time of booking with the balance due two weeks prior to the booking date

For more information or to arrange a booking, please contact:

Beth Stormont, Education Program Manager, B.A., B. Ed.
Hamilton Conservation Authority

Phone: (905) 627-1233

Fax: (905) 627-9722

Email: beth.stormont@conservationhamilton.ca



BOOKING REQUEST: 2016-2017

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS

Complete Booking Request Form and submit by either Fax or Email to:

Beth Stormont, Education Program Manager, Hamilton Conservation Authority
 Fax: 905-627- 9722 Phone: 905-627-1233 Email: beth.stormont@conservationhamilton.ca

Note:

- Program Cost: **\$255** for a half-day, 2 hour program. Based on a maximum of 30 students per class.
- Additional per person fee in effect for classes exceeding the maximum class size
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit (*payable by credit card*) is required at the time of booking.

SCHOOL			
SCHOOL ADDRESS			
TEACHER CONTACT & EMAIL			
SCHOOL PHONE & EXTENSION			
GRADE(S)			
NUMBER OF STUDENTS <i>Additional fees apply for classes exceeding the maximum class sizes.</i>			
MORNING SESSION: (10-12 NOON) PROGRAM CHOICE <i>Please select a back-up program</i>	First Choice <input type="text"/>	Second Choice <input type="text"/>	
AFTERNOON SESSION: (12:30-2:30) PROGRAM CHOICE <i>Please select a back-up program.</i>	First Choice <input type="text"/>	Second Choice <input type="text"/>	
DATE CHOICES	Date Choice #1 <input type="text"/>	Date Choice #2 <input type="text"/>	Date Choice #3 <input type="text"/>
STUDENTS REQUIRING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION <i>Please let us know of any students requiring special consideration. We can then modify our programs accordingly.</i>			

PLEASE NOTE:

- Cost is **\$255** per class for a half day, two hour program (*maximum 30 students*)
- *Discounts available to schools booking more than two full days of programming.*
- Cancellation Policy: *A cancellation fee of \$150 will apply if the school cancels the trip less than three weeks (15 office days) prior to the scheduled field trip and does not re-schedule the date within the same school year*
- Clothing: *Program participants are expected to dress appropriately for the weather & outdoor conditions.*

***For safety reasons sandals, moccasins or thin, flat shoes are not recommended.
 Wear running shoes or hiking boots.***



Hamilton Conservation Authority

Healthy Streams...Healthy Communities!

PRE-TRIP TEACHER INFORMATION:

- A *Booking Confirmation*, along with *Directions* and *Pre-Trip Information* will be sent via email within three business days of receiving your booking request
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit (*payable by credit card*) is required at the time of booking
- Payment of balance owing (*payable by credit card*) is due two weeks prior to your visit
- Our programs run rain or shine. During weather extremes, programs will be modified with a greater portion of the program conducted indoors.
- Program participants are encouraged to bring litter-less lunches. Supervision during the lunch break is the responsibility of the classroom teacher.

Our Education Team Will:

- Lead the programs, with the active assistance and support of the classroom teacher and volunteers in attendance.
- Inform teachers by telephone of the possibility of program cancellation
- Provide program instruction, equipment, first aid & emergency communications



ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS: PRIMARY / JUNIOR

Recommended for: Grades 1 – 5
(Maximum class size – 25 students)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NOTE: Each program is 2 hours

WILDLIFE:

Seasonal Changes

Come explore nature as it changes from one season to the next. On a short walk to the Wildlife Teaching Garden students will look for clues to how creatures great and small prepare for seasonal changes. We will examine the Tracking Pit for animal tracks and visit the Bird Blind to observe visiting birds.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Needs & Characteristics of Living Things; Growth & Changes in Animals; Habitats and Communities. Offered Year Round.

What's Alive? Habitats & Communities

Investigate the differences between meadows and forests. Examine the interdependency of plants and animals within these habitats and explore the relationships between predator and prey, producers, consumers and decomposers in each of these unique habitats.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Offered Year Round.

In Search of Small Creatures

This is an opportunity for students to explore first-hand the techniques of observation, identification and classification of insects, spiders and other small creatures found in the fields and forests of the Dundas Valley.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Fall or Spring

Predators

Investigate the world of predators through actual specimens, games, activities and exploration. Examine skulls and other artifacts to find out about adaptations of predators and the natural communities where they live. Discover which predators live in the valley! Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities; Year Round

Get Tracking!

Discover how to track down clues to the secretive wildlife of the Dundas Valley. Learn how to recognize and identify the tracks, feeding marks, runways, bedding areas, dens and scats of animals living in the valley. Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Needs & Characteristics of Living Things; Growth & Changes in Animals Habitats & Communities, **Winter**

Birds of Prey

Discover what makes these birds such fascinating and effective predators! Following an introduction about the behaviours and characteristics of these birds, we will explore the Dundas Valley in search of these birds of prey.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Offered Year Round.

Birds & Winter Birds

There are over 160 species of birds in the Dundas Valley. Students will discover how to identify some of the more common species by noting; size, shape, colour, behaviour, habitats, and sound. We will investigate sources of food, water and shelter that are necessary for their survival.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Offered Year Round.

PLANTS:

Seasonal Changes in Plants

Plants are amazing. They can live almost anywhere and they come in all different shapes, sizes and colours! Explore nature as it changes from one season to the next. Students will look for and observe seasonal changes in plants in the nearby teaching gardens. *Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Needs & Characteristics of Living Things; Growth & Changes in Animals; Habitats and Communities. Offered Year Round.*

Helping Pollinators

What is a pollinator and why do they need our help? Just as animals depend on plants (*producers*) for survival, flowering plants depend on animals (*pollinators*) for their survival. Visit our Pollinator and Rain Gardens to find out which plants are good for pollinators. *Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Understanding Life Systems; Growth and Changes in Plants; Habitats and Communities. Recommended for grades 3 & 4.*

Trees Please!

Maple, Ash or Dogwood? White Pine, Spruce or Hemlock? Find out some tips and tricks to help classify and identify common deciduous and coniferous trees. *Curriculum Links: Life Systems; Growth & Changes in Plants; Fall / Winter / Spring*

Soil Ecology ~ Getting Down To Earth

Investigate soil and discover its importance to plants, animals and people. Through hands-on investigation, identify the basic components of soil, compare different soil types, look for evidence of decomposition, erosion, and recognize the importance of composting. *Weather Permitting*
Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Fall or Spring

FOSSILS, ROCKS & MINERALS:

Rock On! (Grade 4)

The Dundas Valley has a rich geological past. Come and discover how glaciers were responsible for shaping the valley. Find out about the “*Giant’s Rib!*” Students will have an opportunity to investigate our rock collection to find out more about the characteristics of rocks and fossils.

Curriculum Links: Earth & Space Systems; Rocks and Minerals; Offered Year Round

OUTDOOR ACTIVE PROGRAMS: Primary / Junior

Health & Physical Education: Active Participation

Nature Walk:

The Nature Walk is a great activity for students of all ages. This seasonally themed walk focuses on the natural history of our local plants and animals. We will incorporate a variety of interactive games and challenges along the way.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Health & Physical Education: Active Participation, Offered Year Round

Eco Games:

A series of age appropriate games and activities highlighting a variety of ecological concepts including food chains and animal adaptations. Activities will include a combination of running games, blindfold activities and quiet stalking games.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities; Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round



**Hamilton
Conservation Authority**

Healthy Streams...Healthy Communities!

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS: INTERMEDIATE

Recommended for: Grades 6 – 8

(Maximum class size – 30 students)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NOTE: *Each program selection is approximately 2 hours in length*

Diversity of Living Things:

Students will work in small groups to observe and understand how natural ecosystems are affected by biodiversity. They will then identify and evaluate the extent of natural and human impacts on biodiversity.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems, Offered Year Round

Water Systems (Grade 8 only)

Students will work in supervised teams along the stream to map, measure & record its width, depth and rate of flow. Rubber boots, hip waders, measuring tapes and metre sticks will be available to help students with their observations. We will also observe and discuss various features such as erosion, floodplains, hazard lands & valleys.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Interactions in the Environment, Fall/ Spring

Investigating Natural Ecosystems

Using a variety of field sampling techniques, students will investigate the differences between forest and meadow ecosystems, and examine the interdependency of plants and animals within each of these unique ecosystems

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems, Offered Year Round

Wildlife Ecology

Explore the relationships between *biotic (living)* and *abiotic (nonliving)* components in a natural environment. Understand the key components of selected ecosystems; including niche, camouflage, and predator/prey relationships.

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology: Sustainable Ecosystems; Human Activity; Climate Change. Offered Year Round

Conservation Projects:

Through good watershed stewardship practices, the Hamilton Conservation Authority works hard to improve natural areas and protect sources of water. This is an opportunity for students to participate in hands-on ecological restoration projects. Seasonal projects may include:

- Planting of native trees & shrubs
- Construction of brush piles, nesting boxes and feeding stations
- Removal of invasive species
- Care of Rainwater Harvesting and Rain Garden Project
- Care of Pollinator Garden

Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems Health & Physical Education: Active Participation, Offered Year Round

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS: INTERMEDIATE

Recommended for: Grades 6 – 8

OUTDOOR ACTIVE PROGRAMS: *Health & Physical Education: Active Participation*

Each program selection is approximately 2 hours in length

Eco Games

A series of age appropriate games and activities highlighting a variety of ecological concepts including food chains and animal adaptations. Activities will include a combination of running games, blindfold activities and quiet stalking games. Curriculum Links: *Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round*

Get Oriented!! An Introduction to Orienteering

Students are introduced to the basics of orienteering, including; parts of a compass, use of a compass to find direction, and map reading. Skills will be a put to the test as students use a map and compass to navigate their way through a designated area. Curriculum Links: *Geography: Developing Map Skills, Health & Physical Education: Active Participation Fall or Spring*

Hiking:

This is a guided introductory level hike. Trails winds through mature deciduous forests, hemlock groves, open fields and meadows, across small streams and through valleys. *Fall, Winter or Spring* Curriculum Links: *Life Systems: Habitats & Communities, Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round*

Snowshoe Trek (Grade 6 & Up only)

Using Traditional or High-Tech snowshoes we will trek the hills & valleys in search of deer, coyotes & other resident winter wildlife. Curriculum Links: *Health & Physical Education: Active Participation **Winter**– Weather Permitting*

WIDE GAMES:

These games make use of large forest and field areas, encouraging students to work together co-operatively & strategize. Choose from one of the following activities:

Survival of the Fittest

A predator/prey role playing game. The objective - to survive! The search is on for the basic necessities of food, water and shelter. The challenge – to avoid predators, disease and other dangers in order to survive. Curriculum Links: *Science & Technology Life Systems, Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round*

Alpha Wolf

The Alpha is the lead animal in any pack. Teams attempt to locate the Alpha in order to improve their clan's strength. An adaptation of this game is to avoid capture of the Alpha and keep your own clan safe. Curriculum Links: *Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities; Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round*

Capture the Flag

The goal of this game is for each team to seek out and capture the flag of the other team while keeping their own flag safe. Curriculum Links: *Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round*