



Outdoor Environmental Education For Elementary Schools HCA Field Trips

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Program Guide & Booking Information



Email: hcaenved@conservationhamilton.ca

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



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS Program Guide & Booking Information

ENVIRONMENTAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Interactive Outdoor Environmental Education

Connect your class with the outdoors through year round outdoor environmental education programs offered by the Hamilton Conservation Authority in affiliation with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Each program is approximately two hours, (9:30 – 11:30 a.m. or 12:00 - 2:00 pm)
- Any two programs can be combined to make up a full day (9:30 am – 2:00pm)
- Program times can be adapted to suit your transportation schedule
- Cost is dependent on a per class fee for a half day or full day program (see Education Program fee schedule)
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit (*payable by credit card*) is required at time of booking for non-HWDSB schools.
- Class Size: Maximum of 26 students
- \$5 for each additional student over the maximum for a half program day.
- \$10 for each additional student over the maximum for a full program day.

PROGRAM LOCATION

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

PROGRAM COST

The Environmental Education Program Fees for eligible HWDSB schools are covered by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board in partnership with the Hamilton Conservation Foundation.

TRANSPORTATION

Schools are required to make their own transportation arrangements.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- During inclement weather programs will be modified with a greater portion of the programs conducted indoors.
- All programs continue rain, snow, or shine. In extreme weather schools will be notified in advance to make alternative arrangements and re-schedule the date.
- **Program participants are expected to dress appropriately for the weather and outside conditions.**

BOOKING PROCEDURES

Complete the **Booking Request Form** and return it by email.

HWDSB Teachers will be emailed a **Confirmation Letter and Pre-Trip Preparation Information** with all the details pertaining to the field trip once a trip date has been finalized. There is no program cost to the eligible HWDSB schools.

For non-HWDSB bookings, a non-refundable deposit of \$50 (*payable by credit card*), is required at the time of booking with the fee balance due two weeks prior to the booking date.

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

Environmental Education Program Coordinator Hamilton Conservation Authority
Email: hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca



Hamilton
Conservation
Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

BOOKING REQUEST

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS

Complete Booking Request Form and submit by Email to:

Environmental Education Program Coordinator, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Email: hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca

Note:

- Select one half day program from the Environmental Education Program list.
- Choose one half day program from the Outdoor Active Program list
- Program Choice: a half-day, full-day program. Based on a maximum of 26 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 for non-HWDSB.

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|---|--|--|--|
| 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> | | | |
| ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM CHOICE (Ex. What's Alive?) <i>Please select a back-up program</i> | First Choice <input type="text"/> | Second Choice <input type="text"/> | |
| OUTDOOR ACTIVE PROGRAM CHOICE (Ex. Eco Games) <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 will try to modify our programs accordingly.</i> | | | |

PLEASE NOTE:

- 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
- For safety reasons sandals, moccasins or thin, flat shoes are not recommended. Wear running shoes or hiking boots.
- While we make every effort to accommodate students with special needs it is not always possible given our rugged terrain.



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.
- Program Fees for eligible HWDSB schools are covered by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board in partnership with the Hamilton Conservation Foundation.
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit (*payable by credit card*) is required at the time of booking for non-HWDSB.
- Payment of balance owing (*payable by credit card*) is due two weeks prior to your visit by non-HWDSB.
- Our programs run rain or shine. During inclement weather, programs will be modified with a greater portion of the program conducted indoors.
- In extreme weather, HCA staff will contact schools in advance to make alternative arrangements.
- Program participants are encouraged to bring litter-less lunches. Supervision during the lunch break is the responsibility of the classroom teacher.

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.

- HCA Environmental Education Specialists
- Environmental Education Program Coordinator
- Fiona Van Wissen B.A., B.Ed., HCA Environmental Instructor
- Elizabeth Watson – Morlog Hon. B.P.E., B. Ed., HCA Environmental Instructor

Our Education Team Will:

- Schedule, contact and confirm class field trips to the Dundas Valley Centre using email.
- Provide teachers with a **Trip Confirmation Letter** and **Pre-Trip Preparation Information**.
- 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 (ie) due to extreme weather.
- Provide program instruction, equipment, first aid & emergency communications.



ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS: PRIMARY / JUNIOR
Recommended for: Grades 1 – 5
(Maximum class size – 26 students)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NOTE: Each program is approximately 2 hours in length.

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 – Hawks and Owls

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 birds of prey and their 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, try a few soil experiments and recognize the importance of composting. *Weather Permitting Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Habitats and Communities, Fall or Spring*

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



ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS: INTERMEDIATE
Recommended for: Grades 6 – 8
(Maximum class size – 26 students)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

ECOSYSTEMS:

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)

***Note: The number of in-stream aquatic programs is limited due to the environment impact on the ecosystem**
 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

Interactions in the Environment

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*

NOTE: 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 include a combination of running games, stalking games and some leadership / initiative tasks. 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*

Risk! A team game of strategy based on the board game of Risk. The goal is to take over and occupy all of the territories while making sure your own territory is well defended!

Curriculum Links: *Health & Physical Education: Active Participation; Offered Year Round*