Hamilton Conservation Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Outdoor Environmental Education Programs for Secondary Schools

Program Guide & Booking Information

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Contact us at:
hcaenved@conservationhamilton.ca
905-525-2181 ext.266

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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS
BOOKING INFORMATION

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

- Most groups arrive around 9:30-10:00 and depart around 1:30-2:00, though program length and time can be adapted to suit your group's scheduling requirements. Please let us know your arrival and departure times so we can plan accordingly.
- Groups usually have a short nutrition break upon arrival and a half-hour nutrition break mid-day.
- Each secondary program is approximately 1.5-2 hours in length. Most groups participate in two programs during their visit, one in the morning and another in the afternoon.
- We can accommodate two classes per day with a maximum class size of 30 students.
- Programs are connected to the Ontario curriculum.
- The majority of the program time is spent outdoors, weather depending.
- While we make every effort to accommodate students with special needs it is not always possible given our rugged and hilly terrain. Please let us know about all your students' needs at the time of your booking request so that we can discuss potential program options.
- Please ensure that all your students are dressed properly for an outdoor program, proper outdoor footwear like running shoes, hiking boots or other closed toed shoes is essential. Students that arrive without proper outdoor gear may not be permitted to participate in outdoor activities.
- Our staff are enthusiastic Naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge and appreciation for the natural world with you and your students.

PROGRAM LOCATION

Dundas Valley Conservation Area - 650 Governors Road, Dundas, Ontario

PROGRAM COST

Environmental Education program fees for 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

- All programs continue rain or shine. Program participants are expected to dress appropriately for the weather and outside conditions.
- During inclement weather programs will be modified to have more of the program conducted indoors.
- In extreme weather school programs may need to be cancelled. Schools will be notified in advance to make alternative arrangements and re-schedule the date.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

Please complete the **Booking Request Form** and return it by email to hcaenved@conservationhamilton.ca

Teachers will be emailed a ***Booking Confirmation Letter and Pre-Trip Preparation Information*** with all the details pertaining to the field trip once a trip date has been finalized.

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HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS
PROGRAM GUIDE

Habitat Analysis
Students will explore a local habitat, working in small groups to examine key physical characteristics of the site. They will also conduct a biodiversity survey, observing the wildlife and vegetation of the site. Groups will then use all of this information to evaluate the health of the habitat.

Human Impact Study
Students will work in small groups to evaluate the impact of human activity on a local ecosystem by examining the biodiversity of an area and noting any human impacts they observe. They will also learn about invasive species, working as a team to determine whether or not different plants in the area are invasive by examining key characteristics.

Stream Study
Student will evaluate the health of a local stream, using both biotic and abiotic factors to inform their assessment. They will collect Benthic Macro Invertebrates from shallow areas of the stream, then use a dichotomous key to identify species. They will also perform physical tests, such as water pH and temperature. All equipment, including rubber boots, will be provided.
Note: This program is only available in September, October, May and June. It is also only offered with limited availability to prevent negative environmental impact on the ecosystem.

Bruce Trail Hike
Students will hike a section of the Bruce Trail that winds through the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. This trail passes through shady forests and open meadows, showcasing lots of the diverse nature found in this area. This route has several hills and is an intermediate level hike.

Eco Games
Students will participate in an assortment of games and activities themed around our local ecology. These will be a combination of higher and lower energy games, played in our playing field or one of our forest areas.

Seasonal Exploration
Students will spend some time exploring a nearby forest or meadow area. This program involves lots of hands-on opportunities for discovering what lives in the Dundas Valley, such as sweep netting during warmer weather or searching for signs of winter wildlife in the colder months.

Had something else in mind? Reach out and we will see what we can do.

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BOOKING REQUEST FORM
HWDSB SECONDARY

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Submit completed form to: hcaenved@conservationhamilton.ca

Note: Please fill out a separate booking request form for each trip day you would like to book.

SCHOOL NAME			
SCHOOL ADDRESS			
SCHOOL PHONE & EXTENSION			
CONTACT TEACHER NAME			
CONTACT TEACHER EMAIL			
CONTACT TEACHER PHONE			
	Class A	**Class B**	
TEACHER NAME			
GRADE(S)			
NUMBER OF STUDENTS			
PROGRAM CHOICE(S)			
DATE OPTIONS	**Option #1**	**Option #2**	**Option #3**
MOBILITY CONSIDERATIONS Our terrain is quite hilly and rugged. Please let us know of any students that use a wheelchair, walker or have any other mobility challenges so that we may do our best to accommodate when planning your program.			
OTHER ACCESIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS Please let us know of any other information about that we should consider when planning for your program.			

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