

Highlands Outdoor Education Centre – PROGRAM OUTLINE Gr.3 2017/2018

Note: Proper footwear, rubber boots (for rainy days) or closed toed shoes for fall/spring, winter boots for snow season) is essential for students, teachers and parent volunteers to maximize the learning potential and related enjoyment of this program.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS (1 adult per 5 students)

1. Under Our Feet – Soils Study (*Soils in the Environment*)- indoor/outdoor - Fall/Spring

This program exposes students to the multitude of fascinating life systems supported by soil. Students are actively involved in the sampling and subsequent analysis of a variety of different soil types. In addition, the effects of moving water on rock and on soils are observed. This program is intended to introduce students to the interdependence of humans and other living organisms with soils.

2. Plant Trek – (*Growth and Changes in Plants*) – outdoor – Fall/Spring

Students will take part in a series of interconnected activities that explore the characteristics and requirements of plants and their patterns of growth. A series of plants local to the Niagara Escarpment will be examined on a flora and fauna nature hike. We will explore fall and spring changes to plants, as well as the value of plants in our lives.

3. Wayfaring (Map Work)- outdoor – ALL YEAR

Students will learn basic mapping skills indoors then use these skills outdoors, following a primary map of the Niagara Escarpment. On their mapping adventure, students work in small groups with parents and teachers to find orienteering markers.

4. Strong and Stable Structures - indoor– ALL YEAR

Students will develop an understanding of the concept of stability in structures and mechanisms by rotating through a series of interactive centres including: the use of mitre boxes, drills and screwdrivers, building a beam bridge using K'nex, levers, and experimenting with cars and adjustable axles.

5. Forces Causing Movement – indoor – Fall/Spring

Through a series of hands-on activity centers, students will investigate devices that use forces to create controlled movement and develop an understanding of how forces cause movement and changes in movement on a natural and built environment.

6. Maple Syrup/Pioneer Days – indoor/outdoor

Let your class experience the history, production and taste of Maple Syrup. This program starts with an interactive puppet show, followed by a hike through a Niagara Escarpment sugar bush then back to the centre for pioneer activities.

Please see our Maple Syrup flyer, or visit our website: www.highlandsnordic.ca for more details.

7. Pioneers and Pedlars - indoor/outdoor – ALL YEAR – combine with Wayfaring for a full day program

Students will explore the daily lives of pioneer settlers by role playing the life of a pedlar as they use a map to travel from “farm” to “farm” trading their goods for whatever the pioneer farmers have available (sheepskins, ashes, hog bristles, etc.). The pedlars then travel to a market to sell the goods collected from the pioneer farmers.

General Information

- Programs must be reserved in advance and are designed as half-day or full day sessions with a minimum of 15 students per program.
- Two half-day programs make an exciting full-day program.
- For December – March, combine one, half-day program, with half-day cross-country skiing or snowshoeing – See **Welcome to Winter Programs Flyer**
- Programs run rain or shine (unless extreme weather conditions are forecasted).
- Supervisors are expected to remain with their group throughout the visit (program/lunch) and are responsible for discipline