

**This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.**

**Cheakamus Centre
Educational Programs**
Phone: 604.898.5422
Email: odsclinic@sd44.ca

Outdoor School Program Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk

To be completed for participants under the age of 19.

Purpose of the Program

The Outdoor School program (ODS) at Cheakamus Centre is an overnight outdoor learning experience designed to help students build connections with the natural world. Additionally, through the supervised cabin living experience, students take on new responsibilities and challenges, and have opportunities to develop confidence, resilience and a sense of independence. A detailed Parent Handbook outlining the ODS program is available through the school and online on the Cheakamus Centre website. Parents/guardians are advised to read through the Handbook with their child to become familiar with the program format.

Nature and Scope of Risks

ODS's residential learning environment involves inherent risks that may be different or greater than those found in a normal school setting. The program has been designed to provide appropriate experiences and challenges given the age of the participants. Program staff strive to minimize risk of injury or harm to participants. ODS activities involving risk include, but are not limited to: travel, challenge course initiatives, archery, canoeing, hiking, campfires, aquatic and farm-based field studies. Risks associated with these activities include but are not limited to: exposure to inclement weather, slipping, falling from height, insect or animal bites, being struck by falling objects, immersion in cold water, uneven terrain, walking alongside and in streams, social or economic losses due to actions of others, loss or damage of personal property, injury, illness, or death. Accidents can be the result of the nature of the activity and can occur without any fault on the part of the student, the School Board or its employees or contracted agents.

Safety Precautions

Parents/guardians are required to complete a comprehensive medical form for their child to ensure 1st Aid Staff can respond to medical needs in an appropriate and timely manner. Medications are kept in the First Aid Clinic and administered by the Clinic staff based on information provided on the Medical Form. *Note that 1st Aid Staff are not registered practitioners and do not possess specialized training for diabetes, epilepsy or other serious conditions.* In an emergency, Squamish General Hospital is 15 minutes from the Cheakamus Centre site. Student personal care plans/medical supplies (i.e., epi-pens) are to be provided by parents for students with life-threatening medical conditions.

Health Awareness and Managing Illness

Students or parent/guardians are responsible for conducting a health check on the day of departure. Cheakamus staff and student counsellors will check-in with students regularly regarding their health and wellness. In the event of a student becoming ill, parent/guardians will be contacted and may be required to arrange for pick-up. Participants who become symptomatic or ill during the trip will be isolated from others with support provided by Cheakamus Centre staff and/or visiting school staff. If the symptoms include severe difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, having a hard time waking up, feeling confused or losing consciousness, the staff supervisor will call 911 for immediate medical assistance.

Supervision

Students are supervised throughout the Outdoor School program. 24-hour supervision is provided by Cheakamus Centre program staff, visiting teachers and support staff, and volunteer counsellors. Trained high school counselors are assigned to each cabin group and are responsible for guiding students to meals, chores, field studies and recreation activities. Classroom teachers are available for direct supervision of students throughout the day, on field studies and during assigned evening teacher time.

Food/Meals

Cheakamus Centre is able to support a wide range of dietary needs and participant dietary requirements are communicated through the Medical Form. All program participants will be advised not to share food, drink or other personal items. Additional safety measures include the following:

- Cheakamus Centre food services adhere to current [WorksafeBC](#) guidance for restaurants.
- Provincial [Food Safety Legislation](#) continues to apply as relevant.
- All persons will practice proper hand hygiene upon entry to the dining hall and after eating.

Transport

Students will be transported in licensed school buses and/or charter buses with appropriate licensing. All buses will be equipped with seatbelts. Buses used for transporting students will follow industry-standard cleaning protocols. Bus drivers and students will be encouraged to practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette during transport.

Behavioural Expectations

Each visiting schools' Code of Conduct applies to students during the ODS program. In addition, students are expected to abide by the ODS guidelines that include staying in designated areas, treating animals and plants with care, following instructions from staff and counselors, and reporting illness or accidents immediately to staff.

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All students must have written permission from a custodial parent/guardian in order to participate in educational programs offered at Cheakamus Centre.

Participant Name: _____ **School:** _____
Program Date: _____

I have read and fully understand the Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk information that pertains to my son/daughter's field trip to Cheakamus Centre for the Outdoor School Program. I am aware of the levels of supervision, inherent risks, expectations for behavior and existing safety precautions. I understand there will be consequences for non-compliance or unsafe behaviour, which may include, but not be limited to my child being sent home at my expense.

Parent/Guardian and Participant Agreement: *(Please review the following expectations with your child)*

We understand and agree that participation in the Outdoor School Program requires the Participant to:

- Share the responsibility for the safety of their self and others during all activities.
- Follow all instructions and directions of Cheakamus Centre staff and visiting teaching staff. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.
- Acknowledge the above risks and accept responsibility for all damages and loss resulting from their participation.
- We may contact Cheakamus Centre in advance regarding questions about the risks described above or pertaining to any other aspect of the program.
- This Agreement will be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of British Columbia.

My signature below indicates that I understand and accept the risks involved in my child's participation in the Outdoor School Program at Cheakamus Centre, and I give my informed consent to his or her participation in the program.

Custodial Parent/Guardian Name

Custodial Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please complete and return this form with the attached Medical Form to your child's teacher.