

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

**Cheakamus Centre**  
**Educational Programs**  
Phone: 604.898.5422  
Email: [odsleaders@sd44.ca](mailto:odsleaders@sd44.ca)  
Website: [www.cheakamuscentre.ca](http://www.cheakamuscentre.ca)

## **COUNSELLOR TRAINING WORKSHOP**

### **Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk**

#### **Purpose of the Program**

The Outdoor School Program Counsellor Training Workshop (or 'Training Workshop') is an intensive weekend workshop designed to prepare Gr. 10-12 students to serve as Leadership Counsellors for the Outdoor School (ODS) Program. The ODS Program is a 2 or 3 night residential outdoor environmental experience designed to enhance Gr. 4 and 6 students' understanding of, and respect for, the environment. The Training Workshop prepares counsellor trainees ('trainees') through practical interactive sessions focusing on group management, safety, effective communication, and a range of practical leadership skills.

#### **Program Duration, Location and Transportation**

The Training Workshop runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and is held at Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale. Students will be transported from Carson Graham Secondary to Cheakamus Centre on Friday evening at 6pm and returned to Carson Graham at approximately 4:30pm on Sunday afternoon.

#### **Nature and Scope of Risks**

Cheakamus Centre's residential learning environment involves inherent risks that may be different or greater than those found in a normal school setting. The training program has been designed to provide appropriate experiences and challenges and program staff strive to minimize risk of injury or harm to participants. Training Workshop activities involving risk may include, but are not limited to: highway travel, caving, challenge course initiatives, archery, canoeing, campfires, aquatic and farm-based field studies.

Risks associated with these activities include but are not limited to: vehicle accident, exposure to inclement weather, slipping, falling from a 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**

Program staff with First Aid training are on-call for the duration of the workshop. Onsite operational staff are also available to assist in the event of an emergency. Note that 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Staff are not registered nurses and do not possess specialized training for diabetes, epilepsy or other serious medical conditions. In an emergency, Squamish General Hospital is 15 minutes from the Cheakamus Centre site.

#### **Supervision**

Counsellor Trainees are supervised by Cheakamus Centre program staff and ODS alumni trainers from wakeup to bedtime. Trainees are not supervised directly in cabins overnight although staff and trainers reside in adjacent cabins are they are on-call at all times.

#### **Behavioural Expectations**

As a school district sponsored leadership program, students are expected to abide by their respective school's Code of Conduct for the duration of the Training Workshop. The use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products are strictly forbidden and will result in immediate removal from the program. Consequences of other contraventions of school Codes of Conduct will be determined by the Program Manager and Educational Director of Cheakamus Centre. In addition, Counsellor Trainees are required not to possess or use their phone or mobile device during the Training Workshop.

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## **COUNSELLOR TRAINING WORKSHOP Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk**

**All trainee counsellors 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 participation in the Counsellor Training Workshop at Cheakamus Centre. 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 Counsellor Training Workshop requires Participants to:

- Share the responsibility for the safety of their self and others during all activities and report any injuries or incidents to self or others to the Program Manager or Administrators.
- Act in a responsible and respectful manner towards other students, counsellors, and staff members.
- Follow all instructions and directions of Cheakamus Centre staff and alumni trainers. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.
- Acknowledge the above risks and accept responsibility for all damages and losses 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 participation as a Counsellor Trainee in the Counsellor Training Workshop at Cheakamus Centre.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Custodial Parent/Guardian Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Custodial Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Please complete this form and return it to your school counselling office.**