

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

**Cheakamus Centre
Educational Programs**
Phone: 604.898.5422
Email: odsleaders@sd44.ca
Website: www.cheakamuscentre.ca

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAM COUNSELLOR Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk

Purpose of the Program

The Outdoor School program (ODS program) at Cheakamus Centre is a residential outdoor environmental experience designed to enhance students' understanding of, and respect for, the environment. Counsellors provide a key support role to the program through supervising students in a cabin overnight, assisting teachers on field studies, and leading recreational activities. Through this role they gain valuable leadership experience and enhanced communication and group management skills.

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 program has been designed to provide appropriate experiences and challenges given the age of the participants and program staff strive to minimize risk of injury or harm to participants. ODS activities involving risk include, but are not limited to: highway travel, caving, challenge course initiatives, archery, canoeing, hiking, 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 1st Aid training are on-call for the duration of the program. Onsite operational staff are also available to assist in the event of an emergency. 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 1st Aid clinic and administered by the Clinic staff. Note that 1st Aid Staff are not registered nurses and do not possess specialized training to manage serious medical conditions. In an emergency, Squamish General Hospital is 15 minutes from the Cheakamus Centre site.

Supervision

Counsellors are supervised throughout their time on the ODS program. 24 hour on-site supervision is provided by Cheakamus Centre program staff, visiting teachers and support staff. Program staff assist counsellors with settling students in cabins at night, and meet with counsellors throughout the day and evening to review activities, expectations, and concerns. Program staff also supervise counsellors on recreation and evening programs and provide mentorship and assist with group management as needed. Classroom teachers and program staff are readily available to deal with any behavioural or medical issues that may arise and to support counsellors in any social, emotional, or physical needs they may have.

Behavioural Expectations

Each visiting schools' Code of Conduct applies to students during the ODS program. The use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products are strictly forbidden and will result in immediate removal from the program. In addition, Counsellors are expected to abide by the following ODS guidelines:

- Act as role models for visiting students
- Follow instructions from staff and teachers
- Only use phones at designated times/places
- Treat animals and plants with care
- Report illness or accidents immediately to staff
- Treat students, counsellors, and staff with respect

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All 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 attendance as a leadership counsellor at 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 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 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 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 Student Counsellor in the Outdoor School Program at Cheakamus Centre.

Student NAME

Student SIGNATURE

Date

Custodial Parent/Guardian NAME

Custodial Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE

Date

***Please complete and scan this form to Cheakamus Centre via email to odsleaders@sd44.ca.
Hard copies of the form are to be handed in to the school counselling office.***