

## Year Round Programs



ORIENTEERING  
LEVEL 1

This program is an introduction to map reading. Students will learn to recognize landmarks on a topographical map, and translate contour lines into recognizable features for navigation. Program concludes with a competition of teams, on a challenging course using maps.



ORIENTEERING  
LEVEL 2

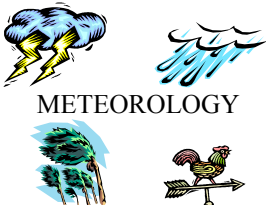
After a brief review of topographical map reading, participants will discuss parts of compassing. They will also learn how to determine and walk a compass bearing. Program concludes with a competition of teams, on a challenging course using maps and compasses.



ORIENTEERING  
LEVEL 3

**(Orienteering experience a prerequisite)**

Map skills include studying the grid reference system that is used by the Canadian Military as well as search and rescue teams. Students will learn how to measure distances by counting paces and walking compass bearings a certain distance.



METEOROLOGY

This program looks at the four components of weather: Temperature, pressure, humidity and wind. What they are, where they come from and how they affect the planet locally and worldwide. The program is in two sections; inside theory, discussion and experiments, and outside observation



LIVE REPTILES

Scaly, slimy and slippery, an experience with live reptiles. A selection from over 20 species of snakes, and turtles will be brought to Wildfire to allow students to become up close and personal with them. Students will learn more about the habitat, ecology and behavior of nature's most misunderstood creatures.



NATIVE SONG AND  
DANCE SOCIAL

This is a full participation program. Students will be taught song and dance, as well as being introduced to musical instruments of the native culture.



A Mohawk Woman, who is willing to share what she knows with the people she meets, conducts this program. Native awareness is a door opening into another culture, a hope to enlighten those who listen and participate. It covers social aspects of this culture from a teaching about the Medicine Wheel, the Circle of Life and some of the medicines used for every day experiences, to the style of clothing worn and still worn. Students and teachers participation is highly encouraged throughout the program.

#### NATIVE AWARENESS



This is a hands on program. Everyone is encouraged to try the craft being taught. The age group and what the teachers or leaders know their students can handle will determine what native craft will be taught. Here are a few to choose from; dream catchers, medicine wheels, medicine pouches, bead and leather key chains, leather and or bead bracelets, beaded necklaces and or earrings. Supplies are provided and where it is possible a story can be told.

#### NATIVE CRAFTS



#### NATIVE STORIES AND LEGENDS

A perfect compliment to our other native programs students will listen to legends related by a local native storyteller in the comfort of Wildfire's main room. We will learn about native traditions from the past and present as well as exploring customs



#### A SOLDIERS STORY

Studying the war of 1812 is one thing, being there is another. Students will be dressed in uniform, given wooden muskets and put through basic drill by a uniformed 1812 drill sergeant. They will also learn how to fire a musket and cannon, as well as discovering how soldiers worked, what they ate, and how they lived.



#### ARCHERY

Students learn first hand how archery has changed with society from being used in combat and hunting into an Olympic sport. They are taught the correct and safe way to use a bow and arrow. They are instructed as to the parts of a bow and arrow and different types of bows and arrows. This is becoming one of the students favorite programs as with each shot they learn how to aim, hold their anchor and have a good stance.



LACROSSE

With a history that spans centuries, lacrosse is the oldest sport in North America. Rooted in Native American religion, lacrosse was often played to resolve conflicts, heal the sick, and develop strong, virile men. To Native Americans, lacrosse is still referred to as "The Creator's Game." Students are put into teams, given the rules of how to play the game with our modern equipment.



GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS

Students will be taught what a GPS is and how to use it. This new technology is becoming very popular, being used in cars, aviation and military. Geocaching is the newest sport to come out of this.



DRUMMING CIRCLE

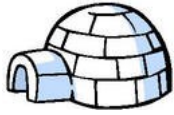
Students will participate in a drumming circle. This is a total hands on activity that will allow students to grow at their own beat.



MINI PADDLE MAKING

What a great souvenir!! Students take mini paddles that are cut from local harvested wood, and sand, and design them themselves. They can paint, or wood burn onto their paddle to create their own original mini paddle.

## Winter Programs



WINTER SURVIVAL

This program involves making a snow shelter for camping or survival. If built properly a quinzee will be much warmer to sleep in than any tent. A quinzee is a combination of an igloo and a snow cave. Students will be shown how to safely construct and sleep (optional) in the quinzee. Students will also be shown fire-starting techniques.



SNOWSHOES

Students have the challenge of traversing wildfire property on snowshoes. They will come to appreciate how animals have adapted for winter as they venture out on a guided nature hike. Activities will include races and games. This can be done during the day or at night under the stars.



DOWNHILL SKIING,  
SNOWBOARDING,  
BLADING

Skiing, Boarding and Blading are available within 20 minutes of Wildfire. Each site has its own special qualities, ask the office which would work best for your particular group.

Snow Valley, Horseshoe Valley, Mt. St. Louis-Moonstone, or Blue Mountain



TUBING

This is a fun winter activity. Good for all ages.

Available at Snow Valley or Horseshoe Valley



CROSS COUNTRY  
SKIING

Cross Country Skiing Trails of different lengths and difficulty are available with rentals at:

Horseshoe Valley, Blueberry Trails (Wasaga Beach), Mountain View (Midland), Wye Marsh and Hardwood Hills.

## Spring, Summer and Fall Programs



### WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

Survival is the original outdoor program. Participants will be given the knowledge needed to survive if lost in the wild. Students will demonstrate in the bush the skills they learned as they work in teams on fire starting, shelter building and problem solving.



### DIVERSITY IN NATURE

In this program students will learn how to investigate and interpret evidence and signs of nature. Students will have an opportunity to research and collect data in teams as each team is assigned one aspect of nature. At the conclusion each team shares what they have gathered with their peers, which enables everyone to learn and experience many different aspects of the outdoors.



### BUGS N' INSECTS

This program begins with a discussion involving all elements within an ecosystem including producers, consumers and food chains. Then its out into the field exploring actual ecosystems. Activities include dip netting, beating sheets, and specimen collecting. Students will then be given a chance to identify and catalogue their findings



### STREAM STUDIES

This program examines water quality and characteristics of a stream. Students will measure depth, rate of flow, and other factors we will also learn about erosion, succation, and other geographical features caused by the stream over time.



### BIRDING

This is an introductory program that discusses the types of birds in the area, their function in the ecosystem and bird identification. It also includes proper use of field guides to identify touching on topics such as size, shape and colour. Participants will hike through many different habitats to find and observe several species of birds.



### COMMUNITIES IN NATURE

Students will be given a variety of activities to help them understand the importance of each organism's role through a food chain. They will go on a hike exploring evidence of animals in their natural habitat. Discussions will include topics such as water pollution, urban development, intensive agriculture, and the invasion of non-native species on the animal population. Students will also dip net in the river to explore aquatic presence.



Forestry Management

Students will be introduced to the principles and techniques of managing forests. It will include an inventory and assessment of trees, and a brief biology of how trees grow. Students will discuss forest succession and stand dynamics, determine successful forest harvesting systems, and identify and use forest inventory tools.



Tree Identification

Students will gain an understanding of the terms and techniques used in tree identification. An indoor session will show how trees are identified using a key and the terms used in explaining different types of trees. This is followed by a practical exercise identifying trees of the property.



Wood Energy

Students will examine wood as an alternative energy source. They will closely study the relationship between how we use renewable and non-renewable resources to create energy in our homes, and the pros and cons of those resources. Students will measure trees to gain an understanding of what types of trees are used for fuel wood. Students will learn what types of woods are to be used in fires, and proper safety considerations

## Off Site Attractions



STE. MARIE AMONG THE  
HURON'S

This nationally significant historic site was the 17<sup>th</sup> century fortress and headquarters for the French Jesuit Mission to the Huron. Recreated after extensive historic and archaeological research it now offers programs curriculum based to Ontario students. Students will be given a chance to experience how the French and Aborigines tried to blend their two cultures.



HURON VILLAGE  
PRE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

The Huron/Ouendat Village is the only recreated village of its kind in Canada depicting Huron culture in the late 1500's prior to the arrival of the Europeans. At the site participants may take part in games and activities that the Ouendat did hundreds of years ago. Grade appropriate programming.



WYE MARSH WILDLIFE CENTRE

This centre provides students with an opportunity for outdoor learning experiences. It's location amongst wetlands, woodlands and fields provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Facilities include nature trails, nature discovery areas, an observation tower and a marsh boardwalk.



MARTYRS SHRINE

Jesuit Missionaries labored among the Huron using Ste. Marie as their headquarters. Eight of these intrepid pioneers were martyred. Just a few hundred yards from Ste. Marie stands the church known as the Martyrs Shrine. Visit over 30 ethnic shrines on the extensive grounds. The class may also take part in the daily noon Mass. (Seasonal)



DISCOVERY HARBOUR

Discovery Harbour is a waterside historic site that traces its roots back to the original 19<sup>th</sup> century British Naval and Military Base. Now it stands to tell the story of this isolated outpost, and how it was home to Naval and Military personnel. Students learn first hand the challenges of shipwrights, officers, sailors, and soldiers. This base is also homeport to the HMS Tecumseth and Bee, which are full-scale active replicas of the original Royal Navy Vessels stationed there.



NANCY ISLAND

(June-September)  
During the War of 1812, Wasaga Beach and the Nottawasaga River were central players. The story of the schooner Nancy, a supply ship destroyed here in August 1814 by three American ships, is one of this region's little known secrets. This segment of history is commemorated at the Nancy Island Historic Site. The programs on Nancy Island will help bring these events and the characters involved to life, for students visiting the site.



TREE TOP TREKKING

Experience up to five fun and safe, challenging aerial courses, above the hardwood forests at Horseshoe Valley Resort. This is an off site activity where waivers need to be pre-signed by parents. What an experience!!



CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

This museum displays an original general store, lumber office, sports hall of fame and Replica Fire Hall. Detective work with a large variety of activities teaches students the skill of visual literacy enabling them to read history by handling and using artifacts and tools at the museum.



M.S. GEORGIAN QUEEN

(May-Mid-October)

Students cruise aboard the M.S. Georgian Queen from the Penetang Harbour and gain a perspective of the heritage of the area. Live commentary highlights history, marine heritage and the transformation from lumbering to industry to tourism. Take a front row seat on the open or enclosed decks to learn about southern Georgian Bay.