

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

**Cheakamus Centre  
Educational Programs**

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## **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 or ODS is a residential outdoor environmental experience designed to enhance students' understanding of, and respect for, the environment. Additionally, through the supervised residential 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 has been provided by your child's school or teacher for your reference. 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 and program staff strive to minimize risk of injury or harm to participants.

ODS activities involving risk include, but are not limited to: travel, caving, low ropes course, 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 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**

Parents/guardians are required to complete a comprehensive medical/dietary 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 distributed by the Clinic staff. Note that 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **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 counsellors 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.

### **Behavioural Expectations**

Each visiting schools' Code of Conduct applies to students during the ODS program. In addition, students are expected to abide by the following ODS guidelines:

- stay in bounds
- follow instructions from staff and counsellors
- remain quiet at night and in their cabin
- treat animals and plants with care
- report illness or accidents immediately to staff
- treat other students and staff with respect

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Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk  
To be completed for participants under the age of 19.**

**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/Dietary Form to your child’s teacher.**