



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

Cheakamus Centre
Educational Programs
Phone: 604.898.5422
Website: www.cheakamuscentre.ca

Skw'une-was Program

Informed Consent

Purpose of the Program:

The Skw'une-was Program at Cheakamus Centre is a two-day overnight field trip that has been developed to enhance students' understanding of, and respect for the First Nations culture in general, and the pre-contact Bighouse Culture of the Squamish people, in particular.

Structure of the Program:

Students come to the Bighouse organized into Family groupings and "live" in the Bighouse from the morning of the first day to the afternoon of the second. During the day, students work in their groups with both a Cultural staff member and a parent volunteer "elder". There are four or five Family groupings that include Cedar Bark Workers, Gatherers, Weavers, Woodworkers and Fishers and Hunters. Students are assigned to these groupings by their classroom teacher and their time is spent within these groups learning about the importance of their role to the Bighouse community. They are engaged in activities in and around the Bighouse and are involved in the preparation of some aspects of their daily meals. All children will experience cooking bannock using wooden sticks and some aspects of the meal preparations.

Accommodation:

Students will sleep in the Bighouse, accompanied by the classroom teacher and parent volunteers. Children sleep on vinyl mats on raised platforms circling the interior of the Bighouse. The overnight stay at the Bighouse is monitored by on-site Cheakamus Centre staff.

Supervision:

Each Family group, with approximately 5-9 students per group, has a supervising parent elder who has had the opportunity to train through a one day workshop on the procedures and expectations for "life" in the Bighouse. All parent elders are required to have Criminal Records Checks in order to participate. The names of the parent elders will be shared by teachers as part of the program information. The classroom teacher is available both during the day and at night to supervise and help with Family groups. During the evening, the Cultural staff returns to their homes and the classroom teacher and parent volunteers remain in the Bighouse with the children.



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Nature and Scope of Risks:

An open fire at the heart of the Bighouse is used to cook meals and is attended and directly supervised by teachers, parents and Cultural staff. A fume hood has been installed to minimize the level of smoke. There are two other open exterior fires, which are used for ceremonial purposes, warmth, and some cooking. Children are not allowed to be unsupervised around these fires.

The Woodworkers use adzes, to create their wedges, and the Hunters and Fishers use stones to make replica tools. Both activities are under the close direction of both a Cultural staff member and parent volunteer. It is important that children follow safety rules in order to avoid injuries such as severe cuts.

The Cheakamus River runs beside the Bighouse. In the immediate Bighouse site, access to the river is blocked by a wooden, fish weir fence. Children are not allowed near the river unsupervised, as there is the potential for them to be swept away by the current and the possibility of drowning.

Washroom facilities, including outdoor toilets (outhouses) and wash sinks are nearby. Children are directed to wash hands before meals and after using the outhouse. During the night, children who require the washroom will be escorted by a teacher or parent for safety and the possibility of encountering wildlife such as bears.

Safety Precautions:

At all times, supervisors have access to First Aid supplies on site. The site administrative centre is located 600 metres from the Bighouse and a first aid certified staff member is available on-call 24 hours a day. They can be reached by phone and two way radio in case of an emergency. Student personal care plans/medical supplies (i.e., epi-pens) are to be provided by parents for students with life-threatening medical conditions (e.g., anaphylaxis).

Visiting teachers will carry a cell phone or two way radio during the Cedar Walk that takes the group away from the Bighouse. Fisher and Gatherer Family groups carry radios when they are away from the Bighouse site.

In addition to a safety orientation provided to students on arrival, teachers discuss with students gathering points on the site in the event of an emergency.



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Skw'une-was Program
Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk
To be completed for participants under the age of 19

A student must have written permission from a custodial parent/guardian in order to participate in the Skw'une-was Program at Cheakamus Centre.

Participant Name: _____ School: _____

Program Date: _____

I have read and understand the information package including the Informed Consent document that pertains to my son/daughter's field trip to Cheakamus Centre for the Skw'une-was Program.

Parent/Guardian and Participant Agreement: 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. My signature here indicates that my child has my informed consent to attend the Skw'une-was Program at Cheakamus Centre.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I have attended an information meeting hosted by _____ (school name)

I have read the information and have completed the Informed Consent and Medical forms.

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