



**Environmental Education**

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## **2018 Eco-Explorer Wilderness Day Camps**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Our Nature's Calling Eco-Explorer Camps are held at Ryerson Camp, 2202 Front Rd, Vittoria (Between Normandale and Turkey Point. This wonderful property offers lots of woods and trails to explore. Our rustic forest camp has lots of shade and a large communal firepit for storytelling, camp songs, roasting marshmallows, and team building activities.

Our enthusiastic staff and volunteers have the energy, creativity, and empathy to create an incredible week packed with outdoor adventure for your camper. By combining play and learning, children are able to grow and develop at their own pace and better understand how they are a part of the larger world.

NCEE's Eco-Explorer Wilderness Day Camps promote respect for the natural world, our history, and each other, and allow our campers to explore nature in a structured environment. We facilitate understanding, education, friendship, and cooperation--all while providing a fun, safe environment for positive outdoor experiences in the woods and wild spaces of the HHCC.

We emphasize experiential learning and generous dose of unstructured play. Campers spend all day outside, observing nature up close using tools like binoculars, magnifying lenses and insect nets. Science concepts are introduced in a fun environment, with crafts, games and hands-on activities. Weekly nature themes drive the ecology focus of the camp, and are used as a catalyst for children to learn & experience the world around them. As the week goes on and children become more familiar with the staff and the facility, the activities shift into child-directed play and learning with the hope of creating a meaningful individual experience for each child and the group as a whole.

**Summer Schedule of Camps** - NCEE offers day camps for children aged 4 to 10 each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm starting the first week of July right through to the last week of August.

**Pricing** - \$35.00/day/child. The second (and additional siblings) are \$30/day

**Payment** – Cash or Cheque only (*no debit or credit cards accepted at this time*)

**Enrollment Numbers** – our Eco-Explorers Wilderness Day Camp requires a minimum of 12 children enrolled each day in order to run the daily camp. A one-week advanced notice will be provided if the camp did not meet enrollment numbers. **A maximum of 30 children will be permitted.**

We provide a minimum of one educator plus one student assistant for daily numbers under 20. For 20+ campers we provide a second educator to the above.

**Behaviour** – NCEE’s goal is for ALL campers to have the opportunity to discover their strengths and have fun. In order to do this, all of our kids must feel safe at camp. All campers must behave in a manner which respects the rights and safety of others including all human, animal, and plant life. Campers that physically abuse another camper, or an animal while at the NCEE Eco-Explorers Wilderness Day Camp will be dismissed from camp immediately. ***No exceptions to the policy will be allowed.***

Camp staff reserve the right to dismiss students from the program without a refund if their behavior becomes a problem. The NCEE Team encourages parents to support the Behavior Policy so that all campers will have a safe, fun, and educational experience at NCEE Eco-Explorers Wilderness Day Camp. Please review the following policies with your child before arriving at camp, as this is what helps us ensure everyone’s safety and the quality of our programs.

**Special Assistance** – Parents are asked to provide staff with information regarding any special needs their child(ren) may have, to ensure the day camp experience is as successful as possible. NCEE reserves the right to decline registration if staff determine that adequate support can not be provided.

**Withdrawal Policy –**

**At** least 2 weeks (14 days) notice before the start of a session: 100% refund.

With one-week (7 day) notice: 50% refund.

Less than one-week notice (week of camp or no notice): NO REFUND will be offered unless a doctor’s note is provided. There will be no transfers between other weeks unless previously approved by the Executive Director of Nature’s Calling Environmental Education.

**Late Fee** - If you know you are going to be late picking up your child, please notify the Camp Coordinator. *A \$5 late fee for each block of 15 minutes late will be charged.* All children must be picked up by 4:30 P.M.

**Arrival Time** - Between 8:45 am and 9:00 am. If your child is going to be late arriving or absent, please let us know by contacting the Camp Coordinator.

**Sign-Out** - Please be sure to sign your camper(s) out each day. *We will request to see your ID* on the first day. Should you have another family member or friend pick up your child we will need a signed piece of paper attesting to this, including the name of that person.

**Litter-less Lunches** - We strive to reduce the amount of waste that is produced at our facility. We will ask campers to take their garbage and anything that can't be recycled here back home and to compost any food waste using our on-site compost bins.

**Ticks** - The black-legged tick (or deer tick) is prevalent in Norfolk County and is a known carrier of Lyme disease. All parents/guardians will be provided an information brochure from the H-N Health Unit the first time they bring their child(ren) to camp. Our staff will check campers daily on exposed parts of the body. If they do find attached ticks they will carefully remove and place in a small vial. Parents/guardians will be told of any tick removal and will be provided the vial with the tick so as to have the option of having the tick tested for Lyme.

**It is important that parents/guardians follow the recommendations in the brochure including conducting a thorough tick checks on their child(ren) at the end of each camp day. Ticks like warm, moist places. So arm pits, behind ears, on the scalp, behind knees, belly buttons, in the groin, are all important places to look. However, they could be found anywhere on the body.**

#### NOTE

We offer **Volunteer Opportunities** for teens age 14-18 to gain volunteer hours toward high school and resume building experience. Other volunteer opportunities for retirees, families or naturalists looking to volunteer their expertise in areas of construction & building maintenance, gardening, trail maintenance, general yard work, crafts, day camp guidance & supervision, etc. A Volunteer Information Sheet must be completed and a police check submitted. Contact [bernie@naturescalling.ca](mailto:bernie@naturescalling.ca) for more information.