



Greetings from Experiential Education at Northern Edge Algonquin!

We would like to introduce you to the Edge and our one-of-a-kind outdoor educational program focused on building leadership skills. With former Ontario teachers on staff, we are excited about opportunities to craft new experiences and share the magic of Algonquin Park and our unique home with students.

Students and teachers enjoy the natural beauty of the Algonquin Park region while discovering their edge with winter activities such as: snow shoeing, skating, skiing, and even dog sledding or summer activities such as hiking, canoeing, camping. At all times of the year we present enjoyable outdoor learning experiences, creative endeavors, and team building initiatives.

Included in this package you will find:

- Quest for Excellence (Winter Sample Itinerary)
- Canoe Trip (Summer Sample Itinerary)
- Quest for Neutrality (sample Curriculum-based retreat)
- Safety Policy and Standards of Care for youth groups
- What students can expect – a primer for parents

We look forward to hosting your child for a memorable visit to the Edge. Please phone us at 1 800 953 EDGE if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alix Taylor
edgeoutreach@gmail.com



**Quest for Excellence- Winter Leadership Program
Four Days / Three Nights at Northern Edge Algonquin**

Dates: Winter 2007

Program:

A program that emphasizes the importance of personal and interpersonal balance in leadership, facilitated through active interaction with the natural environment.

Day 1

2 PM: Arrival

- Site orientation and safety tour of our solar powered home.
- Scavenger Hunt- In small groups, students will practice reading a map and compass while learning about our eco-friendly facility and the surrounding natural environment.
- Dinner
- Campfire- Story telling and the facilitation of students setting individual and group goals that they believe will help them discover the essence leadership.

Day 2

- Breakfast
- **Snow Walker Challenge-** Following an introduction to snowshoeing and outdoor winter safety, students will be given a team challenge that will utilize their navigation and snowshoe skills, and give them clues towards discovering the secret to being an excellent leader.
- Lunch
- **Art Challenge-** Students will be provided with natural materials/ mediums to create their own unique representation of their individual strengths, and personal leadership qualities.
- Outdoor winter games including kicksledding and time on the ice.
- Dinner
- **Campfire Wolf Howl experience:** Learn about wolves and play the Wolf Denning Game (think like a wolf and look after the needs of the pack, listen for a response from our wolf neighbours for the night).



Day 3

- Breakfast
- **Trail to Excellence-** Students will be given an introduction to cross-country skiing and tour snow- packed Kawawaymog Lake. While on the lake students will be given activities that facilitate the use and discussion of effective leadership skills.
- Adventure Lunch
- **Quest for Wisdom-** In teams, students will draw upon the teamwork and leadership skills developed throughout the program to complete a series of challenging team activities.
- Dinner
- Discussion and debrief of experience and knowledge learned from the Quest for Wisdom.
- Campfire and awards ceremony.

Day 4

- Breakfast
- **Kawawaymog Karnival** - a final morning of winter games on the lake!
- Pack up for departure.
- Final gathering.
- Lunch
- Early afternoon – Return transportation home.

All inclusive Program Fees: \$79/d (\$316 + GST / student)

Teacher / Chaperones are n/c on a 10:1 ratio with students

Please note: Program adjustments are regularly made to take advantage of weather, season, student / teacher interest and staff expertise. If you have other program ideas you would like to address as part of this program we look forward to working with you.

Alix Taylor,

Outreach Coordinator

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**Quest for Sustainability
Four Day / Three Night Science (SNC 4N) Program at Northern Edge
Algonquin**

Dates: September / October 2006

Program:

Blended program that includes consideration of alternative energy sources (solar power, bio-diesel, wind power and considers the interaction between humans and the environment (alternative building materials, organic food):

Day 1

2 PM: Arrival

- Before Dinner - Scavenger Hunt to learn more about our unique solar-powered facility and its low impact environmental design. Learn the essentials of how the sun creates power for our solar powered facility with a behind the scenes tour of our solar power system and efficient appliances.
- Dinner
- Outdoor adventure using a variety of navigation tools (science of technology) – map and compass, gps, beacon detectors in a challenging enjoyable night time quest.

Day 2

- Breakfast
- After Breakfast – Meet Allan Hodder, a 19 year old bio diesel enthusiast who has been producing his own fuel to power family cars from waste vegetable oil. Learn how in one weekend Allan produces as much as 2000 L of fuel.
- Hands-on experience learning the steps of bio-diesel production.
- Lunch
- Introduction to canoeing and intro to orienteering and map reading with locations to be traveled to on the map (gps and map and compass). Canoeing is a very good team capacity developer and gives students a sense of accomplishment working together. All participants wear pfd's and safety is priority 1, traveling at a comfortable pace that ensures the comfort of all participants.. Students also work with map and compass and/or gps on this activity while determining where to go with chaperone guidance.
- Dinner
- After dinner - Campfire Wolf Howl experience: Learn about wolves and play the Wolf Denning Game (think like a wolf and look after the needs of the pack, listen for a response from our wolf neighbours for the night)
- Off to Bed





Day 3

- Breakfast – (Light and Quick)
- Meet Vicki and learn about sustainable menu planning. How do local and organically produced foods contribute to sustainable human impacts.
- Lunch – Students work together to produce lunch that is delicious, nutritious
- Shuttle to the South River dam. Consider the impact of humans on this environment. How would this environment be different without the dam? What purpose does a dam serve? Learn about small scale hydro and how the local community is re-establishing hydro production on this site. Treasure hunt and discover how the previous power generation site was operated. On return, hike the forgotten trails to a marvelous lookout to appreciate the fall colours. (Optional – consider sustainable forestry by visiting a local forest operation and learning about sustainable forest planning
- Dinner:
- Evening creative learning activities & games
- Campfire and off to bed

Day 4

- Breakfast
- Reflective Time, Final gathering
- Pack up
- Lunch
- Early afternoon – Return transportation home.

All inclusive Program Fees: \$79/d (\$316 + GST / student)

Teacher / Chaperones are n/c on a 10:1 ratio with students

Please note: Program adjustments are regularly made to take advantage of weather, season, visitor interest and staff expertise. If you have other program ideas you would like to address as part of this program we look forward to working with you.



Todd Lucier,

Program Designer, co-founder

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Sample Four Day / Three Night Geography Program at Northern Edge Algonquin

Dates: September / October 2006

Program:

Blended program that includes physical geography, environmental geography, and considers the interaction between humans and the environment:

Day 1

- 2 PM: Arrival
- Before Dinner - Scavenger Hunt to learn more about our unique solar-powered facility and it's low impact environmental design. (This is also an introduction to orienteering without map).
- Introduction to canoeing (safety equipment, safety precautions, emergency procedures and basic paddling strokes)
- Dinner
- Introduction to canoe camping – 'leave no trace' philosophy, equipment orientation, and pack up demonstration

Day 2

- Breakfast
- After Breakfast – Pack up and orientation to safe no-trace traveling in Algonquin Park by canoe and portage.
Intro to orienteering and map reading with locations to be traveled to on the map. Canoeing is a very good team capacity developer and gives students a sense of accomplishment working together. All participants wear pfd's and safety is priority 1, traveling at a comfortable pace that ensures the comfort of all participants.. Students also work with map and compass on this activity while determining where to go with chaperone guidance. Students will be encouraged to trust their student guides as they build confidence in one another.
Stop at a bog to consider bog formation and ecology.
- Lunch en route to camp site
- Afternoon arrival at camp site and set up camp.
- Dinner- everyone lends a hand – fire building, cooking, cleaning
- After dinner - Campfire Wolf Howl experience: Learn about wolves and play the Wolf Denning Game (think like a wolf and look after the needs of the pack, listen for a response from our wolf neighbours for the night)
- Off to Bed





Day 3

- Breakfast – (Light and Quick)
- Morning Nature awareness activities, tracking experiences with a morning hike along trails where signs of wolves are often present.
- Lunch – (at the dam on Craig lake)
- Consider the impact of humans on this environment. How would this environment be different without the dam? What purpose does a dam serve?
- Afternoon paddle to Pischnecka lake – View different forest types and waterscapes.
- Afternoon: Return to camp and prepare dinner

- Evening creative learning activities & games: Students will be led into the darkness in small groups with compasses to find their way with orienteering.
- Campfire and off to bed

Day 4

- Breakfast
- Reflective Time
- Camp Pack up
- Canoeing out of Algonquin Park
- Lunch – en route
- Early afternoon – return to Northern Edge Algonquin, unpack and clean equipment. Store equipment and take care of personal needs before departure.
- 3 pm – Return transportation should be ready and the group packs up for the return trip home.

All inclusive Program Fees: \$75/d (\$300+ GST / student)

Teacher / Chaperones are n/c on a 10:1 ratio with students

Please note: Program adjustments are regularly made to take advantage of weather, season, visitor interest and staff expertise. If you have other program ideas you would like to address as part of this program we look forward to working with you.



Todd Lucier,

Program Designer, co-founder

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Safety Policies and Standards of Care with School & Youth Groups

We have been leading Algonquin Park school canoe trips and retreats with high school and post-secondary students from Northern Edge Algonquin since 1987. Through the last decade, we have grown to offer rich learning experiences through all four seasons and with intermediate age, international/ESL, and 'at-risk' youth. The following summarizes the standards we keep to ensure visiting students and staff enjoy safe memorable learning experiences.

Dedicated Senior Staff: Visits are planned and coordinated by a senior program staff who has both qualifications and experience as a teacher and within outdoor education and back-country travel. This staff will be involved with your visit from start to finish.

Dietary and Health Concerns: Menus are designed to take into account health and dietary requirements of every student. Medical history, dietary and allergy information for each attendee is collected as part of the registration procedure. Address, phone, emergency contact and OHIP or insurance numbers are also collected. This information informs our program and menu planning and is reviewed and carried by NEA staff in order to prevent and treat emergencies effectively.

Supervision: We maintain or exceed a 5:1 student to supervisory adult ratio for all school group visits. This is done through providing our own qualified staff at no more than a 10:1 ratio and working with visiting chaperones / teachers. Additional & qualified staffing is available for groups with needs of greater individual attention as well. We support school policies in regard to prohibition of smoking, alcohol and illegal drug use. Students in possession of contraband materials will be sent home on public transit at their own expense.

Certifications: Our staff are certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR. For canoe trips, our guides have paddling certifications with ORCA, OWWA, BCU, AECSCA, or ACA and minimally Bronze Cross aquatic life saving qualifications. We ensure that a staff with a National Life Saving (NLS) certification is on every student canoe trip as well. Our canoe trip routes involve flat-water paddling only; therefore students will not be canoeing in fast-moving water or rapids at any time. Trips involving more specialized activities (winter, climbing, etc.) require additional training, experience and /or certification. Copies of the certifications of the staff who will be working with your group, along with criminal record checks are available upon request.

Risk Management and First Aid: Northern Edge Algonquin staff members receive regular training in managing risk in outdoor education and back-country adventure travel, preventing and dealing with the variety of health threats that can occur. We have developed and regularly update safety policies and procedures specific to the activities we lead, the environments we travel through as well as the age levels and abilities of the student groups we lead. These policies and procedures include but are not limited to rules around swimming, pfd-wearing at all times in canoes, preventing sun-stroke, ensuring clean drinking water, dealing with lightning, fire, wild animals, hypothermia and extreme allergic reactions. Our staff will educate visiting students and staff on safe, respectful, environmentally friendly practices for enjoying our outdoor learning adventures. Our staff will work with visiting chaperones to ensure rules are followed and (rare) disrespectful or dangerous behaviors are dealt with effectively.



What Students Can Expect at “the Edge”, Northern Edge Algonquin

Weather: Prepare for weather that can be wet, sunny, cold, or warm. As a result of the higher elevation, Algonquin is cooler than surrounding areas. Snow flurries can occur as late as mid-May or as early as September. By the middle of May biting insects, such as black flies and mosquitoes traditionally emerge and they are usually noticeably less prevalent by the end of July, making early May and August through October ideal times for canoe trips. Winter at Northern Edge Algonquin means enjoyable outdoor adventure in deep snow. Cold temperatures are kept at bay with layered approach that focuses on keeping dry and not overheating.

The daily mean temperature for May and September is 11°, with nighttime temperatures occasionally reaching 0°. Winter temperatures generally range between -10° and -20°.

What to Pack:

Choose clothing that will ensure a warm, dry visit. During any season, layers of clothing offer the greatest flexibility and comfort:

- Inner wicking layer (long underwear) to remove moisture from the skin
- Insulating layer (sweater/fleece) to keep warm
- Shell (outer jacket) to resist wind and moisture

Synthetic materials (polypropylene, lycra, polyester, nylon) offer greater warmth and durability (even when wet) than cotton or wool and also dry quicker. Medium to heavy fleece is appropriate for cool evenings. Wool socks are economical and much warmer than cotton, wet or dry.

Please leave valuables and watches at home.

Personal Items:

- Toothbrush and toiletries
- Personal medications
- Camera
- Flashlight or headlamp (with spare batteries)
- Insect repellent (June to August)
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm
- Personal water bottle

Clothing:

- warm hat (toque)
- sun/rain hat
- 2-3 long pants (sweat pants, cotton, nylon, canvas, etc.)
- 1-2 snow/waterproof pants
- 3-4 long sleeves/sweatshirts
- wind and water repelling jacket/shell
- 1-2 sweaters
- 2 pairs of shoes/boots
- several pairs of warm socks
- long underwear/long johns
- 2 pairs of mittens/gloves
- scarf
- inside shoes/slippers
- warm sleeping clothes
- sleeping bag

Learning Experiences:

We work with visiting teachers and chaperones to create learning experiences in nature that are curriculum based, as well as providing opportunities for your child to explore their personal leadership characteristics, their role in healthy community living, and their personal strengths and interests.

The Menu:

Visiting teachers ask students and their parents to provide important information regarding health issues and food allergies that will be used in providing menus that put ensure all participant needs are looked after. Our menus have been met with overwhelming approval with over a thousand visiting students over the past decade. On overnight canoe trips youth are guided in the preparation of healthy, satisfying meals and go home with an appreciation for the essentials of responsible food choices and nutrition.

Our Equipment: It is never required to purchase personal clothing or equipment to enjoy experiences at the Edge. In the event participants do not have immediate access to any of items list above, please inform the teacher/organizer and we will make arrangements to provide them from our inventory. There is no additional cost for borrowing our equipment, which can include: sleeping bags, rain gear, waterproof pants, insect repellent, water bottles, etc.

Leave Valuables at Home: We look forward to introducing you to our solar-powered facility, and sharing adventures that are not possible in many other locations in Ontario.

- Doors do not lock and we cannot be responsible for items lost during your visit.
- It is not possible to charge portable electronic devices such as mp3 players.
- A great deal of time is spent in the outdoors, so moisture can damage sensitive electronic devices.