



## **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.