

Annual Program Opportunities

TDSB Outdoor Education Centres

Regularly Scheduled Elementary School Visits: 2012-2013

The TDSB operates Day and Overnight Outdoor Education Centres¹ to provide students with “beyond the classroom” learning experiences aimed at awakening their connection to the world around them.

The TDSB guarantees **annual program opportunities** to ensure that these exemplary curriculum-based experiences are available to **all** students on an equitable basis during their elementary years. Each elementary school’s FTE enrollment determines the number of Day Centre visits²; overnight experiences are distributed so that all students may participate in one 3 day opportunity sometime during grades 5 through 7. To deliver this level of service, elementary schools are assigned to a Day and/or Overnight Centre ([Find Your Centres](#)).

During April/May, the Site Supervisor from each school’s assigned Centre(s) contacts Principals with specific details about their allotment of Outdoor Education opportunities for the next school year. Helpful information is included below.

¹ The TDSB’s Day and Overnight Outdoor Education Centres are operated through **Academic Services - Teaching and Learning**.

² Mathematically, this suggests that each student has access to 2 Day Centre visits between K and Grade 8.

Program Fees

To facilitate equity of opportunity, schools between 1 and 150 on the **Learning Opportunities Index (LOI)** pay reduced per student fees (**Rate #2**). Fees for schools over 150 are higher (**Rate #1**).

User fees help ensure the continuation of these learning experiences through **partial cost recovery**; both fee schedules reflect rates subsidized by the **Toronto District School Board**.

To ensure that no student is denied an Outdoor Education opportunity because of an inability to pay, please explore funding alternatives through agencies such as **Day Trippers**: <http://www.daytrippers.ca>.

	Overnight Centres <i>per student fees</i>				Day Centres <i>per student fees</i>		
	3 day*	4 day*	5 day*		0.5 day	1 day	2 day TUSC only
Subsidized Rate #1: <i>Over 150 on LOI</i>	\$75	\$100	\$125	bus provided	\$3.75	\$7.50	n/a
				no bus provided	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
Subsidized Rate #2: <i>1-150 on LOI</i>	\$25	\$40	\$50	bus provided	\$1.50	\$3.00	n/a
				no bus provided	\$1.25	\$2.50	\$5.00

* includes travel time; scheduled visits are 3 days; opportunities for 4 and/or 5 day experiences are very limited

Policies and Procedures

- Annual visits to TDSB Outdoor Education Centres (Day or Overnight) require the completion of the 511C (parent/guardian) permission form. Medical Forms (511E) MUST be completed and brought with the students for visits to TDSB Overnight Centres.
- The Excursion Policy student to teacher ratio applies to Day / Overnight visits. Overnight Centres also require that the home school provide **BOTH male and female** supervisors.
- The visiting teacher(s) MUST provide a list of participating students. When the group is one class, teachers are asked to bring the Trillium “Student Excursion by Class” report.
- A bus seating plan is required when travelling to the following TDSB Outdoor Education Centres located **outside** the GTA: Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre, Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre, Sheldon Centre for Outdoor Education, Scarborough Outdoor Education School.
- Principals are asked to provide CCs and GLs to facilitate payment by budget transfer. Payment is due once students have attended the program.
- In case of emergency, **Overnight Centres require Principals to provide Site Supervisors with their cell number** as part of the registration process.

Learn More!

To locate centres, review programs and other services, go to:

<http://toes.tdsb.on.ca>

Contact:

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Central Coordinating Principal
Academic Services – Teaching and Learning
East Education Office
140 Borough Drive
Toronto ON M1P 4N6
Tel: 416-396-2174 Fax: 416-396-4292

The TDSB’s Commitment to Outdoor Education

Equity – all students in their elementary school years have the opportunity to participate in these learning opportunities.

Close Curriculum Connections – the staff at TDSB Outdoor Education Centres work closely with visiting teachers so that programming supports the Ontario Curriculum, reflects the initiatives of the TDSB and is aligned with School Improvement Plans.

Ecological Literacy – the staff at the TDSB’s Outdoor Education Centres strive to provide leadership in conservation and sustainability education and are eager to collaborate with schools to support the ecological literacy component of EcoSchools certification.