

Fact Sheet

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY Outdoor Environmental Education Programs

Participation

Every year more than 410,000 students – that's one fifth of school boards, participate in Conservation Authority outdoor education programs.

Outdoor education programs are offered by more than three quarters of the Conservation Authorities in the province. Seven Conservation Authorities have formal contract agreements with school boards, and 12 also lease their land and facilities to schools and/or school boards for the purpose of running education programs.

Ontario Curriculum

Almost all Conservation Authority outdoor education programs offered are designed to meet curriculum expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education.

The majority of Conservation Authorities target their education programs to primary and elementary level students. Half of these also offer programs to high school students as well.

The goal of Conservation Authority outdoor education programs is to complement and enhance classroom lessons, by providing students with the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities. These programs teach children about local and global environmental issues, explore the linkages between human activity and the natural environment, and instill a greater appreciation and understanding of nature.

Examples of Education Programs Offered by Conservation Authorities:

- Habitats & Communities
- Water Systems
- Aboriginal Peoples & Early Explorers
- Interactions within Ecosystems
- Diversity of Living Things
- Orienteering
- Wilderness Survival
- History of Maple Syrup Industry in Canada



In addition to teaching about the natural environment, Conservation Authority education programs help children learn new skills in language, art and mathematics.

Cost-effective

The average fee per student participating in Conservation Authority outdoor education programs is \$8.25 for a full day and \$4.65 for a half day session. The average fee per class is \$229.00 for a full day and \$125.00 for the half day session.

Funding

The main sources of funding for Conservation Authority outdoor education programs include: revenue from program fees, foundation donations, facility rental fees, merchandise sales and camp fees. As well, Conservation Authorities provide some funding from their own budgets, as well.

Water Festivals

Water Festivals teach children about water habitat ecology, groundwater movement, and the importance of water conservation and protection in their home and around their community.



Donations from individuals and foundations provide a vital source of funding for Conservation Authority outdoor education programs.

More than one third of Conservation Authorities offer Spring Water Awareness Programs and many others either host or co-host Children's Water Festivals, teaching youth all they want to know about water.

By educating our young people about the value of water - the planet's most precious resource - we are taking an important step toward ensuring good water use habits by generations to come.

Conservation Ontario represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. Conservation Authorities are local, community-based environmental organizations that manage natural on a watershed basis across Ontario.

Contact Information

Conservation Ontario
P.O. Box 11, 120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4W3
Telephone: 905-895-0716 Fax: 905-895-0751
E-mail: info@conservationontario.ca

Find your local Conservation Authority by visiting our website!

www.conservationontario.ca