

Vedder Middle School - Outdoor Education Academy Application Form for 2020-2021



Student Name: _____

As a result of Covid-19 and requirements for social distancing, Vedder Middle School's Outdoor Education Academy for 2020-2021 will have a limited start. Until groups of 26 (students and adults and larger for overnight trips) are permitted and requirements for physical distancing are no longer strictly in effect, overnight outdoor activities will not be planned. Despite our present challenges, we will move forward with organizing students into an OEd cohort in anticipation of the easing of restrictions as the 2020-2021 school year progresses. As restrictions are eased, regular programming will also gradually resume. As a result of the presently known restrictions, the program deposit fee will be reduced, scheduled program fees will be delayed and adjusted, and the requirement for participants to all have all necessary personal equipment purchased before the end of the second week of school will be extended.

Overview:

The VMS Outdoor Academy is an interdisciplinary cohort program that combines academic courses, physical education and outdoor education. A combination of experiential learning and traditional classroom instruction is used and good classroom habits are required of students. Students will be exposed to outdoor pursuits as part of the physical education and outdoor education courses:

- Land Based Activities: hiking, overnight backpacking, rock climbing
- Snow Based Activities: downhill skiing & boarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing & winter camping
- Water Based Activities: canoeing, multi-day canoe tripping

Admission Criteria

- Demonstrated to be a Student in Good Standing at VMS: academics, effort, attendance and behaviour.
- Demonstrated to be able to safely participate in all planned activities.
- Be a participant who will *benefit from the program and/or positively contribute to the program.*

Selection Process

The selection process is done in consultation with students' Grade 7 team of teachers, school administrators and the school counsellors. The following topics (in addition to the criteria listed above) will guide our discussion:

- A review of all completed application forms (conducted via *Microsoft Teams Forms*)
- School-based team feedback
- The applicant's ability to attend all planned activities

Total spots available will be dependent upon the number of registrations received and the ability of Vedder Middle School to organize timetables to meet student needs and balance class composition.....maximum of 48 students who meet all criteria.

Based on the results of the selection process, **ALL** eligible students will be selected by lottery in a manner consistent with School District Policy. **ALL** eligible students not selected will be placed on a waitlist.

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to ensure that the integrity of the French Immersion Program is kept at the forefront, students will no longer be able to be part of the Outdoor Education cohort and also in Grade 8 Late French Immersion. Grade 7 Late French Immersion students are free to apply to this program but if selected, will be required to make a choice between the Outdoor Education Academy program and Grade 8 Late French Immersion.

Course Fee

This course is offered as an Outdoor Education Academy.

Fee: \$1200.00 (\$100 deposit at the end of June + 10 payments of \$110 beginning in September).

Included in program fee: cost of transportation, tickets, third-party instruction, and equipment.

Personal Costs

Students must supply their own personal equipment and food. See the *Personal Supply List* on the 2nd page of this form. Appropriate boots and a three-layer clothing system (base-layers, insulation layers, and outer shell) are essential for participation in this program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This years' student application will be completed on a *Microsoft Teams Forms* survey. Please fill in the information below. Instructions will be forwarded via email before the end of the school year using email addresses on file in MyEd.

Student name (last, first): _____

Grade 7 Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Return this Expression Of Interest by email prior to Saturday, May 30th.

Outdoor Education Academy

Vedder Middle School

Personal Supply List

The following supplies are required for participation in Vedder Middle School's *Outdoor Education Academy*. Students should have all items by the end of the second week of school.

<input type="checkbox"/>	running shoes	Proper running shoes required! Skate shoes not acceptable. If you have difficulty with running, we recommend purchasing shoes from a store dedicated to fitting running shoes, such as <i>Peninsula Runners</i> in Abbotsford.
<input type="checkbox"/>	hiking boots	Waterproof boots required: Gore-Tex lined or leather that can be sealed; light but supportive enough for a three-day backpacking trip is ideal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	hiking socks x2	Comfortable, absorbent hiking socks: med weight; synthetic or wool. No cotton.
<input type="checkbox"/>	base layer – bottom	Tights or long johns: usually made of synthetic material, wool, or silk. Must keep you <i>warm-when-wet</i> . Under-layers used for other sports, such as hockey, may be acceptable. No cotton or denim!
<input type="checkbox"/>	long sleeve base layer – top	See above...
<input type="checkbox"/>	quick-dry shorts	No cotton or denim!
<input type="checkbox"/>	quick-dry pants	General use nylon, quick-drying pants are more comfortable than waterproof/breathable when it is not raining.
<input type="checkbox"/>	t-shirt warm-when-wet/quick dry	Must be made of a synthetic material, wool, or silk. Must keep you warm-when-wet. No cotton or denim!
<input type="checkbox"/>	insulation layer – top	A warm, puffy, down or synthetic jacket with hood. Does not need to be wind or waterproof because it will be layered with a shell jacket. No cotton hoodies!
<input type="checkbox"/>	shell pants waterproof/breathable	A Gore-Tex style, waterproof/breathable fabric to be layered over other layers. Zippers on legs are convenient for winter. Heavier products will be more durable – lighter products will be more breathable. Insulated ski-pants will wet-out in temperatures near 0°C and will be too heavy to carry.
<input type="checkbox"/>	shell jacket waterproof/breathable with taped seams	As for above... but with taped seams. Taped seams are more important on the upper body: they keep water from seeping through stitching. Feel seams for a ribbon of tape that runs the length of the stitching.
<input type="checkbox"/>	toque	<i>Warm-when-wet</i> Toques will be carried on all trips during fall and winter season, not just winter
<input type="checkbox"/>	sun hat	Quick dry is nice but not necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	sunglasses	Very important during winter. Must be rated to stop UV rays.
<input type="checkbox"/>	plastic eating utensils	Durable plastic required. Fast-food utensils will do in a pinch but will not last.
<input type="checkbox"/>	eating bowl	A 2-4 cup plastic measuring cup purchased from a grocery store makes a simple and light plate set. Works as bowl, plate, and mug.
<input type="checkbox"/>	winter mitts	Ideal mitts have a waterproof shell with removable insulation (such as fleece) for quick drying. Ski gloves will wet-out under warmer condition and are too hard to dry. A very light pair of gloves (like figure skating gloves) work well around camp or when hiking.
<input type="checkbox"/>	personal toiletries	Basic essentials only. No shampoo, deodorant, perfume etc.... not needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	lightweight dry bag.	10-20 litres. This is to store food in bear caches and on canoe trips.
<input type="checkbox"/>	nylon stuff sacs	3 simple, nylon stuff sacs for organizing clothing in hiking backpacks.
<input type="checkbox"/>	small day pack	A daypack for hiking and skiing. One designed for use during athletic activities (not a square, school backpack for hauling binders and textbooks around).
Optional Items		
<input type="checkbox"/>	fleece tights	If you get cold, or during the winter season, an additional mid-layer for the lower body will be necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	rain hat	Not needed if you always carry a hooded shell jacket. A rain-hat lets your upper body breathe better than wearing a hood while hiking.
<input type="checkbox"/>	blister supplies	We will go over various options in class. Lots to choose from these days.