



ecosuperior

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Welcome to Our

A circular illustration depicting a summer camp scene. In the center is a large orange tent. To the left and right are several green coniferous trees of varying sizes. The background shows a light blue sky with a yellow sun partially obscured by blue clouds, and a light blue horizon line. The ground is a light orange color.

Summer Program!

Participant & Parent Handbook

Central Natural Environment Gardens

WELCOME!

We're so excited to hear you're joining us this summer! Are you ready for a week full of great outdoor adventures, new friends, and tons of fun? We've been working all spring to make sure this is going to be the **BEST SUMMER EVER!**

EcoSuperior's mission is to achieve greater environmental stewardship in Northwestern Ontario and the Lake Superior Basin through engagement, education, collaboration, action and leadership. Our Summer Program has been designed to highlight the wonderful wildlife, water resources, cultural heritage and natural environment of Thunder Bay and Lake Superior.

Pack your backpack, grab your water bottle, and get ready to explore! Please review your entire camper handbook carefully so you are ready to make this summer memorable!



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Sneak peak at some of the activities we'll be doing:

Bike rodeos – whether you're just learning to ride or ready to sharpen your skills, we've got enthusiastic safe-cycling instructors eager to get you riding!

Special Guest Speakers – Guests from various local organizations will come hang-out, share new knowledge and guide us through unique activities (and maybe even bring goodies!)

Dip-netting in the McIntyre River – always a favorite!

Arts & crafts – bee homes, nature sculptures and more, made from as many recycled materials as possible!

Games – join us for our favourites: camouflage, capture the flag and predator prey!

Offsite field trips – each week there will be an opportunity to visit some other cool outdoor spaces around Thunder Bay!

Our home base is Central Natural Environment Gardens (across from Central Car Wash). Please note that there is no power at the Gardens and therefore no running water. A well and pump is accessible for a hand-washing station and a port-a-potty is provided. EcoSuperior provides potable drinking water for all participants, staff and guests.



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WHAT TO BRING

We will be outside all day - in the sun and light rain; cool mornings and hot afternoons - so the key to having fun is to be prepared! Use this handy checklist to help you gear up to have a great day, every day!

- Appropriate clothing for the weather.** This could mean a jacket, rain pants and rubber boots in the morning, and then shorts and a t-shirt in the afternoon. We all know how fast the weather can change in Thunder Bay!
- Sturdy footwear.** Please no flip-flops. Sandals with straps are appropriate and work great for exploring the McIntyre River as well. For safety reasons, participants are to wear shoes at all times.
- Sunscreen and Sun Hat. Please no bug spray.**
- Reusable water bottle:** we will provide all participants with an EcoSuperior reusable bottle on the first day of camp!
- Spare clothes** - there is a good chance we will get wet, dirty or painted throughout the day!
- A healthy, nut-free, litter free lunch**
- A back pack to hold all your gear!** Since we often walk to different locations around the neighbourhood, a back pack is the easiest way for you to carry your belongings.

Please **DO NOT** bring cell phones, iPads, or other expensive equipment that may cause conflict between participants, may be damaged or lost.



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Adverse Weather Policy

EcoSuperior's Summer Program is hosted at the Central Natural Environment Gardens. In the event of extreme wet or dangerous weather (i.e. severe thunderstorm warning, flood warning, tornado warning etc.) the Summer Program participants will be moved to an alternate location.

In the event of extreme heat, participants will remain at Central Natural Gardens. Programming will be altered to optimize shade and will include cooling water-based games and activities. EcoSuperior staff will ensure that extra water is available for all participants.

If weather warnings are predicted preceding a day of programming, parents will be notified the afternoon before to drop off participants at an alternate location.

If weather warnings develop during the day, participants will be moved to an alternate location via taxi, with the expense being the responsibility of EcoSuperior Environmental Programs. Parents/Guardians will be notified as to the change in pick up location.



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Refund & Cancellation Policy

In the event of a cancellation from participation in the EcoSuperior Summer Program, the following policy will be in effect.

- 1.** To qualify for a refund, cancellation notice must be given in writing to the Summer Program Coordinator no less than two weeks before the scheduled week of camp. You will be refunded the camp registration fee minus a \$50 administration fee.
- 2.** No refunds will be given within two weeks of the scheduled camp, unless the space can be filled by another participant on our waiting list. If the spot can be filled by another participant, you will be refunded the camp registration fee minus a \$50 administration fee.
- 3.** No partial refund will be given if a child becomes ill during the week of camp and can no longer attend.
- 4.** No partial refund will be given if a participant is removed from the Summer Program due to inappropriate behaviour.

Thank you for your understanding.



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Camper Code of Conduct

Many activities and guest speakers have been organized for this summer and it takes teamwork and respect from staff and participants to ensure a safe, fun, outdoor learning environment for all! Please review the following code of conduct:

1. Respect yourself, others, the environment and property.

Abusiveness toward others or using inappropriate language, fighting, etc. will not be permitted. Since programming takes place outdoors at the Central Natural Environment Gardens or other locations (i.e. McIntyre River), property damage (purposeful destruction of trees, running through gardens), graffiti or vandalism will not be tolerated.

2. Participate in program activities. We encourage campers to try all planned activities and interact with other participants. We require that participants be supervised at all times and not be left unattended. Therefore, we are unable to provide extended attention focused on an individual participant. If a participant requires one-on-one care, a caregiver/guardian must participate in the program with the child at all times.

3. Follow directions. There are a lot of fun things to do during the Summer Program but every activity has guidelines so we can operate the activity safely and appropriately. We ask participants to follow staff direction during these activities.

4. No put-downs. Examples of this would include teasing, name-calling, racial slurs or inappropriate practical jokes.



Behaviour Management Policy

At EcoSuperior, we hope that each child will go home with great memories of our Summer Program. We understand that every child has unique strengths and challenges, and we work from strength-based perspective. This policy is designed to protect all participants' experience - it is our mission to provide a quality experience for everyone.

If a participant demonstrates inappropriate behaviour during summer camp, the following disciplinary steps will be taken by EcoSuperior Environmental Programs.

Occurrence #1: Participants will be given a warning for any inappropriate behaviour with a clear explanation as to what behaviour was inappropriate.

Occurrence #2: Participants will be given a time-out, an opportunity to regroup and think about their behaviour and attitude, again with an explanation and discussion as to what is causing the behaviour problem. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs will discuss any behavioural concerns with parents/guardians, and work together with caregivers to help deter any inappropriate behaviours.

Occurrence #3: As a last resort, a participant may be asked to leave the Summer Program. A designated adult must be available to pick up a participant at any time during the day.

Please note: EcoSuperior Environmental Programs understands that all children have unique strengths and challenges. Each summer program participant has the opportunity to 're-set' and begin each day of the program with a 'clean slate'.

Any questions or concerns?

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