

Fact Sheet

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY Outdoor Environmental Education Programs

Participation

In 2011, more than 480,000 students from over 4030 schools across Ontario participated in Conservation Authority outdoor education programs.

Outdoor education programs are offered by 34 of the 36 Conservation Authorities in the province. Twelve Conservation Authorities have formal program delivery Contract agreements with school boards, and some 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. 23 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 in a full day session is \$6.00, and the average fee per class is \$162.00.

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 half of Conservation Authorities host Children's Water Festivals, and many others co-host, 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

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Find your local Conservation Authority by visiting our website!

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