

## **Outdoor Education at Percy Pegler: Hazard Identification and Mitigation**

Outdoor Education activities are safe and risk is controlled in a reasonable manner. This document serves to inform parents about how we are managing risks to ensure safe quality experiences for your children.

**Bears:** Bears are not a concern in the context of our trips. This is due to the fact that we travel in groups of 20-35 with only a little space between students. We do not let the group get spread out. There has never been a recorded bear incident in a group of 6 or more. In addition, a group of 20-35 makes enough noise to scare off any wildlife. The trip leader will always be at the front and have bear spray, in case. Students are also trained in what to do if there was an incident.

**Ticks:** In the spring time ticks are something that we need to be aware of. We encourage kids to wear long pants and sleeves. In addition, we will have kids do a tick check to ensure that there are no ticks.

**Lost and Alone:** Since we manage our groups by keeping everyone together, students getting lost is not a concern. However, we do train students in Lost and Alone, which helps them know what to do if there were to get separated from the group. We also give each student a whistle to wear on the trip and the training to use it, if they happen to get separated. We also have the leader at the front and another teacher at the back, as well as other parents throughout the group.

**Leave No Trace:** As part of being good stewards of the earth we teach the students the seven principles of Leave No Trace to minimize the impact we have on the environment.

**Bathroom breaks:** We have supplies and protocol in place in case your child needs to go to the bathroom while out on the trip.

**First Aid:** All trips are sent with an extensive first aid kit that will cover any injuries while out. In addition, the leader has, industry standard, an 80 hour Advanced Wilderness first aid certification.

**Communication:** While out on trips the leader will carry the school satellite phone, which provide reliable communication everywhere we go. If there is an incident the satellite phone provides an opportunity to two way communication with emergency services and the school.

**Weather:** Generally we will go out in most weather unless it is supposed to rain continually or is too windy or cold. In the event of a cancellation of a day trip I will email you ASAP. Due to the time constraints cancelled trips may not have a makeup date.

**Route Cards:** We will file detailed route card with the office, which allows them to know where we are and how to contact us if there is an issue.

**Times:** All half day trips will leave school in the morning or afternoon. All full day trips will leave at 8:50am and return at 2:55pm.

**Transportation:** Students will be walking on half day trips from the school and on full day trips they will be taken in a school bus, which will wait at the trailhead. In addition, we will have a parent vehicle on every trip that serves as an emergency vehicle.

**Trip Locations:** All trips will have been visited before to aid in hazard identification. Most trips will take place in the Sandy McNabb Recreation area 17km West of Turner Valley.  
<http://www.albertaparks.ca/sheep-river/information-facilities/maps-directions.aspx>

**Parent Responsibilities:**

**Healthy Lunch and snacks:** Healthy lunches with high energy food helps students have sustained energy for the trip. Also sending extra energy snacks is important as they will be more active than they would be at school.

**Water:** Students need to stay hydrated. Brining 1 L of water helps keep kids alert and improves circulation.

**Clothing:** Ensuring that students have proper clothing is essential to a positive experience. Cotton is a bad outdoor material because it does not dry and is wet when cold. Cotton is in jeans, sweat pants, hoodies cotton socks. Synthetic and Wool are better because they are warm when wet and dry quicker. Please take note of the equipment list. If you have more questions about clothing please let me know. Also, if you do not have some of the items we do have a small inventory of items to lend out.

**Parent Helpers:** We need to have 2-4 parents to come on each day trip.

**Driving Emergency Vehicle:** Of the parents coming to volunteer on a trip we need one to drive their vehicle as an emergency, in case we needed to take one student back to school or to the hospital.