



Hello Students & Parents,

Thank you for choosing to join us at Northern Edge Algonquin! We are very excited to meet you. This package was designed to help prepare you for your upcoming trip. If you have any questions leading up to the trip, please feel free to email or call our main office.

Included

- ◆ What parents want to know.
- ◆ Preparing for your visit & Leaving a lighter footprint
- ◆ Packing Checklist
- ◆ Acknowledgement & Release (please sign & return to your teacher)

Please be aware there is no cellphone service past South River and internet access & lodge phone are for emergencies only. We invite you to make any last-minute phone calls in South River before joining us for your unplugged Algonquin Park experience.

In the event of an emergency at home, parents may call **888 383 8320** extension **5** to leave a message at the main lodge, or email programs@NorthernEdgeAlgonquin.ca. Messages & emails are checked regularly by staff.

Location: Directions & maps can be found at NorthernEdgeAlgonquin.ca/directions

Health & Meals: Please let your teacher know if you have any dietary concerns. As long as we know in advance, we will be able to meet your needs.

"We hope your stay at the Edge is like a visit to the home of a friend; a friend who lives on a lake in the forest, tends a great garden, cooks with passion, truly cares about the environment and wants to introduce you to all the things they love about life in this corner of paradise at Kawawaymog Lake, Algonquin Park. Welcome Home."

- Todd & Martha Lucier, Co-Founders

What Parents Want to Know

The Edge was founded by teachers. We have been leading Algonquin Park school canoe trips and retreats with high school and post-secondary students from Northern Edge Algonquin since 1987. The following summarizes the standards we keep to ensure visiting students and staff enjoy safe memorable learning experiences.

Dietary and Health Concerns: Menus are designed to take into account health and dietary requirements of every student. Medical history, dietary and allergy information for each attendee is collected as part of the registration process. This information informs our program and menu planning and is reviewed and carried by NEA staff in order to prevent and treat emergencies effectively.

Supervision: We maintain or exceed a 5:1 student to supervisory adult ratio for all school group visits. This is done through providing our own qualified staff at no more than a 10:1 ratio and working with visiting chaperones / teachers. Additional & qualified staffing is available for groups with needs of greater individual attention. We support school policies in regard to prohibition of smoking, alcohol and illegal drug use. Students in possession of contraband materials will be sent home on public transit at their own expense.

Certifications: Our staff are certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR. For canoe trips, our guides have paddling certifications with ORCA, OWWA, BCU, AECSKA, or ACA. Our canoe trip routes involve flat-water paddling only; therefore students will not be canoeing in fast-moving water or rapids at any time. Staff on trips involving more specialized activities (winter, climbing, etc.) have additional training, experience and/or certification.

Risk Management and First Aid: Northern Edge Algonquin staff members receive regular training in managing risk in outdoor education and back-country adventure travel, preventing and dealing with the variety of health threats that can occur. We have developed and regularly update safety policies and procedures specific to the activities we lead, the environments we travel through as well as the age levels and abilities of the student groups we lead. These policies and procedures include but are not limited to rules around swimming, pfd-wearing at all times in canoes, preventing sun-stroke, ensuring clean drinking water, dealing with lightning, fire, wild animals, hypothermia and extreme allergic reactions. Our staff will educate visiting students and staff on safe, respectful, environmentally friendly practices for enjoying our outdoor learning adventures; and will work with visiting chaperones to ensure rules are followed and (rare) disrespectful or dangerous behaviours are dealt with effectively.

Preparing for Your Visit

We work with visiting teachers and chaperones to create learning experiences in nature that are curriculum based, as well as providing opportunities for you to explore your personal leadership characteristics, your role in healthy community living, and your personal strengths and interests.

At the Edge we share a wide variety of experiences that may be new to you. We ask that participants come fully prepared to try new experiences and challenge themselves. You may wish to bring a journal to record your experience. It can be valuable to revisit your journal after your trip to anchor in any lessons that felt important to you.

We ask that you treat everybody with respect & gratitude during your stay: yourself, fellow participants, your teachers & chaperones, our team, and our spaces & equipment.

Leaving a Lighter Footprint

Designed from the ground up to be sustainable and environmentally sound; Northern Edge Algonquin aspires to be a natural oasis in this hyper-connected, hyper-speed world.

Our guests appreciate and contribute to our efforts at being an eco-friendly, responsible provider of Algonquin Park retreats and adventures. Living in respectful harmony with the natural world makes a stay at the Edge a community experience that connects guests with one another, our staff and the natural world.

We hope you enjoy unplugging, slowing down and being cared for as you take part in inspiring travel & learning experiences with us.

Living on solar power: The sun provides us with most of the energy necessary for pumping water, energy efficient lighting, music, and most of the comforts of home. 28 solar panels provide 2.8 kW of power (The average home runs on 10 times as much power).

Our back-up generator runs from time to time when the sun doesn't shine or when we use more power than we produce.

Power consideration: Think of lighting as an electricity tap dripping. When you are last to leave an area, switch the power off. Since cell phones don't work here, it is best to power off devices during your stay and enjoy being unplugged.

Never plug in anything that produces heat (ie: blow dryer, curling iron, heating blanket), These can seriously damage our power system. Go "au naturale" and let your natural beauty radiate.

Keep your hand on the tap: Pumping water uses a lot of energy. Conserve water by turning the tap off between uses. Students groups staying 3 nights or more are invited to try the "Only One Shower" challenge, reducing strain on our system by spreading showers out over the trip.

Lend a Hand: Our kitchen is off-the-grid, so we don't have automatic dishwashers. In the spirit of community we invite guests to return to those days before automatic dishwashers when the best conversations happened at the kitchen sink.

Leave no trace: When traveling on the trails be careful to leave nothing behind. Pitch in and collect anything that looks like it doesn't belong for recycling or disposal.



Packing Checklist

All-Season Wear

We'll be spending time outside, so be sure to be prepared no matter the season:

Always in Season:

- Long pants,
- Long sleeved tops,
- Warm Socks,
- Warm sweaters,
- A toque and gloves are suggested September - May.
- Hiking boots or sturdy footwear suitable for forest trails

Summer

In the summer, be prepared for warm days, cool nights, and potential rainfall.

- Rain gear,
- Sun hat and Sunglasses,
- Sport sandals with a back-strap, or an extra pair of sneakers you don't mind getting wet.
- Sunscreen,
- Insect Repellant: We ask that any insect repellent you bring is DEET-free and in a non-aerosol container. The best defence against bugs is long sleeves and pants. If you are very concerned about mosquitos, a mesh bug jacket is your best option.

Winter

In the winter, plan for lots of snow: extra padding, warm layers, waterproof outer layers, and good winter boots are the secret to staying warm and dry in the North.

- Wool or fleece sweater for layering,
- Long johns, thermal/fleece/wool under-wear,
- Waterproof outer-layer pants, or ski/snow pants,
- Warm winter coat or parka,
- Winter boots that will keep your feet warm & dry,
- Face and neck protection,
- Extra socks (wool is best),
- Extra toque and extra gloves,
- Your skates - the Edge has limited sizes available.

Items

- Your sleeping bag
- Your towel
- Swimsuit and Activewear
- Flashlight or headlamp (and extra batteries),
- You may wish to pack a daypack or tote-bag with personal items: water bottle, toothbrush/paste, sunscreen, lip balm, compact binoculars, camera, sunglasses (and cord), sun hat, and personal medications.
- Personal medications & Toiletries.
- Slippers or other indoor footwear (for stone floors),
- A journal & pen,
- Cash for the gift shop
- Some guests bring a surprise to share with others - like an instrument or game.

What should you leave at home?

- We provide equipment and gear for all activities at the Edge. You are welcome to bring your own if you prefer.
- Your laptop computer or cell phone: There's no wifi or cellular service here, so these items are better left at home.
- Hair dryers, straighteners, curlers, irons, or anything that produces heat from electricity will damage our solar powered system. Severe fees will be incurred in the event these items are plugged in.
- Alcohol and recreational drugs are never permitted.
- Valuables are best left at home as cabin doors do not have locks. As well, it may not be safe to bring delicate or precious items on some adventures.
- All meals and snacks are provided, so you don't need to bring food: food items are not allowed in cabins as wildlife will try to get to it. If you must bring food, please ask your hosts to store it in our kitchen for you.

*Got a question about an item not on this list?
Give us a call or email us and we'll be happy to advise you!*

Acknowledgement & Release Form

All guests (and/or their parents/guardians) acknowledge and release Northern Edge Algonquin Inc. from responsibility according to the terms set out below:

Whereas the guest has contracted with Northern Edge for the provision of one or more of the many programs and activities provided by Northern Edge (the "Activity") and wishes to engage in same as a participant;

And Whereas the guest acknowledges that despite the best efforts of Northern Edge to minimize risk, there may be certain risks inherent in said activity which include but are not limited to: natural physical hazards, man made objects, forces of nature, and physical exertion;

And Whereas it is a condition precedent to the participation of the guest in the Activity that the guest follow all directions from time to time provided by Northern Edge to protect all participants;

And Whereas the guest has been provided with a copy of the Policies and Procedures which govern the participation in the Activity;

And Whereas the guest acknowledges that medical attention may not be immediately or readily available at sites or locations at which the Activity is completed;

And Whereas each guest has been asked to submit to Northern Edge Algonquin a description of any pre-existing medical condition;

Now therefore in consideration of good and valuable consideration (the receipt sufficiency of which the guest acknowledges receipt by completing registration and/or attending as a guest), each guest agrees as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct;
2. The guest will review frequently asked questions and abide by the policies and procedures and any specific directions from Northern Edge staff;
3. The guest has reviewed the Activity selected and consulted with their personal physician where prudent. The guest is confident that the undersigned is physically able to complete the Activity without placing the undersigned or other participants at risk of ill health or physical injury;
4. The guest hereby authorizes and directs Northern Edge, or such representative as may from time to time be designated by Northern Edge Algonquin for said purpose, to secure such medical advice and services as are deemed by Northern Edge Algonquin, in its absolute discretion to be necessary from the health and safety of the undersigned. In the event that the cost of providing such care exceeds the limits of the medical coverage

carried by the guest, then the guest acknowledges that the undersigned shall at all times be responsible for costs associated with the provision of such medical advice and services;

5. The guest, for his or herself, and their respective heirs and assigns, hereby waives, releases, and remises Northern Edge Algonquin, its successors and assigns, of and from all claims, liabilities, actions, damages, or obligations which the undersigned or his or her heirs, representatives, successors and assigns had or may have against Northern Edge Algonquin with respect to the participation of the guest in the Activity;

6. In the event that the guest or any member of the guest's party fail to follow directions, policies and procedures or abide by information as described at FAQ.html, or any other rules, laws or regulations enacted by the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, County or Municipality, Northern Edge Algonquin shall have the right to terminate the participation in the activity of such guests as Northern Edge Algonquin shall deem reasonably necessary, and in such event Northern Edge Algonquin shall retain the unexpired portion of the fees paid by such persons in partial satisfaction of the damages sustained by Northern Edge. Northern Edge Algonquin reserves the right to apply a reasonable financial charge to guests for expenses incurred to restore spaces or equipment that have been damaged by guest negligence or failure to follow directions. Guests further release Northern Edge Algonquin of and from any claims that may arise against Northern Edge Algonquin as a result of said termination.

Print Name of Participant

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)
or, Signature of Participant (if over 18)

Date

Initial Here: _____ to also agree to the following **Photo Release**

I hereby grant permission for digital photographs and/or video recordings to be taken of my child during their trip to Northern Edge Algonquin. I understand that these images and videos may be used for promotional purposes.

I authorize Northern Edge Algonquin to use these images on its websites & social media accounts or in printed promotional material without further consideration. I also acknowledge that the Edge may choose not to use my child's image at this time, but may do so at its discretion at a later date. I agree that I will not hold Northern Edge Algonquin responsible for any unauthorized reproduction that may arise from 3rd parties.

Northern Edge Algonquin Inc. 100 Ottawa Ave.
South River, ON, P0A 1X0

Experience@NorthernEdgeAlgonquin.ca - 888 383 8320 - NorthernEdgeAlgonquin.ca

Please remove this page and provide to your teacher or chaperone before departing for your trip.