



Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.

"Where Service and Leadership come together"

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Superior North Study and Leadership Program

May 15-19, 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Rationale

The motivation for this program was derived from the personal and professional experiences of its authors in conjunction with the vision prescribed by Adventure Learning Experiences for all of its programs. This vision involves Learning, Leadership, and Service within the context of safe Adventure.

Service Learning

A unique and distinguishing component of this program is the concept of “service learning”. Service learning can be identified as experiential education when the learner adopts a life role that provides meaningful service to a community in order to learn about oneself and others. The pedagogical value of the service increases when the following are added to the learning: an academic component designed to prepare the learner in terms of content and competencies relevant to the service; an opportunity to reflect upon and think critically about the experience; an element of adventure and challenge; an international and cross-cultural context; and alignment of individual, placement, and system goals.

Affiliation

This program will be delivered with the cooperation and support of the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Superior North Catholic District School Board.

2. PARTICIPANTS

Youth

Approximately 16 young people will be selected for admission to this program and will include primarily high school students. There will also be approximately 3 - 4 adults accompanying the students and participating in this program. Participants will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. Trustworthiness and reliability
2. Respectfulness of other people and cultures
3. Adaptability to new experiences
4. Fitness
5. Pleasant disposition

Interested students will be invited to submit an application and 2 letters of reference attesting to their suitability according to the criteria cited above.

Leader

The leaders for this trip will be

- a) Mr. Greg Rogers, Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.,
- b) Mr. Michael Consul, resource teacher at TCDSB,
- c) at least one female teacher supervisor at TCDSB.

Code of Conduct

Each student will be expected to pledge commitment to a Code of Conduct which will be designed to ensure that respect for each participant, his/her property, and well-being is safeguarded. This code will preclude harassment and abusiveness and will prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs. Above all, the rights and responsibilities of all participants will be clearly defined so that the objectives of this program may be achieved within a healthy and safe environment.

Interviews

Each applicant will be invited to a private or group interview with the Directors of Adventure Learning to assess his/her suitability for the program. This will also give the applicant the opportunity to determine if the program serves his/her needs and interests. Students will be asked to bring their letters of reference to this meeting.

3. DESIGN

In-Class Component

The in-class component will begin in February and will conclude in May. All students in this program will meet as a single group for this component.

There will be 4 preparatory meetings that all participants will be expected to attend.

Experiential Component

There will be a variety of service learning opportunities distributed across a few locations. Formal classes will be conducted whereby teachers and students will be given

opportunities to discuss their reactions to the learning experiences and which will offer support for their adjustment to the new environments. Upon returning to Toronto, the students will meet to reflect and process their experiences, and will be given an opportunity to formally present their learning to corporations, institutions, family and friends.

Topics for discussion during classes will be governed by the nature of the activities in which the students will be engaged. Daily journal writing will be an essential component of this time.

Reading List: A short reading list will be provided at a later date about issues that have impacted the northern communities and about leadership.

Journaling: Daily journal writing will be an essential component of the program. A composite journal with volunteer submissions from all participants will be compiled and offered to all participants at the end of the experience as a memory of our shared experience.

Service and Leadership Opportunities

- **Community appreciation**
- **Issues education:** Hands-on exploration of social justice issues
- **Cultural education:** Connect with local youth by sharing educational opportunities.
- **Wilderness adventures:** Experience the rugged beauty of northern Ontario

4. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel Dates: May 15-19, 2017

Itinerary (tentative)

Monday	May 15	Depart Toronto at 12:35 pm, arrive in Thunder Bay at 2:38pm, welcome greeting and supper with local staff and local groups in support of our Aboriginal Initiatives settle into lodge
Tuesday	May 16	visit to St. Brigid's School Morning Interactive cultural activities afternoon outdoor skill training and forest exploration evening in-service for teachers/principals on Catholic Graduate Expectations

Wednesday	May 17	guided Nature excursion with students from 3 local schools explore the Northern watershed and other features of the great North evening leadership activities with students from St Joseph's school
Thursday	May 18	visit Our Lady of Fatima's Thunderbird Friendship Center learn about traditional customs and cultural events in the area traditional cooking and evening meal meet village elders collaborate and celebrate Mass together
Friday	May 19	visit Lakehead University tour and witnessing unique Aboriginal learning programs prayer service depart Thunder Bay at 8:15pm, arrive in Toronto at 10:09pm

Transportation

Local transportation will be organized and provided by a commercial transportation company situated in the Thunder Bay area, and which serves the Superior North Catholic District School Board. Air travel will be provided by Air Canada.

Accommodation

Accommodations will be at Kenogamisis Lake Resort. This is at a fishing lodge located amidst the beautiful northern landscape. The adult supervisors will always reside in close proximity to the student residences. Appropriate separation between genders will always be ensured at these premises.

5. FINANCES

Trip cost: \$560 to accompany application

Payment Options: a) personal cheque payable to
Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.
b) e-transfer to
info@adventurelearningexperiences.com
c) credit card (Visa, Mastercard), 2% surcharge
on all credit card payments)

NOTE: no refund after April 1, 2017 unless through cancellation insurance, if purchased.

Inclusions economy airfare: Toronto to Thunder Bay return
all ground transportation, all meals and accommodations
all donations and gratuities, any activity fees, all service charges
and taxes, preparatory learning program

Exclusions any medical costs and inoculations
cancellation insurance (assistance available upon
request)
private spending

Individual Fundraising

Fundraising activities will be supported by the authors. In particular, the principle endeavor will be a booklet which will describe the features and participants of the program. The sale of advertisements in the booklet will be directly subtracted from the fee charged to individual participants, with a nominal charge for the cost of printing the booklets.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is most strongly recommended that each participant seek proper medical advice for all potential health concerns at a travel health clinic prior to departure.

Careful attention to sound health and safety practices will be an important part in the preparation of the program. This may involve mandatory immunizations, as well as learning healthy eating and drinking habits, and understanding effective illness prevention practices. For maximum benefit it is recommended that participants, in general, be in good health and achieve a sufficient level of fitness prior to the trip. Physical and dental check-ups are highly recommended prior to the departure date.

It is expected that each participant complete the Consent to Medical Treatment Form in the event that urgent and emergency care is required.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed applications and deposit may be mailed to:

**Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.
c/o Jen Wilson
41 Kimbourne Ave
Toronto ON M4J 4J1**

Application Form
Superior North Study and Leadership Program
Travel dates: May 15 - 19, 2017

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number (day): _____ Phone Number (evening): _____

Birthdate: _____ School: _____

Grade: _____

Email address: _____ Parent's Email address:

B. HEALTH

To derive maximum benefit from this program, it would be in the best interest of each participant to be in good health and proper fitness.

1. Are you willing to commit yourself to a pre-trip fitness program?

2. Are there any health issues that you would like to discuss with the moderators relative to your participation in the program? If yes, please describe:

3. Health Card Number: _____

C. FINANCES

The cost of the trip is expected to be approximately **\$560**. This will be subsidized for TCDSB students through Student Success and the FMNI program. This includes air and land transportation, food and accommodations. An opportunity for fundraising will be made available to all participants.

1. A deposit of **\$450.00** made payable to Adventure Learning Experiences should accompany this application.

D. MOTIVATION

This unique experience has the potential for extraordinary learning, growth, and personal fulfillment.

1. In one paragraph, describe what attracts you to this program:

2. In one paragraph, describe what you hope to gain from this experience:

E. COMMUNITY

The mutual support and cooperation between participants will be vitally necessary in dealing with the challenges presented in this experience. What strengths will you be able to contribute to the group?

F. CONDITIONS

Adapting to the travel, climate, and culture in this part of the world may be difficult.

1. What will be your greatest challenge?

2. How will you prepare for it?

G. SERVICE

Service to others is a very important characteristic of this program.

1. Could you identify any volunteer activities in which you have been involved, either at school or in the community?

2. For one of these activities identify:

a) its benefits for others:

b) its value to you:

I. REFERENCES

Two letters of reference should accompany your application. One letter should be from a school representative and the other letter should be from outside the school from a non-family member. **FOR STUDENTS: A copy of your most recent report card is also required.**

Please send application and **\$560** deposit to:

**Adventure Learning
Experiences Inc. Attention:
Jen Wilson
41 Kimbourne Ave.
Toronto, ON
M4J 4J1**