



EVERGREEN



Photo: Len Dobrucki

EVERGREEN ADVENTURE CAMP

Parent Handbook | Summer 2019

WELCOME TO EVERGREEN ADVENTURE CAMP

Children thrive when they are physically and socially active in natural settings, and they don't have to leave the city to experience this. Evergreen Adventure camp offers one and two week programs filled with exploration and discovery in the ravines of Toronto. Each day the adventure begins at Evergreen Brick Works and in the adjacent 16.5 hectare wetland park, a beautiful green oasis in the heart of the city.

Children will explore this enchanting landscape and discover its amazing array of wildlife. They will venture further afield on foot and bicycle through Toronto's trail networks, following the paths of wildlife and learning how nature moves through our city. They will follow the flow of water, upstream and downstream, and see how the ravines are the lifeblood to the city. Along the way, they will discover a landscape of stories while making their own story and developing a sense of play in the city.

This handbook will provide you with all the information you need to prepare for your child's camp experience. More detailed information will be sent to you after your child is registered prior to the start of camp.

What's inside?

Evergreen's Approach to Children and Learning

Our Program Themes

Our Camp Team

Age Groups

Sample Schedule

Weekly Program Themes

Lunch

General Information

Getting Here

Camp Perks

Extended Care

Campers with Special Needs

What to Bring

Health and Safety

Registration



EVERGREEN'S APPROACH TO CHILDREN AND LEARNING

Our programs are engaging, active, memorable and a lot of fun. Beneath this is a determined effort to connect children to nature in cities and to nurture a place-based ecological literacy. In addition, because the camp program is four to ten consecutive days, there is a cumulative empowerment. Children connect with each other and with themselves through the skilled facilitation of passionate and highly trained staff who deliver camp programs that are:

- ▶ **Place-based**
Building a foundation of knowledge through a focus on local nature, culture and community
- ▶ **Ecological**
Providing children direct contact with nature
- ▶ **Hands-on**
Creating a setting for compelling learning through multi-sensory, direct experience
- ▶ **Active & Mobile**
Moving the body to engage the mind
- ▶ **Arts-infused**
Breathing life into learning through creativity, compelling narratives and arts activities
- ▶ **Integrated**
Weaving together knowledge and skill through ecological themes and engaging experiences

OUR PROGRAM THEMES

Food, Shelter and Transportation

These three themes are central to Evergreen's mission to promote sustainable cities. Our goal is to inspire children, through hands-on camp activities related to food, shelter and transportation, to become the next generation of sustainable city leaders. Through play, children will learn about what they eat, where they live, and how they move around the city. They will actively engage with their natural surroundings, through walking, running, biking, gardening, building and the arts. They will be inspired by challenging projects, working with their hands – cooking food, constructing shelters, tuning bicycles. They will work with Evergreen's stewardship experts, planting seeds, nurturing plants and creating backyard habitat for animals. They will grow their own food, prepare some of their own snacks, and develop a taste for good nutrition. In this way, all our program elements are integrated and cumulative.

Bringing it Home

Everything children learn at Evergreen Adventure camp can be applied to their homes, and to their neighborhood parks and public spaces. The program is designed to inspire and empower children to take the lessons learned at camp to where they live.

OUR CAMP TEAM

Our highly skilled team of educators and outdoor enthusiasts will ensure your child has an unforgettable experience by sharing their expertise and passion for the urban wilderness. Our unique location coupled with our experienced staff of educated counsellors, seasoned camp managers and dedicated volunteers, ensures that every child will feel welcomed and engaged in the camp experience.



AGE GROUPS

Children will be grouped together based on age to create an appropriate experience.

Junior Group

Ages 6 & 7

Intermediate Group

Ages 8 & 9

Senior Group

Ages 10 & 11

Leaders in Training

Ages 12, 13 & 14

While there are times when some groups may come together for special events and camp wide games, most program activities will be experienced in the individual camper groups.

Grade & Age Policy

Our camp registration is based upon age. Campers must be aged 6 by the first day of camp. This policy is to ensure young campers are able to fully participate for the entire day session.

Friend Request Policy

We do accept friend requests and will do our best to place friends together, however we are unable to guarantee placement. Campers must be in the same session and age group to request a friend. Please limit one request to each camper. We cannot guarantee that all friend requests will be met.





Juniors – Ages 6 & 7

Younger children have an inherent sense of wonder in natural settings. They are fascinated by animals and the idea of habitat – that creatures can make homes out of mud and sticks, live in holes in the ground or nest in hollows in trees. These children love to mimic animals by building dens and creating secret trail networks. They'll play games where they can hunt and gather and collect evidence of the animal world. Through storytelling, campers will use their imaginations to create narratives about the characters in the world around them.

Campers will see the city through the eyes of an animal seeking to know what lives here. They will follow the tracks and trails of fox, deer and coyote; they will locate the shelters of all sorts of animals; and they will map out areas where animals forage for food. They will piece together the food, shelter and transportation systems that support wild habitats.



Intermediates – Ages 8 & 9

Having more experience of the world around them, the older children will explore broadly, venturing out to follow trails, find evidence of animal habitats, and collect the artifacts of the wild city. Through animal tracking, harvesting wild edibles, and crafting with natural materials, campers will have a chance to see the city as a vibrant, wild, natural space.

Travelling the ravine trail system, campers will set out on biking and hiking trails through the city. They'll pedal their way through the hills and dales. The cumulative effect is a new and empowering way of seeing the place where they live. The Intermediate campers will be engaged in more ambitious gardening and stewardship projects, more advanced cooking and baking and more in depth skills development around tracking and wild edible harvesting.

Seniors Ages – Age 10 & 11

The Senior campers have a chance to shine at Evergreen Adventure Camp. They'll have more opportunity and freedom to adventure further afield through the quarry and ravines all the while advancing their wilderness skills. They'll be mapping and identifying edible plants, animal tracks and hazards, to share with the rest of camp. Through building fun projects that support the camp community, such as a new garden, willow weaving wall or creating an art piece for Children's Garden, Seniors will have a chance to put their new skills to practice.

The Seniors play a leadership role in helping with the camp community. They might be found gathering wood and lighting the fire for a younger group's snack time, or they can be found discovering new ravine paths where there are fresh deer trails. Children this age are often inspired to lead games, crafts or other activities for younger campers. With the playful and true narratives of giant beavers, and ancient sea creatures, this group's sense of wonder can be balanced with a sense of place in the natural community.

Leaders-in-Training Program

– Ages 12–15

The Leaders-in-Training (LIT) program offers leadership opportunities for youth within our camp community. The program provides for a fun and exciting introduction to camp operations. Our highly skilled staff will mentor and guide the LIT participants through exciting challenges and skill development onsite all the while receiving supportive feedback during this learning process. Activities include a full day bicycle trip through the ravine system, foraging for wild edibles, using hand tools to create crafts, leading younger campers through activities and developing their knowledge of the ravines.



Photo: Len Dobruski



SAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR DAY 1

8:30am – 9:00am | Sign In

9:00am – 9:30am | Open Play

Campers follow their individual interests within the Children's Garden, participating in their choice of activities including: building, gardening and other physically active games.

9:30am – 10:00am | Welcome Circle

Warmup activities, orientation to the day and week ahead.

10:00am – 12:00pm | Nature Games and Exploration

Team building games and learning about the wild things in our City. Visit the garden to check the harvest; morning snack; review safety protocols. Hiking on a ravine exploration!

12:00pm – 1:00pm | Lunch

Lunch Program and supervised free time.

1:00pm – 3:00pm | Afternoon Program

Nature treasure hunt and a group hideout adventure.

3:00pm – 3:30pm | Closing Circle

Group gathering, Closing circle and reflection; and getting ready for home.

3:30pm | Sign-Out

3:30pm – 5:30pm | Extended Care Program

** Must be pre-registered*

WEEKLY PROGRAM THEMES

Day 1: Where is Here?

A meandering hike along the Beltline trail, following the course of historic Mud Creek, searching for signs of urban wildlife and discovering the amazing stories written on the ravine landscape.

Day 2: Animals of the Valley and Shelter Building

Get inside the mind and shape shift into the animals and critters that live in the Don Valley! Engage your senses (seek, sniff, touch and listen to where the wild things roam). Discover what lives, grows and moves through the ravines. Build and practice your animal architecture skills.

Day 3: Chomping Through our City

Understanding where our food comes from, how it is grown, the life cycle of food (soil, seed, plant, plate) and learning how to harvest and cook with locally grown or wild edible plants.

Day 4: Exploring Elements

Use the four elements (water, air, earth and fire) as a jumping off point to explore our surroundings and natural materials.

Day 5: Community and Celebration

Visit favourite sites, tell stories of the week, make pizza together in the outdoor bake oven and gather together as a camp community to celebrate an incredible week.

** Please note, weekly schedules are subject to variation.*



LUNCH: DELICIOUS FOOD WITH A LOCAL TWIST

Evergreen Adventure Camp is pleased to provide a Lunch program offering quality and locally sourced ingredients. We are especially excited to be working with Chef Brad Long of Café BeLong to provide a daily lunch menu designed to appeal to children's varying taste buds.

Sample lunch meals include:

- Pizza made in our outdoor bake oven;
- Pasta with meat-sauce, cookie, slices of fruit and vegetable sticks
- Sandwiches with roasted beef, cookie, slices of fruit and vegetable sticks;

Please make note of any dietary restrictions or food allergies in your camp application. Please note that snacks will not be provided during camp, remember to send your child with sufficient snacks for the day.



Photo: Len Dobrucki



GENERAL INFORMATION

Evergreen is a national not-for-profit dedicated to making cities flourish. Camp revenues support our children's programs including our Visiting Schools Program and our community programming on weekends. We appreciate your support in continuing to offer these community programs to families and children.

GETTING HERE

Please visit our website for more information on directions: <http://ebw.evergreen.ca/visit/gettinghere/driving>. The Evergreen Shuttle Bus reserved for Evergreen staff and tenants between the hours of 8:00 – 9:30am and 4:00 – 5:30pm and space cannot be guaranteed for camp participants

Parking is free between 8:30 – 9am and 3:30 – 5:30pm to accommodate drop-off and pickups.

Beyond these times, standard parking rates apply.

Leaving camp early? Arriving late? Absent?

If you need to pick up your child early or your child will be absent please notify our Camp Director 416-596-1495 x252

CAMP PERKS

Sweet Pete's Bicycle Shop

Discount of 15% off accessories and 10% off bicycles for Evergreen campers. Campers may shop at any of the Sweet Pete's locations. The offer is available to camp participants only. This offer cannot be combined with any existing other offer, deal or sale. To ensure the best possible service, you can email them in advance at info@sweetpetes.com prior to coming in.

Gradale Academy 15%

Discount available for all campers at the Gradale Academy, a Private elementary school located at Evergreen Brick Works. For more information please contact Michelle Gradish at gradale@rogers.com.

EXTENDED CARE

Extended Care is available from 3:30 – 5:30pm for an additional \$40 a week.

During registration, please identify whether your child will require this service. Extended Care location will be in the Children's Garden. During adverse weather days, campers will be in the BMO atrium next to the Children's Garden or in a location posted on the BMO doors.

** Late pickups will not be tolerated and parents will be charged \$5 every 5 minutes.*

CAMPERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our goal is always to provide a positive camp experience for all of our campers. Camp staff are dedicated to creating an inclusive, safe and educational program for all campers. If your child has special needs or requires accommodations at camp please email camp@evergreen.ca to ensure our Camp Inclusion team can give your camper the best experience possible. The Camp Director will discuss supports available. We recognize that we cannot meet every child's needs however we will do our best to work towards a safe and successful camp for all involved.



WHAT TO BRING

Snacks

Children are expected to bring their own litter-free and nut-free snacks with them each day. We recommend packing a couple substantial snacks, as campers tend to be hungrier than normal from being active outdoors all day.

Clothing and Personal Items

Programs will take place outdoors except in the case of severe weather. We recommend campers be prepared for all types of weather. If you are unable to provide these items please let a camp staff know. You are welcome to leave items at camp for the week however Evergreen will not be held accountable for lost items.

Please remember to always pack the following:

- ✓ Water bottle (at least 500 ml)
- ✓ Sun hat with a wide brim
- ✓ Sunscreen (minimum 30 SPF recommended)
- ✓ Closed toe shoes (for hiking in the ravines)
- ✓ 2 pairs of socks
- ✓ Rain jacket (100% waterproof, with a hood)
- ✓ Rain boots (rubber boots)
- ✓ An extra change of clothes

Please do not bring:

- ✗ Cellphones
- ✗ Ipods
- ✗ Handheld video games
- ✗ Electronic devices
- ✗ Valuable items
- ✗ Weapons
- ✗ Money

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Medication Policy

All medication must be labelled and be accompanied by a letter addressed to the camp director explaining administration. A follow up medication call will be made prior to camp. Campers must be able to administer medication with limited assistance. Once at camp, please give all medication directly to camp staff. If your child requires an EpiPen, they must carry it on them at all times. Please note all medication information clearly on your medical form. Note: Please let staff know if your camper has had a change in medications or dosage over the summer even if it is administered at home.

Sick Campers

Every effort will be made to attend to sick campers at camp; however, it may be necessary for us to contact you and request that you or a guardian pick up your child.

When to Stay Home

Please do not send your child to camp if they have any illness or condition that can be easily transmitted on contact.

Behaviour Expectations

During camp, we strive to create a safe environment for both campers and employees. We expect and encourage each camper to maintain a positive level of respect for everyone. It is Evergreen's intention to work with campers and guardians to find solutions to behavioural challenges whenever possible. We appreciate your support and cooperation with our behavioural policy.

Behaviour Contract

If a Camper is behaving in a way that is limiting other campers enjoyment or safety of camp they will be asked to write up a behaviour contract with the Camp Director. The Camp Director, the camper and their guardians will be asked to sign this contract. If contract is broken, the camper may be asked to not participate in certain activities or may be asked not to return to camp.

Grounds for Camper Immediate Dismissal

Camp is expected to be a safe place for all campers and staff. If a camper is behaving in a way that negatively effects the camp experience or that is jeopardizing their own or others safety, that camper may be asked to leave camp without refund. This behaviour includes but is not limited to: bullying, physical assault, inability or refusal to follow safety guidelines, theft and bringing weapons or other inappropriate items to camp.

Emergency Preparedness

Evergreen camp staff is trained in site policies and procedures, risk management, and first response. The safety of our campers and staff comes first. We have emergency management and site evacuation plans to minimize risk and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all individuals on site.



Photo: Mike Derblich

Flooding

Our site is located in the Lower Don valley and is subject to occasional flooding. While flooding historically and statistically occurs infrequently, it can occur at any time. In the event that a site closure is ordered prior to the start of a camp day, Evergreen will attempt to make alternative plans to run camp activities elsewhere, or, much like a snow day, we may have to cancel the day. Staff will attempt to contact you as early as possible to avoid any inconvenience.

Refunds will not be issued for missed camp days due to flooding. In the event of a flood, the Lunch program will be canceled. We ask that during this time, campers bring a packed lunch from home until further notice. Refunds are not available for missed lunch service during flood days.

The Evergreen Weather Hotline can be reached at 416-596-1495 x550 or evergreen.ca for ongoing updates.

In the unlikely event that an evacuation is initiated while camp is in session, Evergreen will relocate campers to Rosedale United Church, located at Glen Rd. and Roxborough Dr. Sign-Out will occur at the Glen Rd. entrance. You will be notified first by EMAIL, followed by a PHONE CALL as soon as all staff and campers are safely offsite. Note that response times to email/phone calls will be longer than usual.

Rosedale United Church
159 Roxborough Dr
Toronto, ON

REGISTRATION

You may complete an application online at <https://evergreen.campbrainregistration.com>. If you are unable to register online please contact us for assistance.

Refunds

No refunds will be issued if a reservation is cancelled within 21 days of the session start date. Otherwise, camp fees are refundable, less a \$50 administration fee. Please note, registrations are non-transferable.

Refunds will not be issued for missed camp days due to inclement weather, including flooding.

Requests for cancellations or refunds must be made in writing and submitted to camp@evergreen.ca.

Hours

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm
Camp Hours: 9:00am – 3:30pm
Extended Care: 8:30 – 9:00am & 3:30 – 5:30pm

Holidays

There will be NO camp on Monday, July 2 and Monday, August 6.

Contact

Evergreen Brick Works Camp Office
CIBC Classroom
550 Bayview Avenue,
Toronto, ON M4W 3X8

Phone: 416-596-1495 x252

Email: camp@evergreen.ca

