ADVENTURES EVERY DAY

Program Handbook September 2026

Core Values
Eco- and Carbon-consciousness
Respect and responsibility for all

Vision and Mission Statement
Adventures Every Day experiences and facilitators lead children to enjoy and respect natural spaces in an eco- and carbon-conscious way. Use of civic infrastructure to promote access to nature is modelled and practised.

Land Acknowledgement

People have lived and played here before today.
Just like us, people have walked these forests and fields and seen these waters.
Some people learn from their elders how to gather food and find shelter in this place.
There are ancient and wise traditions and ceremonies about giving thanks for the land and water we all need and enjoy now.
Long ago, the Dish with One spoon Treaty was agreed on between people from overseas and people living here.
Because the people from overseas don't always respect the treaty, this land and its original people have been badly harmed.
We acknowledge that harm and say - show us how to help, we are listening.
We want to show care for the land and all people who live on it now, especially those whose home it's been for seven generations and more.
To the Haudenosonee we say Nià:wen.
To the Anishnabek and Mississaugas of the Credit first nation we say Miigwech.
Thank you for showing us a good way to live on turtle island.

Educators
After organising outdoor games and excursions for his little brothers in the 80s, Christopher took a 17-year detour into public education, but is now back to playing outside with kids. Officially a certified Teacher and Forest and Nature School Practitioner, his ability to appreciate kids for who they are and his commitment to guiding people towards deep care for nature and themselves is what makes Adventures Every Day a valued part of the community.

Samantha Harper is an Early Childhood Educator with a passion for outdoor learning and community based outings for children.
With experience in licensed daycare centres, home daycare and in training to become a certified Forest and Natures School leader, she currently works in a kindergarten class as a DECE for HWDSB.
Sam loves supporting nature in the classroom and exploring the outdoors as much as possible with children to realise the many open-ended opportunities for inquiry-based and
self-guided learning as well as self regulation, leadership, problem solving and risk assessment skills.

Where we are
366 Herkimer St., Hamilton, ON L8P 2J1
Traditional Territory of the Haudenosonee, Anishinaabe, Mississaugas of the New Credit and neighbours to Six Nations of the Grand River
http://adventureseveryday.ca/
christopher@adventureseveryday.ca
Christopher Cell: 437 228 5618 Samantha Cell: 905 928 1665

What is Forest and Nature School?
While many of us are familiar with the idea of outdoor education and field trips, the Forest and Nature School practice that we follow at Adventures Every Day is based on two important principles.
1. Regular and repeated access to the same natural space

2. Emergent, experiential, inquiry-based, play-based, and place-based learning

While there is a history of learning that observes the above principles in many European and commonwealth countries and it has been formalised in different ways, Child and Nature Alliance of Canada (www.childnature.ca) is the organisation that trains Forest and Nature School Practitioners in Canada. This organisation and its principles have a stated aim of recognising the history and harm of colonialism and seek to centre Indigenous voices and ways of learning and knowing so that "Indigenous and Western worldviews will have equitable voice and space in our programs, so that they are safe, meaningful, and culturally relevant for all participants." (from www.childnature.ca)

Program

Adventures Every Day offers a drop-off nature immersion program to students 4 to 12 years old. Repeated access to trails and wooded areas will promote good physical, mental, social and emotional health, while teaching understanding of our place in the web of life. Students will build life skills such as resilience while being outdoors in all kinds of weather, spatial awareness while negotiating forest trails, social competency while practising sharing ideas and objects, and self

confidence while assessing and taking risks in the physical environment. Respect for all humans using the land presently and historically as well as a spirit of reciprocity towards nature are taught and modelled. All of these experiences will take place in the presence of at least one experienced and caring adult. The maximum student to educator ratio is 6:1.

Weather and Environmental Challenges in a Changing Climate
Since 2019 our educators have been leading kids outside in temperatures from -20º C to 35º C. We've worked some snow days, waited out thunderstorms and found indoor spaces when forest fire smoke led to very poor air quality in Hamilton in the summer of 2026. We know our climate has changed and will change more rapidly but we're dedicated to being outside as much as we safely can. Educators continually assess natural and human risks and we adjust our trails, plans, bus routes and swim times to keep ourselves and the kids with us busy and safe during challenging weather. While we prefer being outside with kids, we understand the health and safety and childcare needs of our families as well.

Registration, Refund and Cancellation Policy
A deposit of one week's camp fee ($340/$270) is due on registration for full-week camps. Payment in full is required when noted on the registration form. Full payment for Forest School and PA Days is due on registration. There will be no refund

for absences due to illness, injury or other spontaneously arising personal circumstances. Credit for future days may be granted at the discretion of Adventures Every Day. Cancellations caused by weather will be refunded or credited after consultation with customers.

Health and Safety Policies

Privacy

As an educational service provider, we are committed to the privacy of the children who come to us as well as that of their families. All contact, health and other information is kept password-protected and shared only among AED employees for the purposes of their work with children and communication with parents/caregivers. AED asks for permission to take, store and share photos solely with parents for the purposes of communicating about learning and development. Those photos are deleted after a period of one year unless special permission is sought from parents/caregivers and received. No photos are ever posted online in social media or used in online or print marketing unless permission for that use for a specific photograph is sought and received from parents/caregivers.

Food/Allergy

Allergy information is collected from all families. As long as no food allergies are present, all foods are permitted as well as sharing of food in a positive community-building way unless food-sharing has been specifically prohibited by a parent.

Toilets and handwashing

Our expectation is for students to be able to manage their own toileting and hand-washing with no, or very minimal assistance. We have access to public washrooms (Churchill Park) or private

washrooms (Dundurn Market for the Kirkendall site) and ensure that we visit them before and after any extended time in nature.

Risk Management
Our Dundurn, Chedoke and Churchill Park sites are visited and assessed for risk before each season or session. Factors such as uneven terrain, water level, change in tree canopy and potentially dangerous vegetation are noted and considered when we choose our exact sites. To mitigate risk from people and dogs in public parks, an Adventures Every Day sign is placed in a visible position when we occupy a site. Facilitators conduct dynamic risk assessment on student and public behaviour, weather conditions and unexpected environmental changes and adjust plans or switch sites when the risk is deemed unusually higher. An Informed Consent form lists specific risks for each program and must be signed by a parent/caregiver before the start of each program.

Emergency Procedure First Aid
In a medical emergency, an AED facilitator will contact parent/caregiver and, if necessary, emergency services. Routes to the nearest road from all sites are

known to the lead facilitator and familiar to students. All AED facilitators have up-to-date First Aid certification and at least one facilitator will always have a first aid kit. All facilitators have cell phones and there is consistent reception at all our sites. It's our practice for at least one child in the group to know the lock code for an adult's phone in case the adult is unable to access it in an emergency.

Staff ratios and responsibilities

Our maximum ratio of students to staff is 6:1 and for the summer program which includes swimming, there will always be one male and one female staff member present even when there are fewer than 6 students. Staff are responsible for the safety and learning of children in AED programs. We work at all times to mitigate risk in both urban and natural environments and recognise not only acute risks to safety but also behaviours that can have longer-term negative impacts and seek to create a caring community for all staff and students.

Learning, Observation and Documentation

While our primary focus is ensuring student safety while they lead their own learning outdoors, AED facilitators may observe and encourage students in their exploration and learning and, from time to time, share those observations directly with parents/caregivers through text or email if permission is given to take and share photos in accordance with our privacy policy.

We welcome all young people and make it our practice to make space for those who have traditionally been excluded or othered in many educational spaces. Neurodivergent, differently abled, racialised and gender diverse people are all recognised, welcomed, and encouraged to share in the experiences and possibilities of our programs. Parents and caregivers are invited to share their concerns and hopes for their children's learning and well-being upon registration so that AED facilitators can improve programming for all.

Challenging behaviours that may harm community or present a physical threat to self or others will be addressed by our professional and experienced educators in a way that respects individual autonomy and protects community safety.

Communication

Before the start of programming and outside of program hours, communication by email (christopher@adventureseveryday.ca) is standard. Any urgent messages that must be communicated by staff or parents/caregivers during program time can be relayed through text messages or phone calls (Christopher - 437 228 5618; Samantha 905 928 1665). Questions, concerns are continuously solicited in our program emails. Grievances can be communicated by email, on the phone or in person.

Commitment to Nature

We believe that an effective way to care for the earth is to give children the opportunity to experience and understand the earth's gifts. Christopher and Samantha practice Carbon-conscious and eco-conscious lifestyles inside and outside of their work with children. We model care and concern for land and water during our programming in small proximal ways like picking up litter but also in ways that acknowledge a wider perspective of climate change and habitat loss. That's why we choose walking, public transportation and use of civic infrastructure. Children who spend time with us in nature will learn to love nature and examine the impact of their own actions.