

Outdoor Adventure Program Components

When you book an Outdoor Adventure Program with Camp Thunderbird, you are asked to rank, in order of preference, the activities that you would like your group to receive. The earlier you register, the more likely you are to receive the activities of your choice. This program is also available in French.

Activity Instruction Blocks

Rock Climbing

Participants receive basic instruction in climbing safety, equipment, and techniques. Qualified instructors engage Participants in proper climbing preparation and command sequences. Participants receive an opportunity to practice climbing in one of our two climbing areas. Cougar Rock, located in main camp, has three climbs varying in technical difficulty. Nicola Rock is located just less than a kilometer (20 minute hike) North East of main camp. Nicola is slightly more challenging as it is about 2-3 meters higher. Both climbs are on real rock face using similar equipment and providing a similar lesson.

Archery

Our archery program allows participants the opportunity to learn about archery safety and technique, and encourages personal improvement and development over competition with other participants. Participants receive instruction and practice on one of our three outdoor archery ranges and get a chance to use their new skills in archery games.

Canoeing

In canoeing sessions, participants become familiar with parts of the canoe and the paddle, water sport safety, and canoeing strokes. Besides the opportunity to practice their paddling skills, participants have time to explore Glinz Lake and examine the wildlife and natural wonders of the area.

Kayaking

Our kayaking program allows participants to learn about the parts of a kayak and kayak paddle, water sport safety, and basic kayaking strokes and techniques. Thunderbird hosts a fleet of both ocean and river boats to which participants have access. During a kayaking session, participants are given the opportunity to develop their paddling skills, and to explore Glinz Lake. No one is allowed to kayak at Camp Thunderbird until s/he has demonstrated a wet exit (turn upside down in your kayak and exit under the water). All program participants are given the opportunity to do so before their kayaking session. Kayaking is available for overnight programs only.

Swimming

Participants can enjoy the clear waters of Glinz Lake. Our waterfront area, including three metre jump tower and slide, provides an excellent fresh water swimming environment. Sign up for a swimming block or refresh in the morning with a Polar Bear dip! All Thunderbird staff are certified with Bronze Cross or National Lifeguard Service Award from the Royal Lifesaving Society.

Hiking

Thunderbird boasts nearly 1300 acres of forest that provides beautiful hiking routes that range in difficulty. During a hiking session, participants learn about safe hiking, preparing to go on a hike, and appropriate clothing and safety gear to have. As well, participants learn about their natural surroundings, and are sure to experience the creativity of Thunderbird staff who know a variety of trail games.

CampCraft

Campcraft is one of Thunderbird's best-kept secrets. A campcraft session provides participants with the opportunity to practice many of the necessary skills of an extended wilderness experience. During campcraft sessions, participants learn about and practice building fires and shelters, finding appropriate campsites, and engaging in minimum trace camping techniques.

Orienteering

Orienteering is one of the world's most popular competitive sports, requiring both an understanding of the outdoors and the skills of orienteering, as well as a keen eye for observation. At Thunderbird, a basic orienteering session provides participants with the opportunity to learn about using a compass, and to practice their skills by navigating through a basic orienteering course. An advanced course is also available where participants complete a full formal orienteering course prepared in conjunction with members of Canadian orienteering clubs.

(Advanced course available for Grade 7 and up)

Teambuilding & Leadership Program Components

When you book a Teambuilding & Leadership Program with Camp Thunderbird, we will create a schedule of activities that offer a progression of initiatives. This program can be customized to meet your group's goals. This Program is also available in French.

Activity Instruction Blocks

Teambuilding Activities

Teambuilding activities are group-based sessions that provide participants with the opportunity to engage in various activities and challenges that encourage group development, teamwork, and personal challenge. During a session, participants are encouraged to think about and discuss concepts such as teamwork, co-operation, and communication, and are challenged to push themselves to succeed as members of a team. These begin with activities that easily create success for the group and then grow into more challenging activities that may include the elements of the low ropes course.

Low Ropes course

The low ropes course offers a variety of challenge elements that encourage participants to work together to achieve a specific goal. Participants have the opportunity to take on leadership roles and work co-operatively in order to achieve various levels of success. This course involves co-operative games, trust activities and group initiative tasks in order to progress towards the various low ropes elements.

High Ropes Course

Our High Ropes experience combines team focused activities to challenge the group to achieve success through co-operation, challenge by choice, and skill acquisition. The group may follow an adventure based sequence of co-operative games, trust activities, initiative tasks, low ropes activities as a progression and a preparation for their peak experience on the High Ropes Course.

Environmental Stewardship Program Components

In a time of increasing awareness and concern for the environment, Camp Thunderbird has answered the call for education and action by developing a new program that invites your students to be Stewards of the Environment.

The program will foster an appreciation for the natural world while educating participants about topics such as our local eco-systems, bio-diversity, bio-indicators, habitat fragmentation, ecological footprints, and the action we can take as individuals, families, and schools to stop climate change.

Through hands-on interaction with a natural community, games, and artistic expression the students will track their own growth and understanding as they participate in activities such as orienteering, nature-hikes, animal tracking, and skit-writing and performance. Programming, supplies, equipment, knowledgeable & caring staff, cabins and food are included in the cost. There are separate Junior (Grades 5-6) and Intermediate (Grades 7-8) programs.

Activity Instruction Blocks

Night Hike

Take advantage of our forest at night for a unique educational experience for participants. Learn about the behaviour of nocturnal animals, night vision, the night sky and much more!

Animal Game

The animal game is an exciting, high activity game that provides participants the opportunity to take on the role of an animal in the food chain and learn first hand about the rules and techniques of survival. The animal game teaches not only about the food chain, but also about interactions between animals, and about the impact of natural forces (fire, disease) and humans on the animal world. Participants are challenged to 'become' an animal during the game, and to share their experiences as that animal at the end of the game.

Bio-Diversity

Students have the opportunity to investigate insects and freshwater invertebrate in our forest and streams. This hand-on experience needs no student expertise, but it is an chance to explore what we already know and to learn experientially.

Water, Water Everywhere

Learn the tale behind the tap! Where does our water come from? Where does it go when it goes down the drain? With the help of some games and experiential initiative activities, students leave this activity with respect for our precious resource.

What Are YOU Eating?

What is organic, fair trade and local? How does the food I'm eating get to my plate? Students play and learn while they investigate the origins of our food system and it's impact on the planet.

How Big is my Footprint?

Students discuss what an eco-footprint means and what we can do individually to have less impact on the environment.

The Lorax

The Lorax is a game based off of the Dr. Seuss classic. Students become a part of the story and learn the environmental message behind the rhymes.

Animal Tracking

Take a guided hike in the T-bird forest and learn about animal tracking. If it's not flat, it's a track! Our t-bird staff guide the campers through the woods and examine the story of the tracks and the habits of the creatures that make them.