

Get Them OUTSIDE!

Elementary School Field Trip Guide

trca.ca/learning



Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

INSPIRE STUDENTS

Through Exploration with TRCA

Welcome to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's School Programs Guide. Packed with exceptional out-of-classroom and in-school experiences, this guide is the key to your class's best field trip ever.

As Ontario's largest provider of out-of-classroom learning, since 1953 our curriculum-linked experiences have connected students of all grades to the nature, ecology and cultural heritage of the Greater Toronto Area in ways that you can't replicate in the classroom.

With nine (9) education centres and learning destinations located across the Greater Toronto Area, our hands-on experiences are delivered in some of the most spectacular natural spaces and unique cultural heritage buildings our region has to offer. And through our innovative partnerships with area school boards, we make sure our that visits are safe, fun, affordable, and most importantly, that your students learn from our expert teachers, conservationists and scientists first-hand.

So come join us – we are here to help you help your students have the best field trip ever.

Sincerely,



Darryl Gray

Director, Education and Training
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

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GRADE AND CURRICULUM LINKS

The following symbols will make it easy to select the right programs to fit your classroom needs and achieve your curriculum objectives. Look for them next to the program descriptions.



The Arts



Geography



History



Mathematics



Language



Physical Education



Science and Technology



Social Studies (K-6)



The Kindergarten Program



Seasonal/Specialty Program



Local, Outdoor Environment Required

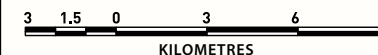
DUFFERIN

SIMCOE

TRCA FIELD TRIP LOCATIONS

LEGEND

- TRCA boundary
- Regional municipal boundary
- Local municipal boundary
- Road



Albion Hills Field Centre and Conservation Park
p. 35–45

CALEDON

PEEL

KING

YORK

AURORA

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

DURHAM

UXBRIDGE

Lake St. George Field Centre
p. 35–45

Kortright Centre for Conservation
p. 12–15

The Nature Centre at Bruce's Mill Conservation Park
p. 22–25

Claremont Nature Centre
p. 35–45

VAUGHAN

RICHMOND HILL

MARKHAM

PICKERING

BRAMPTON

Claireville Outdoor Education Centre and Conservation Area
p. 18–21

The Village at Black Creek
p. 8–11

AJAX

IN-CLASS VISITS

Through our mobile **Watershed on Wheels** and **Beyond the Park** programs, we bring nature education to your school. See pages 28–31 for more details.



TORONTO

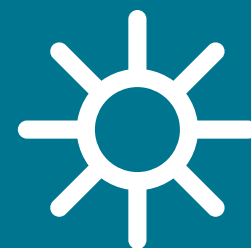
Tommy Thompson Park
p. 16–17

LAKE ONTARIO



HALTON

MISSISSAUGA

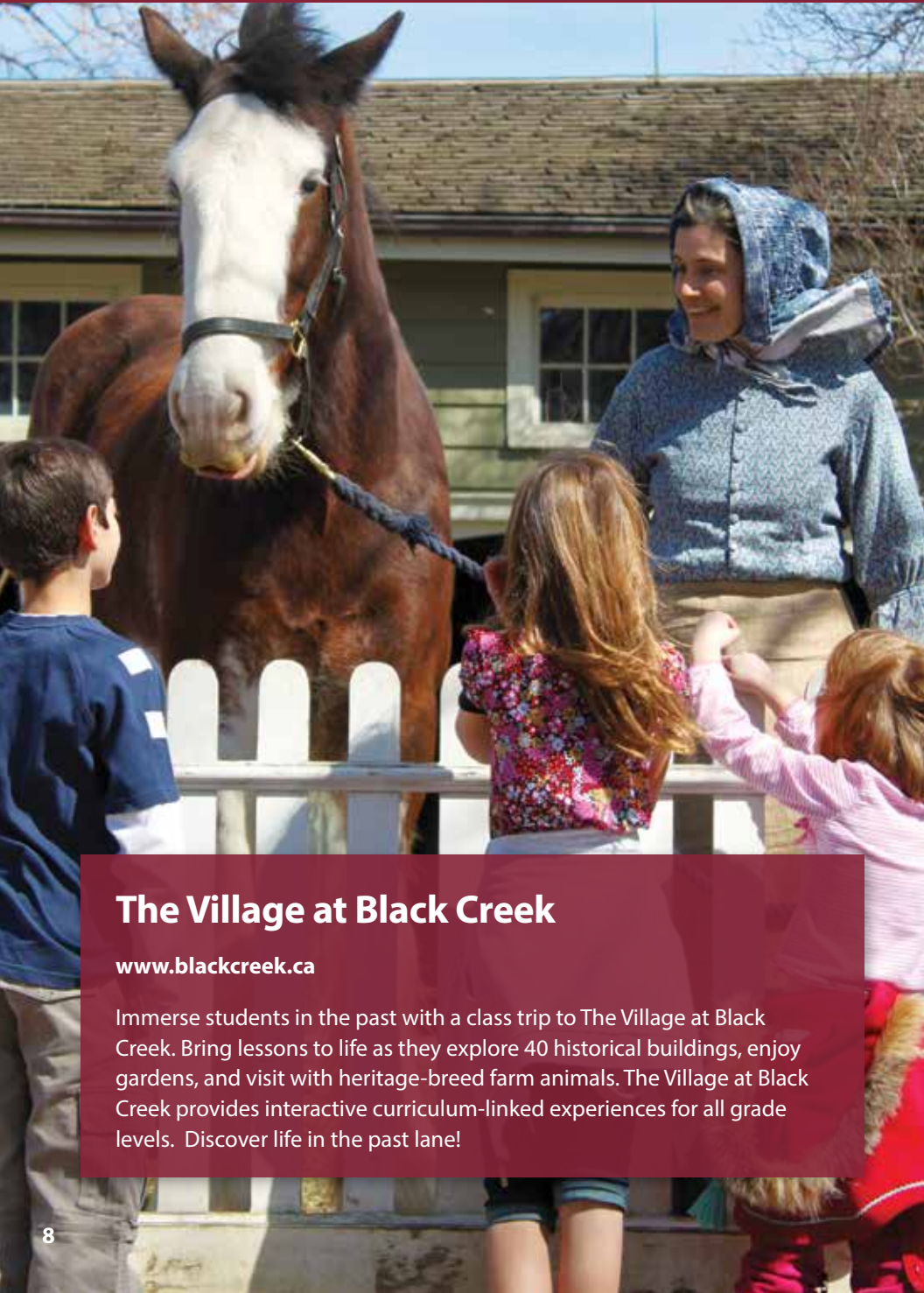


DAY PROGRAMS

TRCA's education centres specialize in designing and delivering experiential, curriculum-linked, outdoor, environmental, cultural heritage, and conservation programs in authentic, real-world environments. TRCA is also proud to bring nature education right to your classroom through its in-class visits. Tailored for any age group from ECE through K-8 classes and P/J/I teacher professional development, you will find the perfect field trip to complement your classroom at any of our incredible education facilities.

Field trips are available at:

- The Village at Black Creek
- Kortright Centre for Conservation
- Tommy Thompson Park
- Claireville Outdoor Education Centre
- The Nature Centre at Bruce's Mill
- The Meadoway
- Your school (led by TRCA's Education Team)



The Village at Black Creek

www.blackcreek.ca

Immerse students in the past with a class trip to The Village at Black Creek. Bring lessons to life as they explore 40 historical buildings, enjoy gardens, and visit with heritage-breed farm animals. The Village at Black Creek provides interactive curriculum-linked experiences for all grade levels. Discover life in the past lane!

SENSORY ADVENTURES Junior Kindergarten to Grade 2

What would you find on a farm long ago? Use your senses and learn about the roles that family members, farm animals, and plants played on a family farm. Stay for a full day and add on one of the following workshops:

Stories, Games, & Toys: Play with games and toys from the past and take part in an interactive story to further understanding about everyday life long ago.

Explore the Garden: Use your senses and explore our Village gardens. Plant seeds to take back home and watch them grow!

Get Crafty: Continue the fun and create seasonal heritage craft with our talented educators.



Duration: **1.50 hours or 3 hours (with optional workshop)**
Available: **Year-round**

CHRISTMAS PAST Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8

Discover the holiday and winter traditions of the many communities living in 19th century Ontario. Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, and Indigenous celebrations are explored! Students engage in unique activities in heritage homes and trade shops including interactive storytelling, traditional dancing, and indoor games. Join us to celebrate the holiday season!



Duration: **3 hours**
Available: **Mid-November to December**

BACK TO SCHOOL Grade 2 to 8

Step into the shoes of a typical student in our 1860's schoolhouse while our interpretive schoolteacher gets you working on a slate, participating in a spelling bee, playing classic 19th century games and practising the 3Rs! Spend the second half of your day visiting other Village buildings to see what life was like outside of school!



Duration: **3 hours**
Available: **Year-round**



YESTERDAY'S CHILD Grade 2 and 3

Discover the everyday lives and challenges of different communities that lived and worked in 19th century Ontario. Topics covered include food, clothing, education, recreation and work, and the roles of children. Make this program a full day by adding on a workshop:

Artifact Discovery: Learn how different types of objects teach us about the everyday lives of people in the past. Get hands on with actual artifacts from our collection, learn how to identify them, and why they are important.

Nature in The Village: Go on a nature hike around The Village and discover how newcomers to Canada used plants, animals, and the environment around them. Identify plants, explore heritage gardens, and discuss the impact that growing communities had on the land and waterways. What lessons can we learn from the past?

Outdoor Sports & Games A: Play a selection of 19th century sports and games and examine archival photos and artifacts.

Wonderful Wool: Learn how wool is processed by learning to card, spin, and weave wool on a barn loom.



Duration: 1.50 hours or 3 hours (with optional workshop)
Available: Year-Round

MANY HANDS Grade 3 to 8

This indoor program takes place in a cozy heritage log house. Cook on a real wood stove, churn butter, card wool, and learn to use a spinning wheel. In the workshop next door, weave on a barn loom, engage in wood working, and explore various tools, then enjoy a snack made with "many hands." Spend the second half of the day exploring select buildings in the historic Village.



Duration: 3 hours
Available: January- April and September - mid November

HEARTH COOKING AT THE VILLAGE Grade 6 to 8

Each winter, students get busy cooking over the hearth fire in a heritage inn. They make soda bread and waffles, churn butter, grind spices, and discover the ingredients and kitchen tools available in 19th century Ontario. This full-day program also includes a tour of select Village buildings, and lots of fun and games. End the day by tasting the culinary delights you've created!



Duration: 3 hours
Available: January - April

TEAM BUILDING IN THE VILLAGE Grade 4 to 8

Some skills never go out of style. The Village's new interactive team-building programs promote perseverance, responsibility, helpfulness, respect, and positivity. Enjoy fun and learning against the backdrop of the heritage Village!

Choose from:

Innovation & Imagination (grades 4-6): Students work in groups and travel back and forth in time to analyze and describe a variety of unique objects!

Skills & Strategies (grades 7 and 8): Using the historic Village as a backdrop, students work together to solve challenges!

Great Village Bake Off & Amazing Chase (grades 6 and up): In groups, students decipher a historical recipe and take part in an exciting scavenger hunt throughout The Village!



Duration: 3 hours
Available: Year round





Kortright Centre for Conservation

www.kortright.org

At Kortright Centre for Conservation students are immersed in the natural world and provided an opportunity to learn, hands-on, about sustainable living, stewardship, and the environment. Curriculum-linked programs build on in-class learning, inviting students to connect with nature and better understand their relationship with, and responsibility to, the natural world around them.

MAPLE SYRUP Pre-school to Grade 8

Enjoy the sweetness of springtime in Ontario! Come experience historic and modern methods of making maple syrup. Learn how to identify maple trees and see how they are tapped for sap. Students complete their visit with a taste of the sweet, end result.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **March to early April**

INSECTS Kindergarten to Grade 6

Students learn basic insect identification and classification skills appropriate to their grade level and then take to the field with bug-catchers in hand to collect different living organisms, exploring at least two different habitats. Students compare their findings, examine the importance of invertebrates, and learn about the fascinating life cycles of this important group of organisms.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **April to November**

GROWTH AND CHANGES IN ANIMALS Grade 2

This hands-on program provides learners with an introduction to a variety of animals and their distinct characteristics. With the help of skins, antlers, feathers, and additional natural items, students investigate the similarities and differences between mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. They also have an opportunity to observe and explore animal life in several habitats around the Kortright property.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **Year-round**



ART IN NATURE Grade 2 to 8

Students explore ephemeral art by working in groups to create a masterpiece using the natural materials provided by the landscape. Learners begin with a review of the basic elements of design—colour, texture, line, shape, form, and space—to help guide their installation. A scenic location provides the backdrop for Kortright’s “gallery without walls”, where an appreciation of art and an understanding of the natural environment is fostered.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**
Available: **Year-round**

FORCES CAUSING MOVEMENT AND KITE FLYING Grade 3

Students learn to identify the forces of gravity, magnetism, electrostatic force, wind, tension, and friction through hands-on activities and experiments in this introduction to the Forces Causing Movement program. Using investigative techniques, students are challenged to determine the effects of changing the amount of force applied to an object and observe natural forces in action. Extend this program to include making and flying kites!



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**
Available: **April to October**

HABITATS AND COMMUNITIES Grade 4

From forests and streams to wetlands and meadows, Kortright Centre boasts a rich variety of habitats for students to experience first-hand. Learners will identify producers, consumers, and decomposers that form the communities in these areas and explore the natural environment that these species call home. The human dimension is considered in a discussion on the effects of human activities on resident plants and animals.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**
Available: **Year-round**

CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES Grade 5

Kortright offers students a unique opportunity to observe and understand sustainable technology through renewable energy demonstrations. A hike along our Innovation Trail showcases interactive, practical, everyday, alternative energy sources. An appreciation of conservation is developed through hands-on exercises, challenging students to produce the energy generated by solar panels and wind turbines, through the use of a bike or hand pump.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**
Available: **Year-round**

WATER SYSTEMS Grade 7 and 8

Students examine both man-made and natural water systems at Kortright to increase their understanding that water is crucial to life and a valuable resource that needs to be managed sustainably. Activities include dipping for aquatic invertebrates and water quality testing that can reveal the health of the environment, and studying the water conservation measures currently employed at the Centre.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**
Available: **April to November**



Additional programs including secondary-level programming can be found at www.kortright.org/education



Tommy Thompson Park

www.tommythompsonpark.ca

Minutes from downtown Toronto, unique opportunities abound for your students at Tommy Thompson Park. Wildflower meadows, cottonwood forests, and coastal marshes are just some of the habitats students will explore on their field trip to this urban wilderness. Experience the phenomenon of bird migration and gain an appreciation for the wildlife living in our cities.

ANIMAL DETECTIVES Grade 2 and 3

Become an Animal Detective as you explore Tommy Thompson Park's trails looking for animal clues.



Duration: 2 hours or, 4 hours + lunch break
Available: Mid-April to October

WETLANDS: SOAK IT UP Grade 2 to 8

Soak up the wonder of wetlands by immersing your class in an incredible story of habitat restoration. Students experience wetlands first-hand while learning about nature's own filter.



Duration: 2 hours or, 4 hours + lunch break
Available: May to October

CITY LIFE, WILDLIFE Grade 4 to 6

Get to know the urban wildlife living in Toronto's backyard on an interactive hike that includes a habitat investigation, a close look at invasive species, and a reflection on the impacts of human activity in natural spaces.



Duration: 2 hours or, 4 hours + lunch break
Available: Mid-April to October

TORONTO'S WINTER BIRDS Grade 4 to 7

Students experience winter from the perspective of birds who deliberately migrate to Toronto for the winter only. Toronto's Winter Birds begins and ends at the park entrance area. No school bus needed! Binoculars provided.



Duration: Half day (2.5 hours)
Available: Mid-May to October

WINGED MIGRATION Grade 4 to 7

Hone your observation and data collection skills by becoming immersed in the natural phenomenon of bird migration. Learn more about the migratory species of Tommy Thompson Park and what we can do to protect them.



Duration: 2 hours or, 4 hours + lunch break
Available: Mid-April to October

Additional programs including secondary-level programming can be found at www.tommythompsonpark.ca/education



Claireville Outdoor Education Centre

www.trca.ca/ClairevilleEducation

Step into the woods with Claireville's talented teaching team and nurture your students' natural curiosity in the great outdoors! Conveniently located on the borders of Toronto, York Region and Peel Region, this expansive conservation area provides forests, grasslands, valleys, wetlands and the Humber River as the perfect canvas for learning!

APPRECIATION OF NATURE Kindergarten

This program introduces young students to nature in a gentle, enjoyable way through activities, games, observation, and play. Students will be immersed in nature and encouraged to use their senses to explore the natural world around them.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **Year-round**

ART IN NATURE Kindergarten to Grade 8

A perfect setting for students to explore the world of ephemeral art: art made directly on the land using available natural objects. Students will explore the natural landscapes, collect found materials, and use this setting to inspire their artistic creations.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **Year-round**

NEEDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVING THINGS Grade 1

Students will investigate the characteristics and basic needs of all living things, including humans, through the use of games, activities, and educational props. Students will learn to identify groups of animals and plants, using features they can distinguish through sight, sound, and touch, and will gain an understanding of the differences between living and non-living things.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **April - November**



GROWTH AND CHANGES IN ANIMALS Grade 1 to 2

This program is designed to introduce students to the amazing characteristics and adaptations of animals. Students will learn the differences and similarities between mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. They will also explore several habitats outdoors and actively participate through games and hands-on activities.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **Year round**

GROWTH AND CHANGES IN PLANTS Grade 3

In this program, students will observe a wide variety of native and non-native plants in their natural environment and learn about what plants need to survive and how they support our ecosystems. Students will participate in hands-on activities, where they will explore plant life cycles, seasonal changes in plants and explore different habitats that showcase a wide variety of plant populations here in Claireville.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **April - November**

INSTINCTS FOR SURVIVAL Grade 4 to 8

A fun interactive game of predator and prey! This program immerses students into the lives of animals living in the forest. Students become carnivores, omnivores, or herbivores in an exciting and active simulation game. Through a fun hands-on experience, students will explore predator-prey relationships, food chains and energy pyramids.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **Year-round**

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL Grade 4 to 8

Working in teams, students will build shelters and fires to help keep their teammates warm! Participants will end the program with a warm fire and a discussion of how to stay safe in the elements! Learn how to survive in the wilderness!



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **Year-Round**

MAPPING AND ORIENTEERING Grade 4 to 8

In this active program, students are introduced to the basic features found on most maps. Students will learn and practise map and orienteering skills such as:

- Reading a map
- Orientating maps in the correct direction
- Operating a compass
- Following a map route

Starting with a small practice course to hone their skills, students will then work in teams to find their way to a series of control points.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **Year-round**





Nature Centre at Bruce's Mill

www.trca.ca/BrucesMillNatureCentre

Embrace the seasons, inspire the natural curiosity of learners and get them outside at The Nature Centre at Bruce's Mill! Nestled within the Bruce's Mill Conservation Park in York Region, dedicated outdoor educators guide your students through the forest and along the trails, bringing curriculum to life and making lasting memories.

DISCOVER MAPLE SYRUP Pre-school to Grade 8

Enjoy the sweetness of spring in Ontario! Come experience historic and modern methods of making maple syrup. Learn how to identify maple trees and see how they are tapped for sap. Students complete their visit with a maple syrup tasting.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **Late February to early April**

BIRD INQUIRY Grade 5 to 8

Take flight into the science of birds! Students will explore the remarkable diversity of bird species that live in, or migrate through, this part of Ontario. They'll investigate bird adaptations through hands-on activities, gaining insight into avian biology and behavior. Then, with field guides, binoculars, and expert observation techniques, they'll head out on a guided birding expedition to try their new skills in a real-world setting.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **April to November**

EXPLORING THE FOREST WITH GRANDMA SPRUCE

Kindergarten to Grade 1

Listen closely—Grandma Spruce has a story to tell. Students will explore their connection to the natural world from the perspective of one of the oldest trees in the park. With hands-on forest discoveries, outdoor games, and thoughtful conversations, they'll uncover their role, relationship, and responsibility to the environment. This immersive experience sparks curiosity, deepens respect, and invites students to see nature in a new way.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **April to November**



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION Grade 7 to 8

Be a citizen scientist for a day! Students will support local ecosystems through activities like removing introduced species, planting native plants, or prepping seeds to grow at school. On the trail, they'll collect valuable data for conservation databases and learn how everyday observations fuel science. Along the way, they'll explore why community science matters and how they can keep making a difference after the field trip ends.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **April to November**

GROWTH AND CHANGES IN ANIMALS Grade 1 to 3

What would it be like to be a Northern Cardinal living in the forest? Learners will find out as they are guided through the life cycles of living organisms such as mammals, birds, amphibians, and insects. Through a story-telling approach, students will explore the impact that humans and animals have on one another.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **April to November**

NATURE ART Grade 3 to 8

From towering trees to tiny textures, artists around the world find inspiration outdoors. In this program, students will explore how artists use the natural world to explore colour, composition, and technique. They will discover examples from renowned artists and create a work of their own using materials like watercolours, pastels, pencils, and even elements from the landscape itself.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **April to November**

INSTINCTS FOR SURVIVAL Grade 4 to 8

Explore animal interactions and food webs through an engaging predator-prey game! Following an introduction to animal habitats and communities, and the rules for safe game play, participants will assume the role of a carnivore, omnivore, or herbivore. Learners will also discuss the impact of climate change and human activities on wildlife populations.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **April to November**

WATERSHEDS Grade 7 to 8

Dive deeper into the water cycle! Students will review the water cycle, then head outdoors to investigate how water moves through a watershed system. Using maps and field observations, they'll identify their local watershed and examine the physical and ecological factors that influence watershed health. This program emphasizes the science behind human impact on freshwater systems.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**
Available: **April to November**





The Meadoway

<https://themeadoway.ca/education/>

The Meadoway is transforming a 16-kilometre stretch of hydro corridor in Scarborough into urban greenspace and meadowland that will become one of Canada's largest linear urban parks. Linking 7 river systems, 15 parks, 16 kilometers of trails, 13 neighborhoods, 100 hectares of meadow and over 1,000 species of flora and fauna, it is the perfect location for students to see a leading-edge environmental project in action and the ideal place for students to find their place in that work.

MEADOW DETECTIVES Grades 1 to 3

Students become detectives as they explore The Meadoway to identify plant species, animal clues, and more! Concepts covered may include animal and plant life cycles, seasonal behaviours, and what people can do to protect wildlife habitats. Let us know what related topics you're covering in class, and we will reinforce and complement your lessons during the field trip!



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **Year-round**

SOILS IN THE CITY Grade 3

Students learn about soil components, conduct a filtration experiment, and discover how native meadow plants encourage healthy soil ecosystems. They also discover the significance of native meadow plant roots that enable soil to provide homes for wildlife.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **April to November**

MEADOW HABITATS FOR A BIODIVERSE TORONTO Grades 4 to 6

This program provides a unique opportunity for students to better understand urban wildlife who live in their neighbourhoods and would enhance any unit plan focused on biodiversity or habitats. Students learn about meadow habitats, how naturally occurring meadows may differ from this restored meadow situated in a hydro corridor, as well as the diversity of life in the city and positive impacts people can have on local ecological health.



Duration: **Half day (2 hrs)**

Available: **April to November**

CUSTOM PROGRAMS Kindergarten to Grade 8

Bring your students to The Meadoway for a simple nature walk, habitat exploration, restoration tour, or other program content that aligns with what you're teaching in the classroom! We'd love to share the wonders of The Meadoway with you and your group!

Duration: **Flexible**

Available: **Year-round**

Additional programs including secondary-level programming can be found at themeadoway.ca/education



In-Class Visits

www.trca.ca/in-class-visits

Let us bring nature education to you! Our passionate, knowledgeable instructors and Ontario Certified Teachers (OCT), come prepared with all the required tools and materials to deliver relevant, hands-on experiences to students through curriculum-linked programs and community-based action projects. Early registration is recommended, as these in-class programs fill up quickly.

Watershed on Wheels

Free In-School Programs

KINDER SEASON Junior and Senior Kindergarten

Students have fun playing outdoors while engaging with their natural surroundings!



Duration: **Varies by Region**
Available: **Year-round**

LEAF LINKS Grade 3

Students learn about the important roles that trees play and have the opportunity to use simple identification keys to learn about the characteristics of local plant life and different tree species. Using the trees from your own community or school ground leverages prior knowledge and allows the learning to continue once we leave.



Duration: **Varies By Region**
Available: **Year-round**

WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS Grade 3, 4 and 7

Through a variety of engaging and interactive activities, students learn about the important roles that wetlands play and explore the types of animals and plants living in Ontario's wetlands.



Duration: **Varies By Region**
Available: **Year-round**

INSTINCTS FOR SURVIVAL Grade 4 and 7

Experience life on the wild side! Students assume the role of a native species to simulate predator-prey relationships in an active, outdoor food-web game. This popular game reinforces the concepts of habitats and communities, provision of basic needs, food chains, trophic levels, energy flow, and pyramid of numbers. It also looks at human impacts on animal survival.



Duration: **Varies By Region**
Available: **Year-round**



CLIMATE CALAMITY Grade 5 and 7

Students learn to separate fact from fiction through climate change-themed games and activities demonstrating how humans may be contributing to our changing climate. Staff will suggest concrete ways for students to get involved and take action themselves.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **Year-round**

Additional programs including secondary-level programming can be found at www.trca.ca/wow

Native Plants Program

Free Field Trip Program

Grade 3 to 8

Looking for a curriculum-linked, hands-on, nature-based program that is free? Your students will practise stewardship as they learn about the importance of locally native plants and the potential impact of introduced species.

The goal of the program is to increase students' awareness of the value of local ecosystems in maintaining the ecological health of our region.

Visit our website to learn more and to register:

www.trca.ca/in-class-visits



Beyond The Park

In-School Programs

WHAT'S THE WORD, URBAN BIRD? Grade 1 to 6

Birds are all around us, but how well do you know them? In this program, students will find out just how fascinating our feathered friends are. Focusing on bird species found across the GTA, participants will explore the world of birds through sight and sound, discovering what makes them unique!



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **Year-round**

WETLANDS MATTER Grade 1 to 6

Why are wetland habitats in the GTA so important? Through games and activities, participants will learn what a wetland is, why it matters, and how we can be part of wetland conservation. Let's discover the world of wetlands together!



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **Year-round**

NATURE IN THE CITY Grade 1 to 6

Learn about the amazing wildlife that calls the Greater Toronto Area home! Participants' understanding of local urban wildlife will grow through activities, games, and opportunities to explore fur and skull replica specimens. Emphasis will be placed on the concept of sharing city spaces with wildlife and ensuring their needs are met alongside ours.



Duration: **Half day (2 hours)**

Available: **Year-round**

Additional programs including secondary-level programming can be found at www.trca.ca/in-class-visits



Albion Hills Field Centre, Caledon



Claremont Nature Centre, Pickering



Lake St. George Field Centre, Richmond Hill



OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS

Immerse your students in nature at any of our 3 easy-to-access centres across the GTA.

Bring curriculum to life, bond as a class, and develop student independence and maturity, all while making memories they will truly never forget. With unique and private access to environmental resources like snowshoeing, skiing and hiking trails, bikes and canoes, kettle lakes, pontoons and floating classrooms, rich, untouched forests, and babbling streams, your students will be talking about this trip until they graduate.

Thousands of teachers and schools have trusted us to help them bring more life to learning. With over 60 years delivering programs to the hundreds of thousands of students who have come through our doors, we have curated the best experiences across 5 exciting trip themes.



Overnight Programs

Choose your theme and let our passionate and experienced teaching teams build the perfect itinerary rooted in seasonal outdoor experiences that supports classroom learning and helps achieve your teaching goals.

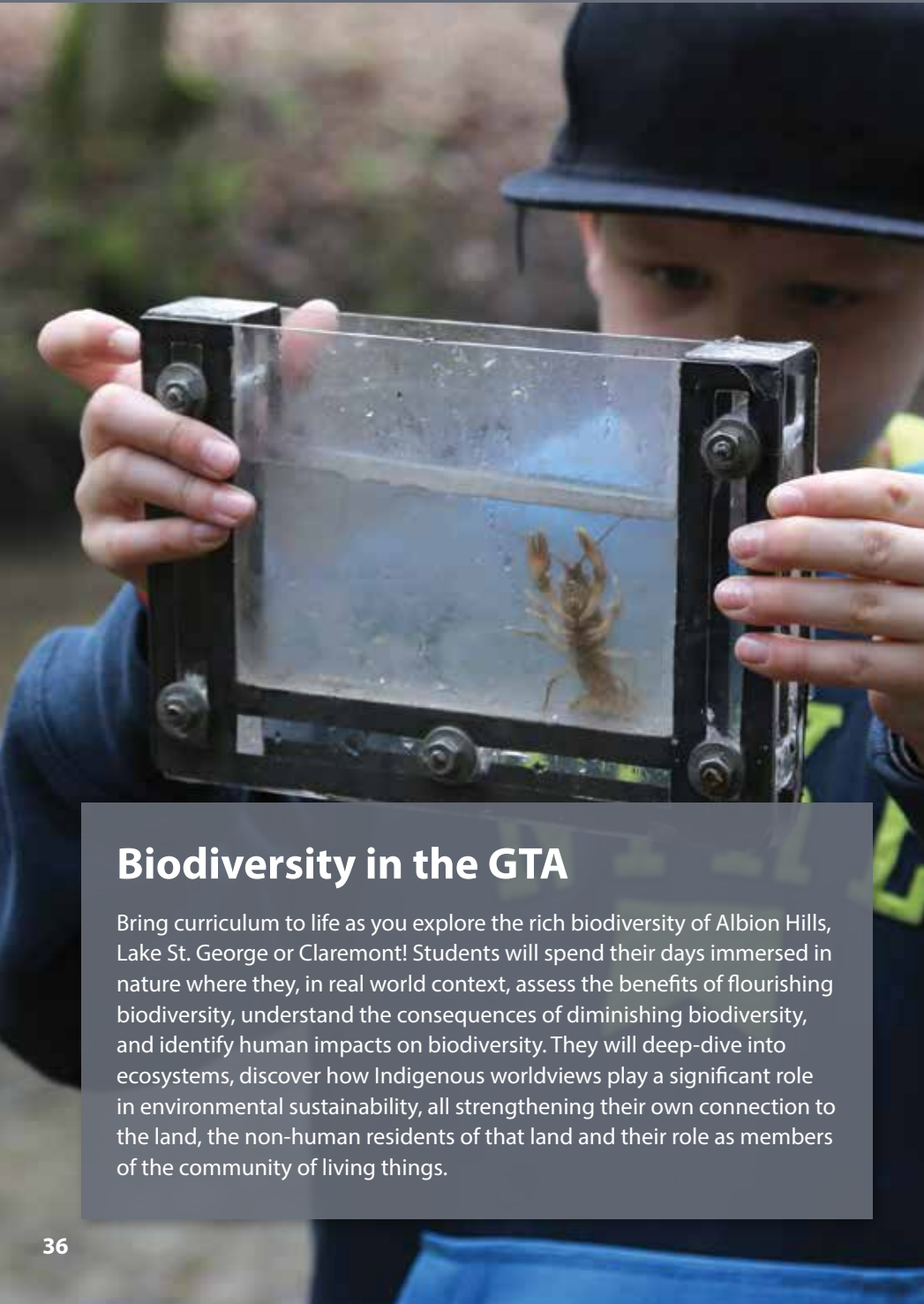
All visits to our overnight centres come with:

- Crowd-pleasing homestyle meals prepared with love by our cooks in our commercial kitchens,
- Private and secure accommodations with the-most-fun bunk beds for students and quiet, private rooms for teachers.
- Access to all resources with programs delivered by highly-skilled, seriously fun teaching staff.

All just a short bus ride away!

Themed Packages

1. **Biodiversity in the GTA** (page 36)
2. **STEM in the Wild** (page 38)
3. **Natural Leadership** (page 40)
4. **Outdoor Recreation** (page 42)
5. **The Perfect Middle School Trip** (page 44)



Biodiversity in the GTA

Bring curriculum to life as you explore the rich biodiversity of Albion Hills, Lake St. George or Claremont! Students will spend their days immersed in nature where they, in real world context, assess the benefits of flourishing biodiversity, understand the consequences of diminishing biodiversity, and identify human impacts on biodiversity. They will deep-dive into ecosystems, discover how Indigenous worldviews play a significant role in environmental sustainability, all strengthening their own connection to the land, the non-human residents of that land and their role as members of the community of living things.

A 3 day, 2 night trip with activities such as:

BIODIVERSITY INVESTIGATIONS:

Students engage in monitoring activities that explore the rich biodiversity of the area. They will explore bioindicators and analyze their findings to assess the area's environmental health, gaining tools, understanding and knowledge to repeat the activity at school or in their community.

POND, LAKE OR STREAM STUDY:

Through observation, measurement, experimentation and collection of biological and physical data, students examine the aquatic environment. After interpreting the results, young scientists will then determine if the ecosystem is healthy and biologically diverse.

ANIMAL HABITAT SIMULATIONS:

Students are immersed in the lives of animals and their habitats! Through simulation games and active, outdoor play students learn about the lives of animals, their habitats and the interactions of all living things.

EVENING PROGRAMS:

Nighttime brings even more opportunity to explore the biodiversity of an area. Seasonally specific interpreted night hikes like Frog Watch, Bat Study or Owl Prowl allow a deep focus on the exciting nightlife of nocturnal species.



Your trip is inclusive of the delivery of all programs and the resources required, all meals and snacks, and accommodations. All themed packages are available at any TRCA Overnight Centre.



A 3 day, 2 night trip with programs about:

SCIENCE:

Become global scientists through citizen science projects, conduct investigations to learn about interactions in the environment and dive deep into water systems through programs like Frog Watch, Stream Study, Fish Management and Wetland Wonders.

TECHNOLOGY:

Apply practical use of geographical positioning systems (GPS), citizen science applications like iNaturalist, and examine how technology has changed throughout time with exciting programs like Geocaching, BioBlitz and Nature Photography.

ENGINEERING:

Whether it's beavers, ants or birds, the humble human can take notes on form, function, design, flight, and systems in action from nature's best engineers. Through engaging programs like Bird Study, Wilderness Survival, Streambank Investigations and even Snowshoeing, students will explore and appreciate the fundamentals of engineering.

MATH:

Naturally integrated into every program, your visit will support the socio-emotional learning aspect of math by using mathematical concepts in the natural world! Build on number sense, collect and analyze data, expand spatial sense and observe patterns...naturally.



Your trip is inclusive of the delivery of all programs and the resources required, all meals and snacks, and accommodations. All themed packages are available at any TRCA Overnight Centre.

STEM in the Wild

Adapted to the curriculum and grade level of your class, and curated to your specific teaching goals, explore STEM through nature! Provide the unique setting needed to nurture confidence and challenge problem-solving and soft skill development in practical applications while advancing the scientific, technological and mathematical concepts your students need to succeed. This theme is a fantastic opportunity to reinforce the connection between humans, nature and the swiftly advancing field of STEM-based work.



A 3 day, 2 night trip with programs about:

TEAMWORK:

Lead with understanding and compassion! Empathy and communication are built through team-based activities like Low-Ropes, Group Dynamics and Mini-Olympics. Students to practise teamwork while working toward a common goal.

LEADERSHIP:

Students have a chance to showcase their budding leadership skills and learn from both their peers and our expert leaders. Programs like Leadership Campfire and Night Hike make practising to be a leader challenging, yet fun and restorative.

CONFIDENCE:

Strong leaders are compassionate and understanding, but they are also confident, decisive and resilient – build their confidence and challenge their decision-making skills with exciting programs like Wilderness Survival and a GPS Scavenger Hunt while they work with their peers.



Your trip is inclusive of the delivery of all programs and the resources required, all meals and snacks, and accommodations. All themed packages are available at any TRCA Overnight Centre.

Natural Leadership

Bring out the natural leader in everyone with this focused trip that builds confidence, resilience, adaptability, empathy, integrity, and strong communication skills. The natural setting and shared living experience are the perfect environment to challenge students' self-awareness, and foster optimism and patience free from the interruption of screens or socials. Arrive as middle-schoolers and leave as leaders!



A 3 day, 2 night overnight trip to get moving outside:

SPRING AND FALL RECREATION:

Whether it's biking, hiking, paddling or outdoor games, there are endless opportunities to breathe in the fresh air, practise skills and work as a team. With all equipment provided, thoughtful and inclusive lessons taught by expert teachers, students will stay engaged and leave with a deeper connection to the outdoors.

WINTER RECREATION:

Winter provides great opportunities to get blood flowing and feel present in nature. With cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter biking and hiking, your students will walk away more confident, more optimistic and with a new appreciation for the joy of winter.



Outdoor Recreation

Step away from the classroom and into the wild, where students build confidence and connection through movement, exploration, and shared adventures. With space to unplug, breathe deeply, and move their bodies, students discover the joy of active living while developing coordination, perseverance, and connection to the land.

Outdoor Recreation is more than play—it's a pathway to stronger minds, healthy lifestyles, and lasting memories.

Your trip is inclusive of the delivery of all programs and the resources required, all meals and snacks, and accommodations. All themed packages are available at any TRCA Overnight Centre.



A 3 day, 2 night overnight trip with programs about:

GROUP BONDING:

3 days together really changes things. Making memories around the fire, eating family-style at the dinner table, hiking together, playing together and learning together in nature will bond your class like never before. Students will have more empathy, a deeper understanding and newfound respect for each other.

CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP:

Away from the classroom, students step into roles shaped by the landscape around them—reading the weather, navigating through the woods, or connecting around a campfire. These moments, grounded in real experience, help leadership grow in quiet, steady ways like roots taking hold in the forest floor.

HANDS-ON LEARNING:

Immersed in nature, students develop a rich understanding of concepts like biodiversity, ecosystems and water resources directly surrounded by forests, meadows, water, and sky. This trip encourages curiosity and invites students to observe and ask questions. It's a shift in pace and perspective, one that deepens understanding and builds lasting insight through meaningful, hands-on exploration.



Your trip is inclusive of the delivery of all programs and the resources required, all meals and snacks, and accommodations. All themed packages are available at any TRCA Overnight Centre.

The Perfect Middle School Trip

With 60 years of experience delivering exceptional overnight field trips, we offer more than just a great time—we provide a vital part of middle-school education.

Whether you're building relationships, confidence, connection to nature, or looking for new ways for every student to shine, these trips will engage adolescents in their own development as they navigate through, and find their place in, the natural world.

Our Overnight Centres

All three overnight centres provide accommodations in comfortable, climate-controlled dormitory rooms. Teacher rooms have en suite washrooms. Private rooms for students, additional teacher rooms, or non-gendered rooms are available upon request.

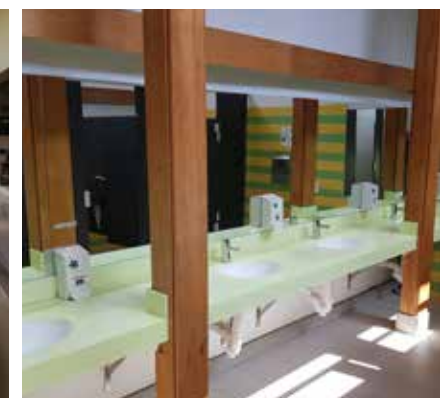
The centres provides healthy, fresh meals and snacks prepared on site by our professional cooks in our commercial kitchens. Dietary restrictions will be accommodated and arranged for your group in your pre-trip planning process. Meals will not be repeated during your visit, so everyone can enjoy the variety.

If you have students or colleagues with additional needs, our staff will arrange accommodations. TRCA's overnight education programs are inclusive, culturally responsive and flexible to meet the needs of your students.



Albion Hills Field Centre, Caledon

Albion Hills Field Centre is a welcoming and spacious chalet-style building, built of cedar and granite, and located within Albion Hills Conservation Park. The fresh and inviting landscape lies within the Humber Headwaters region, part of the environmentally significant Oak Ridges Moraine. The centre sleeps up to 45 students and four teachers.





Lake St. George Field Centre, Richmond Hill

Lake St. George Field Centre is an historic homestead on a beautiful kettle lake. The private access site has multiple buildings, including two dormitories, a dining hall, and a boathouse. The lush and peaceful landscape lies within the Humber Headwaters region, part of the environmentally significant Oak Ridges Moraine. Each dormitory sleeps up to 34 students and four teachers, for a total capacity of 68 students and 8 teachers.



Claremont Nature Centre, Pickering

Claremont Nature Centre is a cedar log building with a spacious lounge, wood-burning fireplace, dining area and classroom near the cold-water streams and meadows in the Duffins Creek watershed. The centre can accommodate up to 54 students and four visiting teachers.



GET OUTSIDE

with TRCA Camps

Summer Day Camps

Winter Camps

March Break Camps

Overnight Camps

PA Day Camps

Conveniently located across the GTA!

trca.ca/camps



ELEMENTARY TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Expand your teaching toolkit with TRCA's nature-based professional development opportunities. Our courses build skills and knowledge through experiential learning and proven teaching methods.

Offerings include:

- Inquiry-Based, Emergent and Experiential Learning Outside
- Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies
- Get Outside! Practical Tips for Outdoor Learning
- Paddle and Pedagogy: Experiential Teaching Through Canoeing

Full-day or half-day workshops are offered at fully equipped educational facilities. Certification and/or licencing are available in appropriate areas, upon completion.

For information on programs, dates and locations, visit:
www.trca.ca/learning/adult

OUR EDUCATION CENTRES

Day Programs

The Village at Black Creek - Toronto

Kortright Centre for Conservation - Vaughan

Tommy Thompson Park - Toronto

The Nature Centre at Bruce's Mall - Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Meadoway - Scarborough

Claireville Outdoor Education Centre - Brampton

Overnight Programs

Albion Hills Field Centre - Caledon

Claremont Nature Centre - Pickering

Lake St. George Field Centre - Richmond Hill

In-Class Visits

Watershed on Wheels - Your School

Beyond The Park - Your School

Native Plants Program - Your School

HOW TO REACH US

for inquiries, bookings and more information



PHONE: **416-667-6295**

Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm

EMAIL: **vservices@trca.ca**

WEB: **www.trca.ca/learning**



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