Camping Standards

Summer

Standards for Grades 4 –12

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision
For comprehensive outdoor education equipment lists please refer to the *Yukon Outdoor Education Resource Book* available though the Resource Centre #RB0536Y. **All participants must have:** • Aggressive soled, solid and broken-in shoes/boots, • Sun hat and recommend a toque, • Rain gear, • Suitable layers of clothing, • Extra change of clothing, • Suitable sleeping bag, • Sun protection, and • Personal medication (where necessary) • Communication Equipment (Satellite or Radio phone as appropriate for location) – For more information on communications, refer to General Guidelines for Outdoor Education. **Group equipment must include:**	• Program must be planned in detail with contingency plans for inclement weather. Program activities must be age and skill level appropriate. • Refer to the *Outdoor Education Planning Kit* for other applicable Standards and Guidelines (Hiking and Backpacking, Canoeing, etc.). **Prior to the camping trip students should receive instruction regarding:** • How to recognize and treat hypothermia/hyperthermia, • Fire safety, • Bear safety, • Minimal impact camping methods, • Menu planning, • Proper clothing**,** and • Camp safety rules (see below) • Water Safety • Sanitation including precautions against Giardia • Search Protocol **Prior to the camping trip students must**	• At least two leaders must have current first-aid certificates (see *Outdoor Education-General Standards/ Guidelines* for first-aid requirements) • Recommended Leader:Students ratios. Grades 4-9 1:6 (min. 3 leaders) Grades 10-12 1:8 (min. 2 leaders) • Duties of leaders should be clearly outlined by the teacher. • A buddy system should be used to ensure student safety. • Male and female leaders should carry out night checks. • A vehicle for emergency purposes should be accessible at base camp. • Designate an adult to accompany an injured student to hospital. This must not be the "in charge" leader. • Where appropriate alert First Nations, Wardens, Rangers, and/or other officials that your group is in the area and for how long. • Group Leaders will be knowledgeable

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision
• First Aid kit(s) *See Outdoor Education Planning Kit for suggested contents.* • If cooking on stoves, use propane/liquid gas type stoves, • Matches, waterproofed in 3 places, • Shovel/trowel, • Bear spray - leader use only (Minimum number as per leader/student ratios in Supervision section), • Adequate and safe water supply, • Shelters (tents, tarps etc.), and • Latrine materials (where required). An equipment check must be done prior to departure. **Environmental Concerns** (site selection, campfires, soaps, waste disposal etc.) • All outdoor education activities should be conducted in a manner that minimizes the impact on the environment. • The *Into the Wilderness* brochure published by the Department of Renewable Resources, should be followed. A copy is in the *Outdoor Education Planning Kit* and additional copies can be obtained from the Department of Renewable Resources. • Camping site selection should attempt to minimize the risks associated with	**demonstrate:** • Proper use of camping equipment (stoves, tents etc.). **When group first arrives at site:** • Assessment and minimization of the likelihood of bear contact. • Camp layout and camp boundaries must be established with the group, • If possible eating and sleeping areas should be separated by 100 meters, • Behavioral expectations, boundaries for activities, and assembly procedures must be established with the group, • A process to account for students and to identify any students who may be missing must be established with the group, • Search protocols should be reviewed, • Camp rules must be outlined. **Camp rules should include**: • All food items, gum, sunscreens, repellants and cosmetics must not be taken into tents or kept in tents at night, • At night food must be stored in airtight containers and moved at least 100m away from nearest tent, • Students only use saws or knives under supervision, • Use of axes is an adult responsibility • For grades 4-7 filling and lighting	of, and skilled in safe camping techniques. • Where appropriate, leaders will be skilled in wilderness survival camping techniques • Refer to attached Appendix 11 Outdoor Cooking Standards

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision
leaning (falling) trees, wasp nests, bird nests, bears and other natural hazards.	camp stoves is an adult responsibility, • Students filling and lighting camp stoves should be under constant visual supervision, and • No open flame in or near tents.	

Camping Standards

Winter

Standards for Grades 5 –12
Standards for Grade 9 - 12

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision
Individual: • Emergency fire starting kit • Weather appropriate clothing and equipment (checklist) • -20C winter sleeping bag or 2 good summer bags with equivalent temp. range • bivy-sacks may extend temperature of sleeping system. They may also accumulate extra moisture. • closed cell sleeping pad (1/2inch) **Group:** • Wall tent • Appropriate frame/rope/support Wood stove/liquid fueled stove/propane/fittings • Table(s) • Back/side of stove and floor heat protection • Floor tarp(s)for sleeping tents. • Nail puller for spikes used as wood frame security in windy areas. • Rope lashing, axe(s), saw(s) **Snow shelters, igloos, snow caves, quinzhees** • terrain assessment for shelter construction and avalanche potential. • tough shovels for student use and	• Prior discussion on hypothermia, frostbite and trenchfoot. • LNT camping, waste management and ethics • Students can help in wall tent erection, knot tying and lashing tent frames • If cutting dry trees for the tent frame use saws • managing snow: wall tent base, shelter construction, kitchen area • heat shields behind/beside and beneath wall tent stove • stove pipes screwed and/or wired • bottom of wood tent frames spiked • dress like an onion, in layers • limit cotton in any item of winter clothing • emergency tent evacuation plan and rehearsal • winter diets have elevated calorie needs • plan for regular eating, food consumption and fluid replacement • buddy system, general awareness, shelter construction • ensure adequate ventilation in shelters • toques, scarves and tubes for enhanced warmth • no stoves or lanterns in shelters	**Ratios:** • Grades 5-8 ratios of 1:5 required • Grades 9-12 ratios 1:8 required **Leaders** • Two experienced adult leaders are required on all overnight camping trips including male /female. • First aid certification and kit • Seasonal and non-seasonal familiarity with the area of higher risk terrain. • Terrain classification-SIMPLE • Avalanche course completion required in avalanche areas or if terrain analysis requires trip leaders with training. • Previous winter camping experience • group travel procedures(see van, activity) • previous camping experience with grade appropriate students • hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot – ongoing checks using buddy system. • check all clothing and equipment prior to trip departure

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision
type of snow • manageable terrain and useable snow conditions are required • snow cave and igloo building snow often occurs adjacent to higher risk avalanche terrain • water-proof outer wear if snow caving or igloo building.	• fuel containers well marked *North American fuel containers serve as water bottles in Europe. • candle and candle lantern used away from sleeping bags • secure equipment for overnight snowfalls • check for leaning and wind-thrown trees • alternate water treatment if not boiling water.	• gender appropriate supervisor in each tent for over-nighting in wall tents and cabins. • wood stoves are restocked under adult supervision when grade appropriate. • emergency escape plans are discussed for tent fires and shelter collapse. • wood and personal gear are well organized, outside, or against inside walls • drying racks are appropriately placed • time and activity boundaries set • snow shelter construction, 1 student inside at a time, buddy helping • personal well-being sunglasses, sun screen, chap stick, fluid replacement • snow shelters are collapsed immediately after use • constant re-hydration reminders • axe and/or saw use discussion • check students regularly, provide for contingencies, adequate fluid intake • Camp out of known higher risk areas • Site location and terrain hazard assessment knowledge. • Green tree boughs should not be used for bedding, in high use areas. • Leaders should be aware of ice formation variables and layered ice (aufeis) development in area. • Cook in a central kitchen area to monitor stove fuel use, food consumption and waste management. • For the purpose of accepted field practice use only one stove type and fuel type for the group

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision

Additional Notes for Winter Camping Standards:

Winter Camping most often occurs with van support to cooking shelters, cabins and/or wall tents, snow caves, quinzhees or snow trenches as shelters. It may also include self supported activities such as skiing and snowshoeing as well as mechanical support such as snow machines, to and from these same overnight options.

Each of these learning support activities and shelter arrangements has inherent hazards and associated risks which need to be documented and managed. Hazard definition, risk assessment, parent/guardian acknowledgement of risk and documentation of leadership judgment is critical to current outdoor education programming.

Winter environments present many experiential learning opportunities which promote and encourage physical fitness, environmental awareness, traditional First Nations lifestyle learning and a practical application of many curriculum materials that have been defined in a more theoretical manner, in the indoor classroom.

However, outdoor education leadership in the winter requires comprehensive planning because of changeable environmental conditions, the diverse composition of school groups and their numbers, the lack of standard opportunities for teacher/leader qualification, limited documentation of outdoor education protocols and no formal assessment and evaluation processes.

Winter camping qualifications and knowledge most often evolve from personal experience. As a result teacher/leaders need to consider these standards and guidelines carefully, compare personal decision making with other outdoor educators and document agendas, environmental and group conditions and

decision making on a daily basis. Daily log book entries must become normal risk management procedure.

Winter activities range from shorter science, social studies, physical education and geography discovery classes in the school yard to snowshoeing, alpine skiing, snowboarding, machine sledding and cross-country skiing adjacent to the school or further away. Winter camping may incorporate any of these activities which may include remaining out overnight for extended periods of time in a variety of venues depending upon programming.

Over-night stays may be facilitated in cabins, wall tents, traditional First Nations shelters, lean-twos, quinzhees, igloos and snow caves or any combination of these shelter options depending upon snow conditions, terrain suitability, weather suitability and group leadership and preparedness.
** Where, when and how outdoor education activities are conducted will determine the authorization and documentation requirements needed.

Class oriented schoolyard activities are a first stage whereas multiple period, day and multi-day activities require different levels of authorization and documentation.

***The temperature and wind chill limits set out in the Outdoor Education Planning kit are specific to school groups when using vans for travel.(Air temperature of -30 C or wind-chill equivalent).When using snowshoes and skis as an activity base for outdoor education expeditions, away from secure sources of shelter and warmth, use -20 C or wind-chill equivalent, as a cut-off temperature.

Temperature inversions and cold air drains down activity-site valleys may easily decrease local air temperatures significantly from weather report information available, e.g. Whitehorse airport.