



Dear Families - Welcome to FEAT & Forest Explorers 2024 @ Great Moose Adventures!

1. Forest Explorers & Adventure Team (FEAT) - The Program

Our goal with FEAT is to provide a unique Forest School experience that combines inquiry-based forest exploration, adventure-based recreational sports and Science for kids aged 9-14 for 1 or 2 days a week (Wednesdays or Thursdays) from 8:30am - 3:30pm, with options for early drop and late pick ups.

Here is what it will look like:

- Classic Forest School Activities = hiking, exploring, games, arts & crafts, drama, building projects and team building initiatives
- Adventure = Canoe Tripping in the Fall, including canoe instruction, portaging, campfire cooking & Backcountry cross-country skiing in the winter including ski instruction for beginners to advanced
- Science = Utilizing our amazing landscape the participants will take place in activities & lessons that focus on ['The Land Between' \(please check it out - it is really cool\)](#), where the students will facilitate projects to help conserve this amazing ecosystem and help some of the endangered species within this region
- Leadership = Red Cross first aid training (including remote wilderness scenarios), citizenship / community building with science projects and social interactions throughout, highschool volunteer hours, opportunities to interact with GMA Academy students (older & younger) and much more
- Physical Education = field games, ultimate frisbee, trail running and skiing with options to compete at local races with Great Moose Adventure's race team

Our hope is that FEAT is a program that:

- develops life long friendships & professional contacts - and possible careers (maybe future guides or teachers)
- allows the participants to become active members of a community with a common goal to help the world and have fun
- teaches about science (plant & animal habitat, geology, animal tracking, nature's language etc.)

-sparks a passion for outdoor adventure by providing opportunities to

- cross-country ski in backcountry (not your standard ski club experience - our advanced skiers seek out hills and fresh snow, while our beginners cruise the trails close to the lodge and the intermediates do everything in between)
- canoe trip - the ultimate character development event, swimming, rock jumping, campfire cooking
- develop leadership strategies, gain confidence and acquiring the hard skills to play safe (Red Cross first aid programming, risk assessment)
- Build physical fitness and endurance to be ready for any adventure

2. Forest Explorers - The Program

This is our youngest full day group for **kids aged 4 - 8!** These kiddos engage in meaningful play - all day! Our educators guide and nurture their natural curiosities and help to inspire them to be confident, independent, and kind humans. We facilitate long stretches of child-led, purposeful play & directed inquiry-based activities utilizing our STREAM curriculum (Science, Tools, Reading, Engineering, Art & Math) - using stories, games, drama, Rainbow Kids Yoga, music and nature children are exposed to imaginative, creative and educational learning opportunities. Plus - we begin the kids on their path to outdoor sports and adventure as a JR-FEAT program with opportunities to ski, canoe, swim, hike, build forts and much more.

Examples of our unique Forest Explorers Outdoor Education projects and activities include:

- Nocturnal Tunnel - journey through the tunnel to learn about diurnal, crepuscular and nocturnal creatures in Ontario
- Pollinators - making habitats and planting gardens, creating mini greenhouses, bee dancing
- Nature's Language - animal tracks and their stories, travelling the migration path of North American birds, scat identification and recreation
- Pond dipping - finding the minibeasts in the creek, learning about animal life cycles
- Safe mushroom exploration and spore printing
- Journey to the Wishing Tree
- Tree Identification - find a special tree, maple tree tapping and sap boiling
- Forest Art - dead wood monsters
- Spring flowers - dancing, seeding, art
- Scientist for a day
- Music in the forest - woodland marching band
- Seasonal celebrations - Thanksgiving mud kitchen feast, broom and scarecrow making, potions and teas

This is a 1 day or 2 day program - running on Wednesdays & Thursdays throughout the school year. The day runs from 8:30am - 3:30pm with options for early drop off (7:45am) and late pick up (4:30pm).

Children should be comfortable (and prepared) to be outside all day - however, we do have an indoor space available for super cold days and inclement weather.

3. Food

- Children will bring their own meals from home. No food sharing will be allowed.
- We are a nut-free environment, so please pack lunches accordingly
- Water - please bring as much water as possible in clearly marked water bottles. We suggest 2 separate bottles, so that you can keep one in a cooler space until the afternoon (refills are available at camp)
- Boomerang lunches only - we kindly ask that all participants take home everything that they bring, including garbage
- Fridges, microwaves, dishware and cutlery will not be available - please keep this in mind when packing daily lunches
- Outdoor life is super active, so please provide lots of tasty, good food

4. Communication

- An email will be sent out 1 week prior to the first day of the program with all the relevant information that you might need. All other information is found in the Parent Handbook
- Parents will have an opportunity for a quick chat during the morning drop-off & afternoon pick-up
- If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting with a Director, please send an email to directors@greatmooseadventures or call us at 705-687-3903 to book a time

5. Procedures

Drop-off/Pick-up -

-The day starts at 8:30am and ends at 3:30pm.

-Early drops are available from 7:45 onwards for \$5 a day

-Late pick ups are available until 4:30pm for \$5 a day.

Parents & participants will meet our Teachers at the beginning and end of day, at the Green House. If you have not arranged for an early drop off or late pick-up - please be on time.

For parents with younger children or children who have not been to Great Moose Adventures (or other programs) before, please prepare them for a happy good-bye, as parents are not allowed to accompany the kids to class. We will have staff available to escort the kids to their classrooms, but if you think this is going to be an issue - please consider whether your child is ready for this program.

6. Illness & Outbreak Guidelines

GMA's outbreak policies and procedures for our programs are based on the operational guidance given by the Ontario government and have been created following the advice and guidance of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

If a participant demonstrates an illness while attending a program, we will isolate the individual, and contact the families for pick up as soon as possible.

Handwashing & Hygiene

Regular reminders to wash hands and visual checks by teachers will be made to ensure that all children are maintaining good hygiene.

7. Sun Care

Children must wear sunscreen and ball caps throughout the day. Please apply sunscreen at home with your children before the program everyday. We will ask the children to reapply throughout the day. All participants will be encouraged to apply their own sunscreen, so it might be best to look for easy to apply sprays for the body and sticks for the face. If you do not want your child to wear sunscreen, please let us know.

8. Tick Checks

Tick checks will be done upon returning from an outdoor program. If a tick is found embedded in a child, our teachers will safely remove the tick. The tick will be kept on site and can be sent home if needed. We suggest carrying out tick checks on your child when they get home too.

9. Code of Conduct

- All participants must follow the above described guidelines to the best of their ability
- Self-screening - if any participant is feeling unwell during programming or at home, they must let an adult know asap.
- Participants are expected to adhere to the GMA Rules of Respect - Respect Nature, Staff, Yourself, Other Participants and GMA Property

10. Gear - what to bring?

Summer Clothing, Gear & Equipment

Please follow the list to the best of your abilities. Teachers will encourage participants to look after their belongings, hang-up any wet/damp gear and take home dirty or soiled belongings. Please label everything:

- water bottle (s)
- hat
- sunscreen
- bathing suit & towel
- indoor shoes - flip flops are ok
- shoes with closed toes
- rain jacket & pants
- long sleeved t-shirt & pants (lightweight and light colour for bug protection)
- extra shorts, socks and t-shirt
- extra underwear
- sweater/hoodie
- plastic bag for wet clothes

Fall Clothing, Gear & Equipment

- Rainsuit (top and bottoms)
- Rain boots (and a spare pair if possible)

- Hiking boots/running shoes (for outdoor use)
- Cap (& toque once the colder weather arrives)
- T-shirt and shorts
- Spare set of clothing
- Extra socks
- Warm sweater/fleece
- Sunscreen
- water bottle (s)
- Plastic bags (for wet/dirty gear)

Winter Clothing, Gear & Equipment

- Winter jacket
- Snow pants (if possible a spare pair too)
- Winter boots (if possible spare pair too)
- Toque
- Buff/balaclava/neck warmer
- Warm Mitts/Gloves x 2 pairs at minimum
- Warm sweater/fleece
- Warm socks (and 2 x spare pair too - **please no ankle socks**)
- Spare set of regular clothing
- Sunscreen (optional)
- water bottle(s)
- Plastic bags (for wet/dirty gear)

***Layering is the most important part to keeping warm and having a successful day.**

Base layer - *The layer next to your skin. Best to avoid cotton and use synthetic or wool fabrics*

Mid layer - *Warm sweater and pants - fleece works great*

Outer layer - *Waterproof and warm*

Spring Clothing, Gear & Equipment

For colder days:

- Winter jacket and/or rain jacket (with warm layers underneath)
- Snow pants and/or rain pants (with warm layers underneath)
- Winter boots (waterproof if possible - e.g. insulated rubber boots) + a spare pair if possible
- Toque
- Buff/neck warmer
- Mitts/Gloves x 2 pairs at minimum (waterproof is best)
- Warm sweater/fleece
- Warm socks (and 2 x spare pair - please no ankle socks)
- Spare set of clothing (including outerwear)
- Plastic bags for wet gear

As the weather warms up:

- Rain suit (top and bottom)
- Rain boots
- Cap

Here is a list of items that you do not need: cell phones, cameras, video games, junk food or candy, new or good clothing

11. Payments & Cancellations

- Full payment must be received to confirm your booking - however, payment plans can be available on special requests (with a deposit)
- \$67/per day x number of days in the session (no HST)
- Fall Session - 10 Sessions = \$670
- Winter Session - 8 Sessions = \$536
- Spring Session - 8 Sessions = \$536
- 10% discount if you sign up for all 3 Seasons of FEAT or Forest Explorers- from the beginning!
- No family discounts for multiple children
- All gear is included, except for cross-country ski sets - which be rented for \$5 a session

Cancellations & Refunds

At GMA, we provide refunds on any fees up to 14 days prior to the start of a program, with a 10% administration fee kept back. Once a program has started, we do not provide refunds for any of the following reasons: vacations, illness, or choosing to keep a child home from a program for any reason. Thank you for respecting our refund/cancellation policy

Payment Options

- Interac email transfers to directors@greatmooseadventures.com
- Credit Card with a 2.9% administration fee - [click here](#)
- Send a cheque to 'Great Moose Adventures Inc' (1368 Housey's Rapids Road, Gravenhurst, P1P 1R3)

12. Overnight Trips (for FEAT participants only)

To create a strong team dynamic and to 'big up' the adventure - we will be offering overnight camping trips:

Fall = 3 night Canoe Trip

Winter = 2 night Winter Camping Trip

Spring = 3 night Hiking Trip

Summer = Opportunities for 6 night / 7 day Canoe Trip

- all gear provided, except ski gear (which can be rented), sleeping bags & camp mats
- trips will take place around the weekends to avoid missing too much school (except during summer)
- Dates & Rates - TBD
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If you have any questions about the information provided in the handbook please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards.

Becki and Brad

