



Forest Class

Family Guide

2026 / 27

Land Acknowledgement

Great Moose Adventures acknowledges that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg Nation, including the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, collectively known as The Three Fires Confederacy, under the terms of The J. Collins land purchase of 1789 and The Williams Treaties of 1923. The Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Nation and the Moon River Métis have also walked on this territory over time. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.

We commit to the continuing education of Indigenous history, culture and contemporary issues. We are dedicated to deepening our understanding of truth in order to move forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people; their cultures, languages, wise teachings and ways of being that have shaped this land since time began.

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Who We Are

Great Moose Adventures (GMA) is an outdoor education centre located in Muskoka, Ontario, with 96 acres of pristine wilderness, 30 acres of conservation wetlands, 500 acres of adjoining Crown Land and the clear, calm Kashe River.

Rooted in our motto of 'Learning through Adventure' – where people learn and grow by experiencing new activities, our goal is to provide unique, customized, educational programming focusing on 'hands-on' learning, character development, healthy living and Canadian culture. Our educational programming takes the form of:

- [Forest Classes](#)
- Private day school for KG - Grade 8
- Educational summer day camp
- Wilderness canoe tripping
- Leadership camps and work experience opportunities
- Red Cross first aid training
- Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Outreach programs - in school & class trips

As a [Forest Class](#), we combine physical activities such as hiking, swimming & canoeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and field games, with inquiry-based, hands-on activities that include building challenges, scientific investigations, problem-solving activities, animal & plant study, team building scenarios, art projects and brain-body exercises.

We can offer:

- a dedicated team of onsite Directors - organized, creative and constantly adapting
- energetic, mature and passionate teachers - modelling growth mindsets and positive energy
- forest school initiatives focused on free-play & forest exploration
- outdoor education - science investigations, building challenges, reading & writing, math and social studies
- a safe space for kids to be kids - playing, exploring, making friends and having fun

Program Options & Age Groups

1. Forest Explorers & Adventure Team (FEAT)

Our goal with FEAT is to provide a unique Forest School experience that combines inquiry-based forest exploration with adventure-based recreational sports and science learning opportunities for **kids aged 9-14**. Here is what it will look like:

- Classic Forest School Activities = hiking, exploring, games, arts & crafts, drama, building projects & 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 = learn about plants & animals in the field
- Physical Education = field games, hiking, skiing, and so much more

FEAT is available on Wednesdays only from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

2. Forest Explorers

Forest Explorers is for **kids aged 4 - 8** who want to play outside, all day! Through outdoor play, our educators guide and nurture their natural curiosities and inspire them to be confident, independent, and kind humans. We facilitate long stretches of child-led, purposeful play mixed with directed inquiry-based activities utilizing stories, games, drama, Rainbow Kids Yoga, music and nature - all with the goal of encouraging 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 and much more.

Forest Explorers is available on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. A Half Day option is available on Thursdays (8:30 - Noon) for participants with Parents registered in the Forest Buddies program.

3. Forest Buddies (News this year!)

Our Forest Buddies program for **kids aged 2 & 3** encourages curiosity, connection, and confidence through child-led exploration in a natural forest setting. Each session offers opportunities for free play, nature discovery, sensory experiences, songs, stories, and seasonal activities inspired by the changing landscape. Children are encouraged to explore at their own pace—climbing, collecting, observing, building and developing a sense of wonder about the world around them.

Caregivers participate alongside their children, creating meaningful shared experiences while fostering independence, resilience, and a lifelong connection to nature. We have an indoor space available if needed :)

Forest Buddies is a Half-Day program (8:30 am - Noon) offered on Thursdays!

Dates, Rates & Payments

Our goal is to provide as many days for Forest Class as possible, recognizing that 'outdoors all day' can be challenging in our northern location. As such, we halt our Fall program in early November before the cold rain comes. We also take a break throughout most of May and June due to the blackflies and mosquitoes. Therefore, we have the following programming seasons:

- Fall - hot days, no bugs, harvest time, gorgeous colours & Halloween
- Winter - glorious outdoor play opportunities with an indoor warming space
- Early Spring - come get muddy and enjoy the forest as it comes back to life

Fall Full Days (FEAT & Forest Explorers) - 9 sessions x \$70 per day = \$630

Fall ½ Days (Forest Buddies & Forest Explorers) - 9 sessions x \$40 per day = \$360

- Wednesdays - Sept 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 & Nov 4
- Thursdays - Sept 10, 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Nov 5

** You have an option to skip the first week, pending your school schedule - we will adjust your prices*

Winter Full Days (FEAT & Forest Explorers) - 10 sessions x \$70 per day = \$700

Winter ½ Days (Forest Buddies & Forest Explorers) - 10 sessions x \$40 per day = \$400

- Wednesdays - Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10
- Thursdays - Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11

Spring Full Days (FEAT & Forest Explorers) - 7 sessions x \$70 per day = \$490

Spring ½ Days (Forest Buddies & Forest Explorers) - 7 sessions x \$40 per day = \$280

- Wednesdays - March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5
- Thursdays - March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6

Payment Details:

- Participants must commit to at least 1 Full Season
- 10% discount if you sign up for all 3 Seasons from the beginning
- No family discounts for multiple children
- All gear is free to use, including cross-country ski equipment
- Payment plans available to spread out costs - as long as full payment is received before the end of the programming dates

Payment Options

- Interac email transfers to oe@greatmooseadventures.com
- Credit Card with a 2.9% administration fee - contact us if you prefer this option

Cancellation Policy

We provide refunds on any fees up to 14 days prior to the start of a program, with a 15% administration fee kept back. Within 14 days from the program start date, we do not provide refunds for any reason. Thanks for your understanding.

Examples of Outdoor Education Activities

- 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, & teas
- Invasive Species - what can we do to help?
- Aqueducts & Catapults
- Water Filtration
- Kites & Planes
- Scales & Balances
- Survival - building shelters, campfires and rope/knot work
- Orientation, compass challenge & treasure hunts
- Boats, rafts & sail cars
- Volcanoes & crazy weather
- Fairies & magic potions

Procedures

Drop-off/Pick-up:

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

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

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

Parents & participants will meet our Teachers at the beginning and end of the day at the Green House. If you have not arranged for an early drop off or late pick-up - please be on time. If you are dropping early or picking up late - please collect at the GMA Academy pick-up zone (we will highlight locations on the first day).

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 goodbye, 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.

Transportation Shuttle Service:

\$20/day per day - participants must register for at least 1 Full Season(both ways)

Wednesdays and/or Thursdays

Orillia - Pick up/drop off - 8 am & 4 pm (Canadian Tire parking lot - 1029 Brodie Dr.)

Washago - Pick up/drop off - 8:20 am & 3:40 pm (Washago LCBO)

Gravenhurst/Bracebridge - Pick up/drop off - 8:35 am & 3:20pm (Hwy 11 & Hwy 6 - Drive In Round-a-bout)

*Limited spots available, so locations & times are subject to change - on a first come, first serve basis

Snacks & Lunch

- 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 a water bottle, we have refill stations
- 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

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 Family Guide
- Day-to-day communication will take place through a SeeSaw App, including pictures of our adventures - details to access this will be provided in the email sent before the start of the program
- Parents will have an opportunity for a quick chat during the morning drop-off & afternoon pick-up
- We have a [Facebook Group](#) called *GMA Forest Class Families*, which can be used for potential carpooling, gear swapping and communication between families
- If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting with a Director, please send an email to oe@greatmooseadventures to book a time

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.

Sun Care

Children must wear sunscreen and ball caps throughout the day. Please apply sunscreen at home with your children before the program every day. 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.**

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 as well.

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

How to Register?

1. Access our Online Registration Form on our website:

www.greatmooseadventures.com

Or [Click Here](#) to be redirected right now

2. We will reply to your email with the cost & payment details
3. Make your payment via e-transfer or credit card
4. We will confirm your payment with an email - and you are all set to go!

Gear - what to bring?

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, a spare pair too)
- ☐ Toque
- ☐ Buff/balaclava/neck warmer x 2
- ☐ Warm Mitts/Gloves x 2 pairs at minimum
- ☐ Warm sweater/fleece
- ☐ Warm socks (and 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*

Winter Inclement weather information - if the weather is looking extremely stormy or very cold, we will need to cancel the day. We will try our best to reschedule the day for another time. **We will send you an email by 7:00 am on the day if we need to cancel a day.** Otherwise, we will be open and ready for adventure (regardless of what the public buses are doing). Please exercise caution on our backroads, which can be snowy and icy.

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

Overnight Trips - Optional & Pending Interest

Fall =

- 2 night / 3 day **Canoe Trip** - Friday, October 2nd to Sunday, October 4th
- **3 Mile Lake** - this amazing lake, situated only 4 km from our lodge, is accessed by paddling Kahshe River, portaging Teopolis bridge, paddling through the enchanted river to Bass Lake, up the creek to Kahshe Lake and by the cottages to Blueberry Island, and finally a short portage to 3 Mile Lake (all in - a 4/5 hour day trip)
- **Super Safe Trip** - while the trip is a full day canoe away, we can access the lake by car within 10 minutes from Great Moose Adventures, so if anything happens we are close by
- **Menu** - campfire cooking! We will design a menu as a group (adhering to all dietary needs), and everyone will be involved with the meal process. "Food always tastes better on trip"
- **Introductory canoe trip** - as this may be new to some participants, the trip is easy-going. We are camping in the same spot for both nights, and filling the days with games, challenges, science and all the good stuff that comes with a canoe trip (team building, self-confidence, physical activity, friendship, plus much more!). We will practice canoe tripping skills (paddling, portaging, packing, etc.) prior to the trip in the first 3 weeks of FEAT
- **Costs** - \$200, includes all gear (except sleeping bags & camp mats), food and instruction
- **Schedule** - Drop off at 8:00 am on Friday, October 2nd for Canoe Trippers who want the full experience. Drop off at 5 pm if you are not available on the day. Pick up at Great Moose Adventures on Sunday, October 4th at 2 pm.

Winter =

- 2 night **Winter Camping Trip** (Date TBD) - we will discuss interest with the group and choose a date that works best
- **@ Great Moose Adventures** - this introductory winter camping trip includes backcountry skiing, campfire cooking, star gazing, and team building activities & games
- **Super Safe Trip** - experience winter camping in a wilderness setting - within sight of Great Moose Adventures lodge. Participants will be outside (as much as possible), but we will have the advantage of drying our clothes, having access to bathrooms and an emergency shelter if needed
- **Cozy Sleep Set-up** - campers will sleep in tents with proper, 5 inch camp cot mattresses to keep everybody warm and cozy throughout the night
- **Menu** - campfire cooking! We will design a menu as a group (adhering to all dietary needs), and everyone will be involved with the meal process. "Food always tastes better on trip"
- **Costs** - 2 nights = \$200, includes all gear (except sleeping bags), food and instruction, 1 night = \$150
- **Schedule** = Friday night starts at 4 pm, Saturday starts at 9 am & Sunday ends at 2 pm

Spring =

- 2 night **Spring Campout** - Friday, April 30 to Sunday, May 2nd
- **Where:** Great Moose Adventures OE Zone, a short walk from the Lodge / Washrooms
- **Menu** - campfire cooking! We will design a menu as a group (adhering to all dietary needs), and everyone will be involved with the meal process. "Food always tastes better on trip"
- **Costs** - 2 nights = \$200, includes all gear (except sleeping bags and camp mats), food and instruction, 1 night = \$150
- **Why:** After an amazing 3 seasons of Forest Class, the kids have connected and made friends...so what better way to finish off the year with an exciting sleepover camp!
- **Who:** FEAT participants and any Forest Explorers (ages 6+) who want to try out a campout with lots of support
- **When:** You can stay for 1 or 2 nights. Friday night starts at 4 pm, Saturday starts at 9 am & Sunday ends at 2 pm

Summer =

- Opportunities for a 5 day Canoe Trip (ages 8-16) & Day Camps (ages 4-16)
- Click [here](#) for details

If you have any questions about the information provided in the family guide please don't hesitate to contact us: oe@greatmooseadventures.com

Kind regards.

Becki and Brad

