

Outdoor Education Academy International

at Sutherland Secondary School



Beginning in September 2017, the new Outdoor Education Academy will be available to all grade ten students. Offered out of Sutherland Secondary, the academy will take students out of the classroom and into nature. It will provide hands-on experiences that break down traditional boundaries between subject areas and offers interdisciplinary learning.

Throughout the school-year, students will take part in a wide variety of outdoor pursuits that are both day trips and overnight stays including: hiking and backpacking, ocean kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, surfing, rock climbing, cycle-touring, snow shoeing, Nordic skiing, and essential outdoor skills.

Throughout the school-year, students will participate in a variety of outdoor day trips and overnight excursions. Activities will range from ocean kayaking to wilderness camping, and will take place in various locations across North Vancouver and further afield in Southwestern British Columbia. Students may paddle in Deep Cove one day, and the next venture out to go backpacking on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The Outdoor Education Academy involves hands-on, real-world learning experiences in the local community and environment. This place-based learning approach to education:

- increases academic achievement
- helps students develop stronger ties to their community
- enhances students' appreciation for the natural world
- develops citizens who are active and engaged in both local and global communities (Sobel, 2004, p.7)

Program Structure

This year, 56 students will be accepted to the OEA Academy. We welcome applications from International students, and will reserve a limited number of spaces. Learners will participate in two half-year semesters, based at Sutherland Secondary school.

In the first semester 28 learners will participate in the "Integrated Semester" while 28 learners will be on a "Block Semester."

In the second semester, the learning groups switch, thus completing both portions of the program.

Integrated Semester

During the 'integrated semester', learners will engage in a combination of outdoor activities, field studies, wilderness trips, and classroom-based academics including:

- Humanities 10 (includes English 10 and Social Studies 10)
- Physical and Health Education 10
- Outdoor Education 10

Approximately 50% of days will be based in the field and 50% of days will be based at Sutherland.

Block Semester

In the 'block semester', learners will plan and participate in local day trips while they complete their academic curriculum including:

- Science 10
- Language 10
- Mathematics 10
- Outdoor Education 11

At the end of the year, all successful OEA learners will have met BC requirements for completion of Grade 10.



Outdoor Education Academy International

Fees

The fee for this academy is \$15,000 which covers transportation, accommodation, and most large equipment. Food, clothing and personal items must be supplied by OEA students and their parents.

Trips may include:

3-day Trips	4-day Trips	5-day Trips	7-day Trips
Cheakamus Centre	hiking, canoeing, ocean kayaking, surfing or mountain biking	counsellor at Outdoor School Program	hiking, canoeing or ocean kayaking)
winter camping trip	Lodge-based winter (nordic skiing and snow shoeing)	plus many day trips	



Application Procedures

Any current Grade 9 student is welcome to apply. Applicants must be:

- looking for adventure and challenge
- interested in pursuing the goals of the program
- committed to consistently trying their best in the academic, physical and social aspects of the program

Details and application forms will be posted on our website in November.

Applicants must

- include copies of grade 8 and 9 Report Cards as part of the application package. To be eligible, the student must have passed all Grade 8 and 9 core subjects (English, Social Studies, Math, Science, P.E., and a second language), maintained a minimum C+ average across the six subjects, and demonstrated positive work habits.
- meet the Grade 9 standard for physical fitness. As a measure, applicants must be able to run 2.4 km (6 times around a standard track) in under 14 minutes. International students are asked to do the fitness test and have their Physical Education teacher provide a dated and signed letter indicating their run time on official letterhead.
- be committed to creating a social environment that supports respect and responsibility. Every student must be able to listen and respond to all reasonable instructions. As a measure of respect and responsibility, students must receive generally positive comments in two confidential Letters of Reference - one from a secondary school teacher, and one from an adult member of the community who is not family. Reference letters must comment on the applicant's commitment to teamwork, ability to get along with others and responsibility.

Short-listed applicants may be contacted for a phone or Skype interview

Lottery

All applications that meet the minimum requirements are placed in a lottery. Notification of acceptance will be e-mailed out in February 2017. Eligible students not granted placement will be placed on a waitlist.



**More information is available on the
North Vancouver School District website (www.sd44.ca)**