



Earth Path Nature School Programs – Wakefield 2018 Safety and Release Form

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Welcome to Earth Path! Over the course of the session, we will spend our days outside exploring, playing, and working on various projects. As we get to know the animals and plants of the woods, we may use tools and develop a number of skills for engaging with these creatures, including tracking, harvesting wild foods, carving, shelter building, and making fire. Many of these skills offer elements that, even if done correctly, have the potential for danger. Participants will be closely supervised by lead mentors and/or trained volunteers that have been practicing outdoor survival skills and are well-trained in engaging the wild in a safe and respectful way. Below are some of the elements that can be potentially dangerous.

Knives - There is always real danger in using a knife. As is often the case, prevention is the best medicine. Before any knives are used by the kids, we will go over safety and each kid will receive one-on-one knife safety instruction. There are **5 main rules for using a knife safely:**

- 1) ask permission from one of the mentors;
- 2) find a quiet space and sit down;
- 3) announce to others that you're using a knife and ensure a safety circle (keep a safe distance of at least one arm's length from other people);
- 4) always carve down and away from yourself; and
- 5) when done, put the knife back in its sheath. With proper care and attentiveness knives are safe and an incredibly rewarding tool.

Fire - Fire will be a central tenet of our community. We will be making fires daily, and we will be learning how to tend a fire in a way that leaves minimal impact. We will learn how to safely manage a fire, and each kid will have the opportunity to help build a fire. We will have one fire keeper at a time.

Other Tools - At other points throughout the program, we may be using saws, hatchets and other tools. As with knives, for each tool we will talk about the potential dangers and always review and practice safe techniques for using each. We keep a low ratio of kids to mentors to ensure each kid is given proper attention when using potentially dangerous tools.

I, _____ hereby give permission for my child and/or ward, _____ to use a knife and other tools listed above under the supervision of an Earth Path program mentor or other trained volunteer/partner. I have read the above on Knives, Fire, and Other Tools Safety, and understand both the risks involved and that reasonable care will be taken to ensure my child's safety.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Today's Date: _____

For more information about Earth Path's Wakefield programs, please contact Wakefield Program Coordinator, Corinne McEachern, at Corinne@EarthPath.ca or 819-456-1731. Forms to be mailed to Earth Path Wakefield, 5 ch. Tom Harvey, La Pêche, QC, J0X 1A0. Thank you!