



LEARN TO CAMP

Summer 2019

Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Learn to Camp Program at Ontario Parks! Our experienced staff have prepared a fun-filled program to help introduce you to the joys of camping in a safe environment. We hope this experience will inspire and enable you to continue camping in the future.

During your upcoming overnight camping experience you will develop outdoor skills through hands-on experience. As you spend your first night in one of our beautiful provincial parks, you will have an opportunity to set-up your campsite, cook your meals on a camp stove, enjoy fun recreational activities, light a campfire and connect with family and friends.

This program information guide will help you prepare for your overnight camping experience. Please take a moment to read through the package in advance of your visit.

We look forward to meeting you this summer!

Sincerely,

The Learn to Camp Team

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What to Expect

Check In and Check Out Time

Please plan to arrive between 9:30 - 10:00 am on your first day of programming. Equipment can only be distributed to those who attend training sessions. Campsite check out time is 2:00 pm on the final day, but participants can enjoy the park facilities until 10:00 pm.

Program Structure

- You will be attending the program with up to 9 other groups
- Every group will receive their own campsite and camping equipment set
- There will be a designated “basecamp”, where all groups will gather for learning sessions lead by our experienced staff
- You will have free time to enjoy the park

Participation

We ask that participants respect the program, our staff leaders, and your learning by: arriving on time, attending all sessions, and participating the in program.

Facilities and Services

During the Learn to Camp program, you will have access to:

- Comfort stations with flush toilets, showers, and sinks
- Safe drinking water at taps throughout the park
- A campsite for up to 6 participants, including children
- A picnic table and fire pit on your campsite
- Parking for one vehicle on your campsite

Weather

Programming happens in rain and shine! Check the local forecast before you leave so you know what to expect. We recommend packing for all weather conditions and bringing extra clothing layers and warm blankets. A prepared camper is a happy camper.

Sample Program Schedule

DAY 1	ACTIVITY
9:30 - 10:00 am	Arrival and registration
10:00	Explore your new surroundings
10:30	Welcome and program introduction
10:45	Introduction to plants and animals
11:00	The camping kitchen: set-up, cooking, and clean-up
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00	Setting up a tent
2:30 - 4:00	Recreation time
4:00	How to build a campfire (with treats)
4:30	Your first night camping: what to expect
5:00 - 7:00	Dinner
7:00	Group campfire (optional)

Day 2	ACTIVITY
8:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 11:00	Learn to Fish (optional, offered at all parks except Bronte Creek)
11:00 - 11:30	Planning your next camping trip
11:30	Campsite clean up
12:00	Program conclusion and break for lunch

Checkout day	
12:00 - 2:00 pm	Return equipment to basecamp
2:00	Campsite checkout time (you are welcome to enjoy the park until 10:00 pm)

Packing Checklist

This checklist lets you know what you should pack for the program. While we provide the necessary camping equipment, you are responsible for the following items:

Camp kitchen

- Food for all your meals**
- Reusable water bottles
- Freezer bags / plastic containers
- Dish soap, dish scrubber and dish towel

Clothing

- Close-toed comfortable shoes
- Sandals
- Socks / underwear
- Long pants
- Shorts
- Long-sleeved shirt and sweater
- Short-sleeved shirts
- Warm jacket and rain jacket
- Pajamas
- Bathing suit
- Hat
- Sunglasses

Toiletries

- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush / toothpaste
- Biodegradable soap and shampoo
- Deodorant
- Hairbrush
- Towels / washcloth
- Hand sanitizer
- Bug repellent

Sleeping

- Sleeping bags and/or blankets
- Pillows
- Hat/ toque for cooler nights

First-aid kit

- Bandages (e.g., self-adhesive/gauze)
- Ointments (e.g., antiseptic, burn relief)
- Tools (e.g., scissors, tweezers, tape)
- Medications (for pain, fever, allergies)
- Needed prescriptions
- Health card

Outdoor fun equipment

(optional)

- Camera / video camera
- Backpack
- Water shoes / personal flotation device
- Sports equipment (e.g., soccer ball)/
bikes/helmets/lights/locks
- Fishing rod/tackle/fishing license

For kids (optional)

- Special blankets / pillow
- Water toys or floats (e.g., pool noodles,
sand toys)
- Games or deck of cards
- Storybooks
- A favourite toy

Packing Tips

When packing for a camping trip, keep these helpful tips in mind!

Don't underestimate the weather

Temperatures can range from cold and rainy, to hot and sunny. Pack extra clothing, bedding, snacks, and beverages to make sure you are comfortable in all temperatures. It might sound strange, but packing hats and mittens is a good idea if you're camping in June or August, or if rain is in the forecast. Also, don't forget your rain jacket and rubber boots!

Need a sleeping bag to keep you warm at night?

Visit https://www.colemancanada.ca/en_CA/coleman-learntocamp-pre/ and shop online. Use the discount code below when checking out for 40% off!

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Separate scented items from the rest

Items that are scented, like tooth paste and deodorant, can act as an animal attractant. Keep these items separate from your clothing and in their own bag so that they can easily be left in your vehicle.

Bring some activities from home

Bringing items from home like books, a deck of cards, board games, or a soccer ball can help add to the camping fun (and also help on a rainy day)!

Did you know....

All Learn to Camp locations have personal floatation devices available for loan, free of charge! Fishing equipment is also available for loan, free of charge, at Darlington, Emily, Earl Rowe, Grundy Lake and Six Mile Lake Provincial Parks. Just don't forget to pack your fishing license if you're between the ages of 18-65!

Equipment Supplied by the Program

This list lets you know what equipment we provide participants with for their stay.



Camp kitchen

- Screen dining shelter
- Folding chairs
- Camp stove and fuel
- Dinnerware/cookware
- Cutting board, knife and cooking tools
- Coffee maker and filters (coffee not provided)
- Water jug
- Large cooler and 1 bag of ice
- Dishpan
- Drying rack
- Tablecloth
- Garbage bags

Sleeping

- 6 person tent
- Air mattresses
- Air pump

Campfire gear

- Firewood
- Lighter / matches
- Fire starters
- Campfire forks

Lighting

- Lantern
- Flashlight

Other

- Tarp and rope

Meal Planning Information

A meal plan is an essential tool to help you prepare for a camping trip. Plan out all your meals and snacks in advance of the camping trip using the meal planner provided in this section. We provide you with a 2-burner propane camp stove and fuel for all your cooking needs.

Planning Tips

- **Go with what you know:** Many of the meals you cook at home can be easily prepared at the campsite.
- **Balance hot and cold meals:** reduce preparation time to give you more time to enjoy the park. Lunch is the best meal to have cold!
- **Try a 1 pot meal:** reduce the amount of dishes and save on camp stove fuel.
- **Bring extra snack foods:** fruit, trail mix, and crackers and cheese are great options just in case you need a little extra food after a busy day of swimming, exploring, and playing .
- **Do some research:** there are a wide variety of websites and books that have great menu ideas for campers working with a camp stove.
- **Challenge yourself to make something creative:** cooking on the campsite can be a lot of fun!

Pack Smart

- **Pack only what you need:** instead of bringing big boxes of bulk foods, open packages and bring pre-measured quantities. You can use freezer bags or small reusable containers to repackage foods.
- **Pre-chop meats and vegetables:** do the prep work at home and save some time at the campsite.
- **Prepare and freeze:** It's a good idea to make a meal before the camping trip and freeze it (e.g., pasta sauce, curry, chili). This provides a quick meal and added ice for your cooler!

Number of meals

For the **1 night/ 2 day experience**, you will need to plan: 1 breakfast, 2 lunches (food you don't have to cook), 1 dinner, snacks

For the **2 night/ 3 day experience**, you will need to plan: 2 breakfasts, 2 or 3 lunches (depending on departure time), 2 dinners, snacks

Sample Meal Plan

While we have provided a sample meal plan here, you can make the foods you love for your camping trip! On the next page we have provided a blank meal plan to help you prepare for your overnight camping experience.

DAY 1 DINNER

Meal: Spaghetti, Caesar salad and garlic bread

- Pasta
- Garlic
- Salt /Pepper
- Bread
- Pasta sauce and vegetables
- Butter
- Parmesan cheese
- Aluminum foil
- Caesar salad kit
- Juice / milk

DAY 2 BREAKFAST

Meal: Eggs and toast with cereal and fruit

- Bread
- Eggs
- Butter
- Salt / pepper
- Jam
- Fresh fruit
- Favourite cereal
- Juice
- Milk
- Coarse-ground coffee/ tea/ hot chocolate mix

DAY 2 LUNCH

Meal: Sandwiches with potato salad, vegetables and dip

- Bread or wraps
- Mayonnaise / mustard
- Cold-cuts (meat)
- Lettuce
- Tomato
- Cheese
- Potato salad
- Cut vegetables
- Vegetable dip
- Juice

DAY 2 DINNER

Meal: Hot dogs with vegetables and dip

- Hot dogs
- Buns
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc.)
- Cut vegetables
- Vegetable dip
- Juice

SNACKS:

- Fresh fruit
- Granola bars
- Trail mix
- Cheese and crackers

My Meal Plan: Food Checklist

Use this meal planner to help you plan the food needs for your trip. identify your meals and fill in all the ingredients you will need.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
Snacks	Snacks	Snacks

Photo Challenge: Strike a Pose

Our primary goal at Ontario Parks is to protect all ecosystems, plants, and animals. When camping, we have a motto:

Take only pictures
Leave only footprints

...and so we challenge you to capture your Learn to Camp experience through photographs! Here's a sneak peak of a picture on our photo challenge list, and the rest you'll have to learn about when you get to the park!



Connect with us

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for program updates, participant photos, tips and tricks, and so much more. Don't forget to share your photos on social media and include #LearnToCamp.

Camping Etiquette, Rules, and Regulations

Ontario Parks has rules and regulations in place to protect the natural environment and to ensure all campers have an enjoyable visit. In this section we have highlighted some of the important rules and regulations at Ontario Parks.

Did you know the primary purpose of Ontario Parks is to protect Ontario's natural and cultural heritage? Our network of more than 330 parks and protected areas cover almost 10% of the province of Ontario!

Ontario Parks rules and regulations

- A maximum of six persons, including children, are permitted on each campsite. We limit numbers to prevent erosion and other environmental impacts.
- No excessive noise is permitted at any time. Please keep your voices to a reasonable level.
- Interfering with anyone else's enjoyment of a park, day or night is contrary to park rules.
- The parks are yours to enjoy, so please help us protect them. Stay on marked trails, roads and campsites.
- It is against the law to remove or destroy anything in a provincial park.
- It is against the rules to collect firewood from the natural environment. Firewood must be purchased at the park store.

Specific to the Learn to Camp Program

- The equipment supplied through the program is for your group of up to 6 participants and may only be set-up on your assigned campsite.
- We ask that all participants attend all training sessions to make the most of the learning experience. Equipment can only be handed out after you have been taught how to use it.
- Please arrive to training sessions on-time to help the program run smoothly.
- Pets are not permitted in the program.
- All Learn to Camp reservations are non-refundable and cancellations will result in a loss of payment. If you cannot attend your confirmed session we will attempt to reschedule if you inform the learn to camp office a minimum of 10 business days before the scheduled start date.

Please note that the park is patrolled by Park Wardens on a regular basis. Our friendly wardens are here to help. Their job is to: ensure all of our clients enjoy their visit to Ontario Parks, provide information and assistance to park visitors, ensure the safety of park visitors, protect the park and its resources, and enforce park rules and regulation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if it rains?

Rain is sometimes a part of camping. Your Learn to Camp program will go ahead rain or shine. Our staff will show you how to camp comfortably in all weather conditions.

Can I bring a friend?

Yes. Each reservation fee covers a group of up to 6 people, including children. If your group is larger than 6 people, you will need to book additional spaces in the program. Please note, each group of 6 is required to sleep on their registered campsite.

Can I bring my pet?

No. While pets are normally allowed at Ontario Parks, we ask that you do not bring your pet to the Learn to Camp program.

We can no longer attend our program, what are our options?

Registration fees are non-refundable, cancellations will result in a loss of payment. However, we will attempt to reschedule your program if you inform us a minimum of 10 business days before your scheduled session, space permitting.

Will there be free time?

The schedule will allow for recreation time to experience the park between learning sessions. We encourage you to use this time to explore, hike, bike, swim, fish, attend Natural Heritage Education programs and enjoy camping! Reminder to pack games and activities to enjoy at your campsite and in the case of rain.

Can I take part in the Learn to Fish Program?

The Learn to Fish program is available at six of the seven parks offering Learn to Camp. If you are attending a park where Learn to Fish is offered, you will have an opportunity to take part in the program at no extra charge.

What does a typical Ontario Parks campsite look like?

Every campsite is unique. At a minimum, all campsites will have a fire pit, a picnic table, space to set up your tent and space to park your vehicle.

Do the campsites have electricity?

No. Electricity is not available at your campsite. Although Ontario Parks does have campsites with electricity, the Learn to Camp program will take place on non-electrical campsites. Bring battery-operated equipment and consider leaving your electronic devices at home to truly enjoy this outdoor experience.

Still have questions?

Explore our website: OntarioParks.com/learntocamp

Contact learn to camp program staff: learntocamp@ontario.ca