

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2025-26



**THE MUSKOKA DISCOVERY CENTRE IS THE  
PERFECT DESTINATION FOR ANY SCHOOL TRIP!**

**BOOK TODAY! CONTACT US AT:**



EDUCATION@REALMUSKOKA.COM



705-687-2115

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## Education Programs

• Programs Offered.....	2
• Tours and Programs.....	3
• <i>Misko-Aki</i> .....	4-5
• <i>The Water Gallery</i> .....	6-7
• <i>Evolving Muskoka</i> .....	8-9
• Steamship Cruise.....	10
• Kidzone.....	11
• Outreach Programs.....	12
• Museum in a Suitcase.....	13
• Next Level Navigation.....	14
• Cleaning our Waterways.....	15
• Muskoka Family Signs.....	16

## Booking Information

• Booking Information.....	17
• Contact Us.....	18
• Rates.....	18
• Student/Supervisor Ratio.....	19
• Nutrition Breaks.....	19
• Hours of Operation.....	20
• Payment and Cancellations.....	21



# PROGRAMS OFFERED

Whether you are joining us for a guided tour or a curriculum-based program, the Muskoka Discovery Centre will provide your students with a fun and educational experience for all grade levels.

Tours and programs are available for our three exhibits including:

- Award-winning *Misko-Aki: Confluence of Cultures*
- *The Water Gallery*
- *Evolving Muskoka*

We also provide outreach educational programs, such as *Museum in a Suitcase*, that allows you to bring the museum experience directly to your classroom. These hands-on education programs are delivered directly to your school with easy-to-follow slide decks that guide you through the learning and hands-on phases of the program! Outreach programs can be tailored to suit your curriculum and specific needs.

# TOURS & PROGRAMS

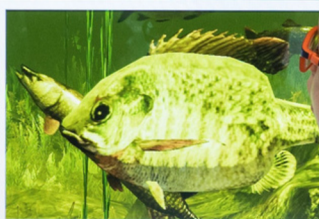
INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES

## INTERESTED IN A PROGRAM?

Contact us today for more details and hours of operations of our tours and in-museum programs!

## CONTACT

[education@realmuskoka.com](mailto:education@realmuskoka.com)  
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### Bluegill

The bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) is a species of freshwater fish sometimes referred to as a copper nose. It is a member of the sunfish family and lives in streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. They grow up to 12 inches (30cm) long and weigh up to 2.0 kg. They mostly feed on insects and fish. They are prey for many other fish, bass, herons, kingfishers, snappers, and eagles.

# MISKO-AKI

## CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES



## Guided Tour of *Misko-Aki*

60 Minutes

School groups will tour *Misko-Aki* and learn about the eight different Indigenous communities that contributed to the exhibit's creation. Indigenous interpreters will be present for the tour, providing students with a thorough and educational walk through of the exhibit, learning Indigenous history from Indigenous voices.

## Workshops

30-40 Minutes each

Following a tour of *Misko-Aki*, school groups will engage in workshops based on the content of the exhibit.

- Wendat Inspired Pinch-Pots
- Métis Inspired Dotted Painting



# MISKO-AKI WORKSHOPS

## Wendat Inspired Pinch-Pots (Grades 4+)

In this activity, students will be given a ball of air-dry clay to slowly work and knead into a pot. Once the pot is formed, toothpicks will be provided for students to then add drawings/designs in to the sides of their pinch-pot.

### Curriculum Connections

- D3.2** Demonstrating an awareness of a variety of art forms, styles, and traditions, and describing how they reflect the diverse cultures, times, and places in which they were made.
- A1.2** Compare aspects of the daily lives of different groups within a few early societies, including at least one First Nation society.
- A3.3** Analyse contributions to science and technology from various communities.
- A3.2** Investigate how science and technology can be used with other subject areas to address real-world problems.

## Métis Inspired Dotted Painting (Grades K-6)

Using q-tips and paint, students will apply repeated dots to a paper animal cut-out to replicate dotted art inspired by a style of painting that originated from Métis artists. Students in grades 5-8 can be provided with scissors and paper to cut out their own shape to paint on rather than the provided animal cutouts.

### Curriculum Connections

- D1.1** Creating three dimensional works of art that express personal feelings and ideas inspired by the environment or that have the community as their subject.
- D2.3** Demonstrate an awareness of the meaning of signs and symbols encountered in their daily lives and in works of art.
- D3.1** Identify and describe a variety of visual art forms they see in their home, at school, in the community, and in visual arts experiences.



# THE WATER GALLERY

## WATERSHED WONDERS WATER IS LIFE



## Guided Tour of *The Water Gallery*

60 Minutes

*The Water Gallery* school program guides teachers and their students through understanding the Muskoka Watershed. *Watershed Wonders* explores the different species, both native and invasive, found in Muskoka. *Water is Life* emphasizes the importance of Indigenous women as waterkeepers.

## Workshops

30-40 Minutes each

Following a tour of *The Water Gallery*, school groups will engage in workshops based on the content of the exhibit.

- D.I.Y Paper Bowl Turtles
- Water Cleaning Workshop





# THE WATER GALLERY WORKSHOPS

## D.I.Y. Paper Bowl Turtles (Grades K-3)

Students will receive a paper bowl, a selection of paint, and paper cut-out templates to create their very own turtle. With assistance, students will use a stapler to attach the turtle's arms, legs, head, and tail to the bowl. Additionally, teachers and supervisors will be given discussion questions to facilitate engaging conversations during or after the workshop.

### Curriculum Connections

**B1.1** Assess the benefits of biodiversity and the consequences of the diminishing of biodiversity.

**A3.1** Describe practical applications of science and technology concepts in their home and community, and how these applications address real-world problems.

**B1.1** Assess impacts of various human activities on animals and the places where they live, and describe practices that can minimize negative impacts.

**B2.1** Compare physical characteristics of various animals, including characteristics that are constant and those that change.

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## Water Cleaning Workshop (Grades 4+)

Students will engage in a hands-on scientific experiment by creating their own water filter. Using a water bottle, cotton balls, sand, pebbles, and a jar, they will build a simple filtration system. By pouring dirty water into the DIY filter placed atop an empty jar, students will observe how the water passes through the various materials and emerges clear. This process demonstrates a basic version of how our drinking water is purified.

### Curriculum Connections

**A1.2** Use scientific experimentation processes and associated skills to conduct investigations.

**A1.3** Using engineering design processes and associated skills to build and test devices, models, structures and/or systems.

**B1.1** Assess positive and negative impacts of human activities on habitats and communities, while taking different perspectives into account. **D2.1** Identify machines that are used in daily life, and describe their purposes.

# EVOLVING MUSKOKA

## LIFE ON THE EDGE OF THE SHIELD



## Guided Tour of *Evolving Muskoka*

60 Minutes

Students and teachers will be taken on a journey through time in *Evolving Muskoka*. The history of Muskoka is told with a focus on three central themes: technology, community, and local industries. With many interactive and exciting displays, as well as in-tour activities, school groups are ensured an engaging educational experience.

## Workshops

30-40 Minutes each

Following a tour of *Evolving Muskoka*, school groups will engage in workshops based on the content of the exhibit.

- Butter-making
- Build Your Own Boat



# EVOLVING MUSKOKA WORKSHOPS

## Butter-making (Grades 4+)

Our butter-making workshop is a straightforward, three-step process that's quick and enjoyable for all ages. Plus, you'll get a delicious treat to take home! This workshop not only ties into elementary science and math concepts but also makes learning fun and rewarding for kids.

## Curriculum Connections

**A1.3** Use an engineering design process and associated skills to design, build, and test devices, models, structures, and/or systems.

**A1.5** Communicate findings using science and technology vocabulary and formats that are appropriate for specific audiences and purposes.

**C2.7** Explain why specific physical properties of various solids and liquids make them useful for particular applications.

## Build Your Own Boat (K-8)

Using corks, toothpicks, craft foam, tape, and elastics, students will assemble their very own cork sailboat. This quick and fun craft is great for student engagement, with connections to elementary science curriculum and is easy and enjoyable for any grade level.

## Curriculum Connections

**D1.2** Assess the impact on the environment of technologies that use simple machines to facilitate movement.

**D2.1** Describe different ways an object can move.

**A1.3** Use an engineering design process and associated skills to design, build, and test devices, models, structures, and/or systems.

**D2.2** Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between form and function for various structures.

## STEAMSHIP CRUISE ADD-ON TO YOUR PROGRAM



### Program + Steamship Cruise Package

*Approximately 160 Minutes*

Embark on an unforgettable learning adventure with our exclusive educational program and steamship cruise package, all for **just \$25 + HST** per student! Students will enjoy an engaging, in-museum educational program of your choice, followed by a one-hour sightseeing cruise aboard the iconic Wenonah II. They'll have the chance to explore Muskoka's stunning landscapes and rich heritage from the scenic waters of Lake Muskoka. This unique experience combines hands-on learning with the thrill of discovery, making it the perfect day trip for schools in Muskoka and the surrounding area. Teachers, support workers, and accompanying adults are free.



# KIDZONE

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After your exhibit tour, Kidzone is an excellent place to bring your students for some hands-on activities and educational engagement!

## **S.T.E.A.M.**

The activities in Kidzone are based on the S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) learning principles, with different materials available that allow children to work on their fine motor skills, communication skills, and their thinking/problem solving.

## **Our S.T.E.A.M. Resources Include...**

- Keva Planks
- Lego
- A Die Cutter
- Wall Gears
- A Lite Brite Wall
- ...and so much more!





# OUTREACH PROGRAMS

EXPERIENCES DELIVERED  
DIRECTLY TO YOUR DOOR

## INTERESTED IN A PROGRAM?

Contact us today for  
more details, associated  
fees, and availability of  
our outreach programs!

## CONTACT

[education@realmuskoka.com](mailto:education@realmuskoka.com)  
705-687-2115



# MUSEUM IN A SUITCASE

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## **Museum in a Suitcase (Grades 7-8)**

*Available for 3-week period*

Museum in a Suitcase is an engaging, hands-on program that brings the museum experience directly to your classroom. Students take on the role of curators, exploring the history of museums while learning how to create their own exhibits. Each suitcase contains 15 carefully selected objects that tie into your class's lesson plans, offering a unique opportunity to explore themes and narratives through real-world artefacts. The program includes worksheets to guide students in curating, as well as instructions on writing labels for objects. Available for a 3-week period, with additional time available for a small fee, this program provides an exciting and educational experience for all ages.

# CLEANING OUR WATERWAYS

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## **Cleaning our Waterways (Grades 4-8)**

*60 Minutes*

Cleaning Our Waterways is an interactive, hands-on program that brings the vital topic of environmental stewardship into your classroom. Students will step into the role of environmental scientists as they explore the journey of a smallmouth bass through the Muskoka Watersheds. Using a dynamic slide deck as their guide, learners will discover the impact of human pollution on biodiversity, following detailed pollution scenarios that mirror real-world challenges. The program culminates in an exciting water-filtering experiment where students work collaboratively to clean "polluted" water, applying critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address the issues they've encountered. This immersive activity reinforces key scientific concepts and inspires students to consider their role in preserving the environment.

# NEXT LEVEL NAVIGATION

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## Next Level Navigation (Grades 1-4)

*60 Minutes*

Next Level Navigation is an interactive, hands-on program that brings the fascinating world of navigation and compass use into your classroom. Students will step into the role of ship captains as they discover how compasses work and learn how to use them to steer a boat through the waters of Muskoka. Guided by an engaging slide deck, learners will explore the science behind magnetic fields and the historical significance of this essential tool. The program culminates in a creative, hands-on activity where students build their own working compass, applying their newfound knowledge in a fun and memorable way. All materials are provided, making it easy for educators to deliver this dynamic learning experience.



# MUSKOKA FAMILY SIGNS

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## Muskoka Family Signs (Grades 1-8)

*60 Minutes*

Muskoka Family Signs is an engaging, hands-on program that introduces students to the rich cultural tradition of family signs in Muskoka. Tailored for grades 1-8, this program explores the historical and personal significance of these iconic signs, celebrating how they reflect family identity and local heritage. Using the materials provided by the Muskoka Discovery Centre and following a dynamic slide deck, students will tap into their creativity to design and craft their own unique family signs to take home as a keepsake. This interactive activity deepens students' understanding of Muskoka's traditions while simultaneously encouraging self-expression and connection to their own family stories. This program is perfect for fostering creativity and cultural appreciation, making their learning experience fun and meaningful.





# BOOKING INFORMATION

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BOOK WITH US!



# BOOKING INFORMATION

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## CONTACT US

To book an in-museum tour or program, or to request one of our outreach programs, please contact us by:

Phone: 705-687-2115

Email: [education@realmuskoka.com](mailto:education@realmuskoka.com)

When inquiring about our offerings, please provide the following information:

- School name
- Grade
- Number of students in your group
- Program(s) you would like to book
- Location of program (in-museum, outreach)
- Preferred date(s) and time(s)
- Email address for the booking educator

Once a date has been chosen with all the above information provided, we will send a booking confirmation to the provided email address.

# BOOKING INFORMATION

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## RATES

Our in-museum tours and programs are \$12 per student, offering an engaging and educational experience with hands-on learning and interactive exhibits. Teachers, support workers, and accompanying adults are free.

We offer a variety of engaging outreach education programs, each priced at different rates to suit a range of needs. We are committed to making our programs accessible and are pleased to offer flexible pricing options for outreach programs when specific conditions are met. For more information and specific pricing or to discuss your organization's needs, please contact [education@realmuskoka.com](mailto:education@realmuskoka.com) directly.

## STUDENT TO SUPERVISOR RATIO

To ensure a safe, engaging, and well-supervised experience for all participants, the Muskoka Discovery Centre requires a minimum ratio of 10 students to 1 supervisor for all school group visits to the facility.

# BOOKING INFORMATION

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## NUTRITION BREAKS

When booking your group visit, please let us know if you would like to schedule time for nutritional breaks during your program. We offer both indoor and outdoor spaces for these breaks, ensuring a comfortable and accommodating setting for your group. To guarantee availability, the use of these spaces must be reserved in advance.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

For the best experience, we recommend scheduling Group Bookings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as these are our designated days for private groups. On these days, we are closed to the public, allowing us to offer a more tailored experience for your group.

If Tuesday or Wednesday doesn't work for your class, we are happy to discuss alternative options on other days. Please inquire about availability when booking, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. We look forward to hosting your group and ensuring a memorable experience!

# BOOKING INFORMATION

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## PAYMENTS

Payments can be made in advance via e-transfer to [accounting@realmuskoka.com](mailto:accounting@realmuskoka.com) or at the front desk of the museum. Payment can also be mailed via cheque to 275 Steamship Bay Road, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z9. Cheques should be made payable to the Muskoka Discovery Centre. The Muskoka Discovery Centre will send an invoice to the booking educator following the confirmation of the program. Full payment is due 5 business days prior to your visit.

## CANCELLATION

Cancellations made less than 5 days prior to a confirmed program will incur a cancellation fee of 50% of the total program cost. If rescheduling is feasible, no additional charges will apply. However, if rescheduling is not possible, the cancellation fee will be enforced.



# BOOK WITH US

For any questions or to make a booking, please refer to the contact information provided. The Muskoka Discovery Centre is the perfect destination for an unforgettable school trip, offering engaging educational programs, unique hands-on experiences, and convenient drop-off programs tailored to meet your needs. Don't miss the opportunity to inspire and educate your students—book with us today!

## CONTACT US :



**705-687-2115**



**[www.realmuskoka.com](http://www.realmuskoka.com)**



**[education@realmuskoka.com](mailto:education@realmuskoka.com)**



**275 Steamship Bay Road, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 219**

