

MDC



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Muskoka Discovery Centre is the perfect destination for any school trip. Book with us today!



705-687-2115



education@realmuskoka.com



ABOUT

The Muskoka Discovery Centre offers curriculum-connected, inquiry-based learning experiences for Ontario high school students. These programs deepen student understanding through experiential learning across history, geography, Indigenous studies, science, environmental studies and social sciences.

Our galleries provide engaging opportunities for students to interact with real stories, ecological systems, cultural perspectives and technological change in Muskoka.

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General Information

HOW TO BOOK

To book your visit:

☎ 705-687-2115

✉ education@realmuskoka.com



RATES

Our school program is \$15.00 per student, offering an engaging and educational experience with hands-on learning and interactive exhibits.

STUDENT/SUPERVISOR RATIO

A 15:1 student-to-supervisor ratio is required for all high school visits.

Note: For trips that involve going on the steamships, a 10:1 ratio is required.

General Information

NUTRITION BREAKS

Please specify when booking your group plans if you would like to stop for nutritional breaks during your program. Space is available both indoors and outdoors for groups to take nutritional breaks. The use of these spaces needs to be booked in advance.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open year-round.

Programs can be scheduled outside hours of operation upon request.



MISKO-AKI

CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES

School groups will 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, educational walk-through of the exhibit and learning Indigenous history from Indigenous voices.

Workshops

Oral Histories & Critical Listening
Cultural Mapping Walkthrough
Perspective Pathway Tiles



MISKO-AKI

WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Oral Histories & Critical Listening

Students rotate through oral history and interpretive stations in Misko-Aki. Working in small groups, they identify themes, analyze perspectives, and engage in critical discussion about identity, land relationships and resilience.

Curriculum Connections:

NAC10: A1.2, C1.1, C2.1 **NAC20:** A1.1, A1.3 **NBE3U/C/E:** A1.5, B1.2, C1.3
NDA3M: A1.2, C1.2 **NDW4M:** D3.1 **CHC2D/P:** A1.1, B2.3

Cultural Mapping Walkthrough

Students move through the gallery with laminated reflection prompts that guide them to observe teachings, stories, and community perspectives shown in the exhibit.

At each mapping station, students identify a theme—such as identity, land, community, or resilience—connected to what they see.

Outside the exhibit, groups arrange their prompt cards to build a collaborative conceptual map that visually represents how these themes connect across the eight Indigenous communities featured in Misko-Aki.

Curriculum Connections:

NAC10: A1.2, C1.1 **NAC20:** A1.1 **NBE3U:** B1.2, C1.3 **NDA3M:** A1.2
CHC2D/P: A1.1

MISKO-AKI

WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Perspective Pathway Tiles

Students create a “perspective pathway” using cardstock tiles. Each student writes a word or short phrase representing a theme they observed in the exhibit—such as identity, relationship, community, land or resilience. Students may also add simple drawings or visual elements to express their understanding of the theme.

Working in groups outside the gallery, students arrange their tiles on a shared workspace to show how the ideas connect. Groups then justify their pathway design through discussion.

Curriculum Connections:

NBE3U: A1.5, B1.3 **NAC20:** A1.1 **NAC10:** A1.2 **CHC2D:** A1.1





WATER IS LIFE / WATERSHED WONDERS

The Water is Life/Watershed Wonders school program guides teachers and their students through understanding the Muskoka Watershed, the different species native and invasive to Muskoka and the importance of Indigenous women as waterkeepers.

Workshops

Advanced Water Testing Lab
Watershed Engineering Challenge
Species Impact Investigation

WATER IS LIFE

WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Advanced Water Testing Lab

Students conduct hands-on testing with real water samples. Groups rotate through stations measuring pH, turbidity, temperature, and other water-quality indicators, interpreting results and discussing environmental impacts.

Curriculum Connections:

SNC1D: B2.2, B2.4, A1.5 **SNC2D:** A1.2, A1.10 **SBI3U:** B1.2, B2.3

SVN3M: A1.1, B1.1, C1.2 **CGC1D/P:** B2.3

Watershed Engineering Challenge

Students design and build a small-scale watershed model using trays, sand, stones, and water droppers.

They construct a basic watershed structure, predict water flow, test and refine their design, explore erosion, runoff, and filtration and connect their findings to the Muskoka watershed

Curriculum Connections:

SNC1D: B2.4, A1.5 **SNC2D:** A1.2 **SVN3M:** B1.3, C2.1 **CGC1D/P:** B1.1

WATER IS LIFE

WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Species Impact Investigation

Students rotate through interactive stations to investigate how native and invasive species affect Muskoka's watershed. Using species cards, habitat prompts, and simple manipulatives, groups analyze predator-prey relationships, competition, food web disruptions, and ecosystem balance. Students synthesize their findings to propose evidence-based recommendations for protecting species and maintaining watershed health.

Curriculum Connections:

SNC1D: B2.4, B3.3 **SNC2D:** A1.1, A1.2 **SVN3M:** B1.1, B1.3
SBI3U: B2.3 **CGC1D/P:** B1.1



EVOLVING MUSKOKA

The school program for the Evolving Muskoka exhibit takes teachers and students along a journey through time. 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

Engineering Analysis — Why Boats Float
Tourism & Community Identity Inquiry
Sustainable Transportation Prototype



EVOLVING MUSKOKA

Engineering Analysis — Why Boats Float

Using historical boat and steamship displays, students analyze buoyancy, stability, and hull design. Students test small-scale materials in water basins and compare findings with historical vessels.

Curriculum Connections:

SNC1D: C2.1, C2.2, A1.11 **SNC2D:** C2.3 **SPH3U:** B1.1, B2.2

TIJ10 / TDJ20: A1.2, A1.3

Tourism & Community Identity Inquiry

Students analyze historical tourism posters, advertisements, and artifacts to understand how Muskoka's identity has evolved. They create and present a verbal pitch for a modern sustainable tourism initiative.

Curriculum Connections:

BBI20 / BMI3C: A1.1, C1.3 **CGG30:** C1.1, C2.2 **CGW4U:** C1.1, C2.1

CHC2D/P: A1.1, B2.2



EVOLVING MUSKOKA

Sustainable Transportation Prototype Challenge

Students design and build a prototype for a future Muskoka transportation solution using maker materials such as cardstock, dowels, recycled materials, and tape.

Options may include designing:

- A low-wake boat
- An eco-friendly ferry
- A human-powered watercraft
- A winter transport system

Groups sketch, build, and present their prototypes, connecting their designs to historical transportation innovations in the exhibit.

Curriculum Connections:

TIJ10 / TDJ20: A1.2, A1.3 **SNC1D:** C2.1 **CGG30:** C2.2 **BBI20:** C1.3

