



Environmental Education

At the Tiffin Centre for Conservation

2025– 2026 Elementary School Programming

COME EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE, ENJOY!

The Tiffin Centre environmental education programs foster a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the natural world through experiential learning and outdoor exploration.

With a variety of natural habitats to explore, the Tiffin Centre serves as the hub for NVCA's outdoor learning. Our dynamic, experienced and professional educators provide high quality programs for students and residents in our watershed.



OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

At the Tiffin Centre we offer a wide variety of curriculum-linked programming for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Our programs can be tailored to suit the needs of your students, and our site is well equipped to accommodate learners of all abilities.



The program chart (inside) outlines our offerings for the 2025/2026 school year.

No matter the season, you will find many science, art and outdoor recreation programs to choose from!

One of our most popular programs is predator-prey, where students experience the food chain first-hand. Other commonly sought out programs include emergency shelter building, and nature photography. Students can also try our low-ropes challenge course to build their teamwork and leadership skills.

Programs are half-day and last 1.5-2 hours. Pick two half-day programs make your trip a full-day experience.



Maple Syrup Tours A sweet taste of spring!

Join us in the Tiffin sugar bush where students will learn about tree ecology, and Indigenous, pioneer and modern-day methods of making maple syrup.

Our maple syrup programs run from **March 3 to April 3, 2025.**

NVCA OUTREACH

Let Tiffin come to you!

Did you know that NVCA offers a variety of environmental education programs that can be delivered in your classroom, gymnasium, school yard or any neighbourhood natural area?

Outreach programs can be either 100 minutes to two hours long and are geared to accommodate one class with one Tiffin Educator.

See our program chart for available programs. More programs may be available depending on the natural spaces within walking distance of your school.

Habitat Helpers is a special program where students make their own habitat structure (bird, bat or squirrel box) to help provide shelter in habitats in their own communities. Extra costs apply.



NEW WAYS TO LEARN—NEW WAYS TO PLAY!

Community Science

Infused into our 'Habitat Exploration' series is the use of Community Science applications (apps.) Students, teachers and volunteers are introduced to these useful apps during outdoor programming. Introduction can be brief or integrated throughout the program. Exploration and active learning transpires at Tiffin as these digital discoveries can easily be shared back at school, home and in the broader community. Learning the names of plants and animals can be a powerful way to connect people with nature.



Free Play Forest—The Hive

The Hive allows our youngest visitors to freely explore the wonders of the forest.

Defined by a cedar rail fence, The Hive offers a contained space for free play in nature. As a build-it-yourself loose parts playground, students transform The Hive using child-size rails, logs and planks. It is a place for imagination, exploration and problem solving through open-ended play.

The Hive is available for both programming and free-time play.



OUR FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

If you choose to come to us, The Tiffin Centre has 300 acres of forests, meadows, wetlands and ponds to explore, and has a wide range of facilities to accommodate your group:

- Indoor learning centre
- Outdoor classroom
- Picnic pavilion
- Group campground
- Accessible trail system and all-terrain wheelchairs
- Snowshoes and kick sleds
- Class sets of GPS units, digital cameras and microscopes
- Operating maple sugar bush
- Green energy demo site

Disc Golf—FORE!

Tiffin's 9-hole disc golf course is a fun way for students to spend time in nature as they compete in a friendly, easy-to-learn game.

Suitable for Grades 4 and up.



Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Barrie Disc Golf Association, Rotary Club of Barrie and Enbridge Gas for their support of these programs.

2025-2026 Program Chart

Science and Technology—Life Systems

Science and Technology—Earth & Space Systems

Art

Outdoor Recreation

Cultural History

Geography

Outdoor & Wilderness Survival Skills

Programming available in French

Program Availability: 🍁 Fall ❄️ Winter 🌱 Spring 👤 Outreach

Program	Number of Educators	JK SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Seasons Offered	Outreach Option
Habitat Exploration <i>This program is offered with different topics for each grade, tied to curriculum goals:</i> *JK : Gr 1—Nature Discovery *Gr 2—Birds, Beavers & Bugs *Gr 3—Seeds, Weeds & Wildflowers *Gr 4—Habitats & Communities *Gr 6—Biodiversity *Gr 7—Interactions in the Environment <i>For Gr 4 & 7 programs, select forest, wetland or pond ecosystems; each is a half-day program</i>	1	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		🍁❄️🌱	👤
Endangered Species	1					•	•	•			🍁❄️🌱	👤
Life in a Pond	1	•	•	•	•						🍁🌱	
Predator-Prey	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	👤
Winter Wildlife	1		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	❄️	👤
Water Systems	2									•	🍁🌱	👤
Air and Water in the Environment	1			•	•						🍁❄️🌱	
Green Energy	2						•	•			🍁❄️🌱	
Rocks and Minerals	1					•	•				🍁❄️🌱	👤
Soils in the Environment	1				•						🍁🌱	👤
Nature's Art Room	1	•	•	•							🍁❄️🌱	👤
Nature Photography	1					•	•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	👤
Living Landscape	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	👤
Trading Consequences (Fur Trade)	1						•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	
Maple Syrup	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	🌱	
Animal Amble	1	•	•								🍁❄️🌱	
Bird – O	1			•	•						🍁❄️🌱	
Bug-a-Boo	1		•	•							🍁❄️🌱	
Map Reading/Orienteering	1					•	•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	
GPS Navigation & Geocaching	1							•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	
Team Dynamics/Low Ropes	2							•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	
Disc Golf	1						•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	
Kick Sledding	1		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	❄️	
Snowshoeing	1		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	❄️	
Emergency Shelter Building	1					•	•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	
Lost in the Woods	1		•	•	•						🍁🌱	👤
Fire Building	1					•	•	•	•	•	🍁❄️🌱	

BOOKING AT TIFFIN
Our Programs

- All programs must be reserved in advance.
- All programs are predominately outdoors.
- Programs run rain or shine; **proper outdoor dress** is essential for all participants, including teachers & volunteers.
- The Tiffin Centre has a **boomerang lunch** program— all food waste is returned home. Please remind students to bring garbage-free lunches!
- Lunch time activities and discipline are teachers’ responsibility.

Reservation Procedure

- Step 1:** Email us at outdoored@nvca.on.ca or call 705-424-1479 ext. 280 to speak with our environmental education staff and select a date and discuss program availability.
- Step 2:** Once your date has been selected and confirmed, you will receive a booking form.
- Step 3:** Complete, save and return the booking form to outdoored@nvca.on.ca.
- Step 4:** You will be sent an email confirming your booking!



Program Fees

Full Day: \$17.30 per student
Half Day: \$12.00 per student

Teachers and EAs, and up to 3 additional adult volunteers can attend free-of-charge (higher numbers for JK/SK).
Minimum booking—20 students per program, or a minimum fee of \$346 for a full-day or \$240 for a half-day program.

Transportation

Teachers are to arrange own transportation.

Cancellation Policy

There is no charge to cancel if at least 2 weeks’ notice is given before your scheduled visit. If a cancellation is received **with less than 2 weeks’ notice, your group will be charged for 50% of the scheduled number of students or the minimum fee.**
In the event buses are cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher union job action, the cancellation fee is not required if the program is rebooked.
Please call to reschedule.

Campfire lunch available!

Let us provide the hot dogs and all the fixings for \$3 each! Students roast their own hot dogs over an open fire.
Hot chocolate is available for \$25 per class.



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority



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This document is available in alternative formats.

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