



## Nature in Education – Field Trip Lottery

The Essex Region Conservation Authority and Foundation have teamed up to ensure that all students in the Essex Region have the opportunity to connect with nature and experience our curriculum-based outdoor education programs. Outdoor education provides a unique, hands-on learning environment to allow children to interact with nature. Recognizing that some schools may not have the financial resources available to participate in these programs, we have launched a fundraising campaign to cover the total cost (up to \$500) of this field trip – including bussing!



### What's the Prize?

The Essex Region Conservation Foundation will provide \$500 to eligible schools to participate in an outdoor education program. Funds will cover the cost of the full day curriculum-based outdoor education program and up to \$250 towards bussing.

### Who Can Participate?

The contest will be open to all eligible schools from all school boards in Windsor-Essex, with the programs targeted for Grades 2 -5 classes. Once a school has been chosen as a winner, they would not be permitted to win again for at least two years to ensure all schools have equal opportunity to participate.

### How does it work?

In order to qualify for the draw, the class applying for the funding must complete an environmental project in their school. Examples could include a schoolyard cleanup, an enhanced in-school recycling program, a poster project geared at encouraging peers to care for the Earth, a schoolyard or public tree planting event, etc. Students and classes are limited only by their imagination.



Once the project has been documented and the application completed, the class will be entered into the lottery. The number of winners will be based on the funds raised during each annual campaign.

### **Contest Timing**

The contest will be open from September 30 – November 30 for classes wishing to enter. The winning classes will be drawn in December. Programs will need to be booked by the teachers by March 30, and will be delivered between April 15 – May 15 at the location of their choice: Hillman Marsh Conservation Area or the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area.

### **Fill the Bus!**

ERCA programs are structured to allow the schools to fill a bus, as it is more environmentally and economically responsible to bring a full bus on an excursion. Since typically a bus can accommodate three primary or two intermediate classes, we will encourage the winning class to invite along one or two additional classes from their school at a **discounted rate of \$150**. Since the bussing costs are already covered (up to \$250) through the lottery win, this allows double the students to have their outdoor education experience for a very small cost.

### **Donor Involvement**

Donors toward this program will be invited to participate in the draw, and will each draw an eligible school. The school they draw can be identified as their 'sponsor' school. Therefore, there is a clear connection between the donor and the student beneficiaries (i.e. – This Outdoor Education Program was sponsored by John Smith). The students could then send a 'thank you' directly to the donor for their generosity.





Essex Region  
Conservation  
Authority



## Nature In Education Lottery Ballot

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bussing Cost (please attach bus company estimate): \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Environmental Project Undertaken:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For internal use:

School is identified as eligible by its School Board.