



GCA Environmental Education Programs Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk

This form describes the activities and expectations of GCA environmental education programs so that the choice to participate is made freely and with understanding of the associated risks and responsibilities.

Parents/Legal Guardians: Please discuss this form with your child and have them sign with you to show that they choose to participate.

Program Activity Information

The Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA) offers single day and overnight K-12 fieldtrips, summer camps, post-secondary field courses, teacher professional development programs, adult workshops and other environmental education programs to youth and adults on Galiano Island.

Environmental education activities include but are not limited to: hiking; backpacking; camping; forest, freshwater and ocean/intertidal-area exploration and monitoring; ecological restoration tasks (invasive species removal, native species planting, tree thinning, natural erosion and water control, trail-building etc.); garden work (weeding, planting, compost-turning, mulching, watering etc.); plant harvesting; herbal application; renewable energy applications; and outdoor games.

Services provided during environmental education programs include but are not limited to: Millard Learning Centre (MLC) day-use and overnight facilities (Classroom Building, Frontcountry and Backcountry Campgrounds, bathroom facilities); camping gear rentals; on-Galiano transportation services; first aid services; water supply; and program-related food & beverage services.

Potential Known Risks

Galiano Island is a small, rural community with limited access to medical services. GCA environmental education program locations are in a remote setting where there may be limited access to cellphone service for emergency communications and where emergency response times may be significantly longer than in an urban setting. While GCA strives to manage risk, it is not possible to eliminate all risk while engaging in outdoor activities. Potential known risks related to GCA environmental educational activities and services are the following:

- Slips, trips, falls and other injuries related to walking on uneven and unstable natural surfaces
- Cuts, scrapes and other injuries related to contact with sharp natural objects (eg. barnacles, wood splinters), ecological restoration & gardening tools (eg. shovels, loppers, cutting tools etc.), deer-fencing and tools/utensils used within Millard Learning Centre day-use/overnight facilities (eg. kitchen knives, vegetable graters/peelers, wood axe etc.)
- Injuries related to collisions with objects, with the ground and with other participants
- Injuries related to improper lifting of heavy objects
- Exposure injuries (eg. sunburns, heat exhaustion, hypothermia etc.)
- Animal/insect bites & stings (eg. wasps, bees, ticks, mosquitoes etc.)
- Injuries related to contact with plant-based irritants and poisonous plants (eg. pollen, Stinging Nettle, Spurge-Laurel Daphne, Foxglove, etc.) or with MLC facilities sanitizing products (eg. bleach for dish and surface sanitizing inside MLC facilities etc.)
- Burns from contact with campfire, Classroom fireplace, gas-powered stoves etc.
- Exposure to COVID-19 and other illnesses/diseases

- Injuries related to hazardous areas potentially present at GCA program locations such as: cliffs; deep and/or cold water; danger trees and deadfall; large unstable rocks; derelict buildings/other abandoned items
- Injuries related to motor-vehicle collisions during on-Galiano transportation to education program location(s) or Millard Learning Centre accommodations
- Getting lost or separated from the group
- Social or economic losses such as damages or losses to personal property
- Permanent disability or fatality

Additional Considerations

PLEASE BRING ANY PERSONAL MEDICATIONS (Eg. EPI-PEN) WITH YOU TO YOUR GCA PROGRAM.

SWIMMING IS NOT PERMITTED DURING PROGRAM HOURS. AFTERHOURS SWIMMING IS AT YOUR OWN RISK.

Informed Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk

By signing below, I:

1. I acknowledge my right to obtain as much information as I require about the field trip or activity and associated risks and hazards including information beyond that provided to me by the GCA.
2. I freely and voluntarily assume the risks/hazards inherent in the program and understand and acknowledge that I may suffer personal and potentially serious injury and/or damage or loss of personal property arising from my participation.
3. I have been informed that I must abide by the rules and regulations, including directions and instructions from GCA staff over all phases of my environmental education program.
4. In the event that I fail to abide by these rules and regulations, disciplinary action may require my exclusion from further participation.
5. I acknowledge that it is my duty to advise my trip's leader (eg. teacher, group leader) and GCA education staff of any medical/health concerns that may affect my participation.
6. I acknowledge that the GCA may choose to cancel the trip if conditions are deemed unsafe (e.g., weather, health advisory, etc.). I accept that the GCA will not be liable for any costs associated with such a cancellation.
7. I acknowledge that the GCA may choose to adjust the trip or program itinerary to ensure a safe learning environment.
8. I acknowledge that the GCA may secure transport to emergency medical services as they deem necessary for my immediate health and safety, and that I shall be financially responsible for such services.

Participant's Printed Name

Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian's Printed Name
(Complete if participant is under 19 years of age)

Participant's Signature

Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature
(Complete if participant is under 19 years of age)

Date

Date

