

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Two-Year Diploma

2023-24 HANDBOOK FOR APPLICANTS

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

THE MOST EXHILARATING COLLEGE PROGRAM ON EARTH!

Thank you for applying to the Outdoor Adventure Program offered at Algonquin College's Waterfront Campus in Pembroke, Ontario. Our program is like no other college education. It is one of the most exciting, innovative, and physically challenging programs in all of North America.

The following material provides specific information regarding the application process and details of the program. This handbook is designed to complement the basic overview available on our web site at www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/. Please refer to these sources for general college and course information.

The attached information will guide you through the application process. As this is a unique college education with very specific demands, there is a multiple-step application process to assess applicants and to help you prepare. Please keep this package and refer to it often.

You have made the right choice by applying to the Outdoor Adventure Program. With half of our program hours delivered outdoors, technical skills training taught by industry-leading experts, several expeditions, and a comprehensive business-of-tourism education, graduates are equipped to pursue their dream job. Our alumni are leaders in the adventure industry across Canada and around the world. Once again, thank you for considering Algonquin College as your preferred location to complete your post-secondary studies.

Note that we also host the **Outdoor Adventure Naturalist Program** and the **Action Sports Parks Development Program**. The Outdoor Adventure Naturalist Program features nature interpretation skills combined with easy adventure skills such as flatwater canoeing, sea kayaking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. The Action Sports Parks Development Program is a one-year certificate in building and maintaining skateparks, snow terrain parks, and bike trails. This is the only program of its type in the world! Consider applying to either of these as well, or telling your friends about them. For more information on these programs, visit these links:

<https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure-naturalist/>

<https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/action-sports-park-development/>.

Sincerely,

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For additional information, please contact:

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

APPLICANT HANDBOOK

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STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY, AND LIABILITY

In order to learn the skills necessary to become an effective leader in the Outdoor Adventure Tourism industry, students must perform beyond the limits of a mere participant and assume a greater degree of responsibility and risk.

There is an inherent element of risk which is beyond human control. Only those risks that contribute to career related skills, knowledge, and experience are acceptable, as dictated by industry standards, certification, licenses, and specific course outlines. This is termed 'risk appropriate' training. Risks that fall outside of the scope of industry practice are deemed inappropriate for technical training programs at Algonquin College. Although effort is made to minimize exposure to these risks, we can ultimately assume no responsibility for your safety or loss of personal equipment.

A signed Liability Release is required of all students before commencement of the program. The student is encouraged to read it carefully and fully understand the form's legal implications before signing. A parent/guardian Release is required for minors (under 18 years of age).

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION PROCESS

Part I (check each item as it is completed)

- Meet College Eligibility Requirements (see Outdoor Adventure Admission Requirements available on program website, <https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/#application-information>).
- Meet Program Eligibility Requirements; English Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent is required) and Mathematics Grade 11 (MBF3C, or a mathematics with a similar content is acceptable). There are several math equivalents, including Grade 11 university level. If you have questions as to whether your math credit will qualify, please call our Admissions office at (613) 735-4700 ext. 2811.

Part II (check each item as it is completed)

- Submission of Letter of Intent and Resume (see below for guidelines and deadline for submission). You can do this online [here](#). These can be submitted at any time prior to the Program Readiness Camp.

Part III (check each item as it is completed)

Prior to commencement of the program, accepted applicants must:

- Participate in the mandatory in-person Program Readiness Camp orientation at Wilderness Tours (June 11 & 12, 2023).
- Submission of Applicant Personal Information, Consent and Health form (available on program website, <https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/applicant-personal-information-consent-health-form/>), prior to attending mandatory Program Readiness Camp orientation.
- Sign and submit an Algonquin College Outdoor Adventure Program Assumption of Risk & Release form (available at program website, <https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/assumption-of-risk-release-form/>).
 - Those under the age of 18 must submit Parental Consent documentation (click 'Under 18' on the online form above).
 - * Applicants will be required to sign a Wilderness Tours Waiver online prior to the Program Readiness Camp orientation; Wilderness Tours is our delivery partner in our skills training, and we use their facilities and equipment. Details and a link will be provided upon registration in the orientation camp.
- Provide proof of current Standard First Aid certification before the start of class in September (email a photo of your certificate of completion to the Program Coordinator, contact information below).
- Obtain a passport valid for duration of program prior to commencement of winter term.

The Outdoor Adventure Program is a physically demanding program. Students should be able to efficiently and comfortably swim 200m, be able to carry a 22kg / 50-pound backpack over long distances, do high-output physical activities several hours at a time, and spend all day and overnight

outdoors in all weather from +20C to -20C. Students will be required to swim in whitewater rapids while wearing a personal floatation device, and must be able to ride a bicycle and sit in a canoe and kayak for extended periods of time. Students must have the mental acuity to follow specific directions in high risk environments and consistently follow safety procedures.

FEES AND EXPENSES

Visit our program webpage for the most recent year's tuition fees and expenses:

<https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/#fees-expenses>

ADDITIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES

Note: Two days of every week take place at Wilderness Tours, our partner training facility, or at other designated training sites (i.e. in the Ottawa Valley, Algonquin Park, Quebec, or the Adirondack Mountains in New York State). During those training days, all transportation, outdoor equipment, accommodations, and meals are provided (Day 1 lunch and dinner, Day 2 breakfast and lunch). Meals required for the multi-day expeditions and Fall Camp are also provided. (When students are taking classes at the Pembroke Campus, they are responsible for their own meals.)

- **Program Readiness Camp:** \$225.67 (*subject to change*) including tax
This mandatory orientation includes all meals, whitewater rafting, all activities and equipment, access to Wilderness Tours' recreation facilities, and program assessment. Students must provide their own transportation to the orientation weekend to the Wilderness Tours location. Details on the Program Readiness Camp are below.
- **Books:** \$400.00 per term (approximate)
- **Certifications:**
Students may be able to earn up to 18 industry certifications through the program bundled into their tuition and at a significantly lower cost than if attained independently. Incorporating many certifications directly into the curriculum ensures graduates are immediately qualified for employment. Certification fees are included in tuition; however, textbooks, annual membership dues and future re-certification fees are at the expense of the student. NOTE: Certifications are subject to change as all are regulated by various external national bodies; changes to certification requirements imposed by external bodies may eliminate Algonquin College's ability to deliver the certification or include it in the program of study. A sample of certifications which students may earn are:
 - Canadian Rivers Council Raft Guide
 - Canoe Kayak Canada Level 2 Kayak Instructor/River Leader
 - Paddle Canada Canoe Instructor
 - Canadian Professional Mountain Bike Guide Trip Leader

- Leave No Trace Camping Skills Trainer
- Swiftwater Rescue Training (Basic and Advanced)
- Wilderness First Responder First Aid Certificate
- Alpine Ski and Snowboard Level 1 Instructor (CSIA and CASI)
- And others

- **Advanced Expedition (Level 04):**

If a group chooses a final expedition destination that exceeds the budget allotted by the program, additional costs for transportation, accommodation, documentation, etc. may be incurred by each student, depending on their choice of destination and activity.

- **Clothing & Equipment:**

Suitable outdoor clothing and gear is vital, not only for comfort, but for safety. Most students will already own appropriate items; if starting from scratch, expect to spend \$1,500 on gear over the two years of the program. Keep in mind this equipment is required for work in the industry, and has a useful life far beyond the Outdoor Adventure Program. As a rule, students will not be wearing cotton t-shirts, sweat shirts, jeans, etc. during outdoor skills days, since cotton gets wet and cold. Specific outdoor clothing is required.

Please refer to the program website for a required gear list. Students reporting to Fall Camp must have all of the equipment on the 'Basic Gear list' including a one or two person three-season tent, but should not purchase items from the 'Complete Gear list' until after Fall Camp. Advice from faculty and special workshops will ensure students spend their money on appropriate equipment.

Discounts are available to students in purchasing new equipment. Details will be provided at the Program Readiness Orientation weekend at Wilderness Tours.

- **Safety Equipment Package:** (Included in the Ancillary/Incidental Fee first term, which becomes the property of the student.)

This gear is required to learn and work in the industry, and is purchased for students at wholesale cost. The package includes:

- Whitewater rescue PFD
- Whitewater helmet
- Rock climbing harness
- Rock climbing helmet
- Throw bag
- Ski/Snowboard helmet
- Wrist guards

Note: If equipment becomes damaged to the extent it is considered unsafe, the student will be required to provide an approved replacement.

- **Gear Provided by the Program:**

- Rock Climbing equipment
- Ice climbing equipment
- Mountain bikes and helmets
- Raft and paddles/rescue gear
- Whitewater kayak, sea kayak, flatwater/whitewater canoes, skirts, and paddles
- Full wet suit
- Alpine and Nordic (classic & skate) skis, boots, and poles
- Snowboards and boots
- Snowshoes
- Three (3) season tents
- Single burner/double burner stove
- Camping pot sets
- GPS units
- Tarps

Please bring any of the above gear you may already have. Please note, if any of the faculty have safety related concerns with your gear, you may be asked to use program equipment instead.

PASSPORT

Certain courses may travel to the United States and possibly other international destinations. As such, a passport (mandatory) or other travel visas or documentation (depending on location) will be needed. Proof of "out of country" insurance will be required on a per-trip basis and is the responsibility of the student. ***All students must have a valid passport at the start of the second semester.***

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Financial assistance programs are meant to supplement, not replace, the financial resources which the student is expected to contribute toward his or her own education. Financial aid is designed to help students meet the costs of tuition fees, books and supplies, and basic living expenses.

Students planning to apply for financial aid through OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program), or other provincial funding programs, are advised to do so as soon as applications are available, usually around May 1. You do not have to wait until you are accepted into a program to apply. It is recommended that students find more information and apply on-line at <http://osap.gov.on.ca>.

MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

The information here reflects the most current at the time of publication. Modifications may be made prior to program commencement. For inquiries, please contact:

613-735-4700 or 1-800-565-4723

Jeff Jackson, Ph.D., Program Co-ordinator	jeff.jackson@algonquincollege.com	X 2704
Jamie Bramburger, Manager, Community & Student Affairs		X 2756
Emily Quenneville, Co-ordinator, Admissions/Registration		X 2811

MANDATORY PROGRAM READINESS CAMP ORIENTATION INFORMATION

The Program Readiness Camp is a mandatory orientation full of activities and acts as an introduction to the Outdoor Adventure Program. Students meet the program instructors and other students, are introduced to our skills training activities, learn program policies and expectations, have their physical readiness assessed, and learn the details of the program. As the Outdoor Adventure Program is like no other college education, it is imperative our students are fully prepared and know what is expected of them to be safe and successful in our program.

Prior to the Program Readiness Orientation Camp, students must complete the Personal Information, Consent and Health form, available on program website at (<https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/applicant-personal-information-consent-health-form/>), and the Outdoor Adventure Program and a Wilderness Tours Assumption of Risk and Release form (<https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/assumption-of-risk-release-form/>).

Attendance (via advance registration) at the Program Readiness Camp is mandatory, and a student may not start the program without first attending the mandatory orientation. If, after participation and assessment in the orientation camp, a candidate's physical or mental fitness is evaluated as poor and jeopardizes their safety and/or ability to successfully progress through the program, the student will be coached on options, which may include postponing program start to the following year.

Parents are welcome to attend, too! We host parents with a parallel information session, tour, and familiarization with the program. Details are available on our website: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/program/outdoor-adventure/prc-orientation/>.

DATES FOR MANDATORY PROGRAM READINESS ORIENTATION CAMP 2023

June 11 & 12 (Sunday/Monday). If you are unable to make it to the Program Readiness Orientation Camp, be sure to contact the Program Co-ordinator (contact info above).

Students must register in advance by calling the Pembroke Campus Admissions office (no online registration for this event):

1-800-565-4723, ext. 2708 *or* 613-735-4700, ext. 2708

Payment can be made by credit card. For payment by other means, please discuss by phone with the Admissions officer at the numbers above.

Note: The Program Readiness Camps take place at Wilderness Tours; for directions, please visit www.wildernesstours.com.

PROGRAM READINESS CAMP AGENDA Sunday & Monday

(Hosted at Wilderness Tours; for directions, please visit www.wildernesstours.com)

Sunday:

Arrive at Wilderness Tours no later than 11:30 a.m.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 11:00 - 12:00 Noon | Sign in and register at Reception Desk |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch and Opening Comments – Pavilion |
| 12:45 p.m. | Pick up wetsuits and change into rafting clothing |
| 1:00 p.m. | Bus departs for raft trip |
| 1:30 p.m. | Rafting on the Ottawa River – Swimming evaluation |
| 5:30 p.m. | Return from raft trip – Return your wetsuits |
| 6:00p.m. | Dinner – Pavilion |
| 7:00 p.m. | Group work – Case study/preparation/presentation |

Monday:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 6:30 a.m. | Breakfast – Pavilion |
| 7:15 a.m. | Intro to rappelling/sizing for all equipment |
| 8:30 a.m. | Group A & B: Mini-duathlon (mountain bike 8km, run 4km)
Group C & D: Cliff rappelling, Personal interview |
| 10:00 a.m. | Switch activities
Group C & D: Mini-duathlon
Group A & B: Cliff rappelling, personal interview |
| 11:30 a.m. | Gear list and information |
| 1:00 p.m. | Lunch – Pavilion |
| 1:30 p.m. | Submit personal essay/Closing Remarks |

The Camp Includes:

- Four meals (vegetarian option available)
- Rafting and swimming workshop and evaluation
- Introduction to rappelling
- Mountain bike and trail running fitness assessment
- Use of equipment*
- Use of Wilderness Tours facilities
- All Program Readiness Camp activities

Supplies Required for Program Readiness Camp:

There will be a variety of physical and group activities, so you should pack accordingly. Please include the following supplies:

- Sleeping Bag
- Tent (if you do not have access to a tent, let us know in advance)
- Footwear for rafting/swimming that won't fall off in water (i.e. sport sandals or old running shoes; flip flops or Croc type footwear is inappropriate)
- Running shoes for Duathlon
- Appropriate clothing for cool weather conditions
- Swimsuit
- Bicycle helmet (if you already own one)
- Wool or fleece sweater
- Shell or windbreaker
- Towel and toiletries
- Sunblock/insect repellent

***Note:** All activity equipment is supplied. Participants will be required to sign a Wilderness Tours waiver form and use an assigned Wilderness Tours life jacket.

PROGRAM READINESS CAMP STATEMENT AND POLICIES

In order to learn the skills necessary to become an effective leader in the outdoor adventure industry, we believe that individuals must perform beyond the limits of a mere participant and assume a greater degree of risk and challenge.

In the activities involved, there is an element of inherent risk which is beyond human control. Although we go to great lengths to manage these risks, we cannot assume responsibility for participant's safety or loss of personal equipment.

A signed liability release is required of all Program Readiness Camp participants before the Camp begins. A parent/guardian release must be completed for minors (under 18 years of age).

Applicants will not be able to participate in the Program Readiness Camp unless Algonquin College receives a signed liability release waiver prior to the Camp.

1. Alcohol and Cannabis

- There will be no consumption of any alcohol or cannabis while participants are at the Program Readiness Camp.

2. Smoking

- No smoking is allowed at any time during any Program Readiness Camp activities.
- No smoking is allowed in vehicles or near equipment.