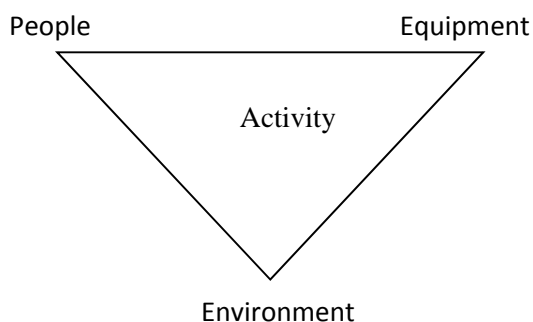


Explanation of Risk - Explore 8 Program

Many of the activities that Collingwood students will participate in during Explore involve an element of inherent risk. The following information will help you understand these potential risks.

ASSESSING RISK - The Risk Management Triangle

Just as there are risks in all areas of our lives, there are inherent risks involved in all outdoor activities. To better understand and manage these risks, Explore uses the Risk Management Triangle to consider the way people, equipment and the environment interrelate in relationship to any given activity. Not one of the elements of the Risk Management Triangle works alone. It is the combination of people engaged in a particular activity, with specific equipment, in a given environment that determines the level of risk.



Environment: Weather conditions encountered while on Explore can be harsh at times: cold, rain, snow, hail, lightning, heat, ultra-violet sunrays, etc should be expected. Unexpected changes in the weather are part of the outdoor experience. Terrain hazards include: steep slopes, cliffs, rocky trails, rock fall, rivers, lakes, falling trees or branches, slippery snow slopes, etc. When choosing suitable locations for activities, staff assesses specific conditions such as weather forecasts, terrain, remoteness, flora & fauna. Following instructions is necessary.

People: Physical exertion is required for many of the activities. The diverse physical, social and emotional abilities of the students in the group are considered when planning the trip itinerary and activities. Some emotional stress on the part of the students is to be expected, as an integral part of the program involves stretching comfort zones as well as physical limits. Through a progression, students are given the necessary skills and experiences to prepare them for challenges in the future.

The teachers within the Explore program all undergo rigorous certification and are all experienced Outdoor Educators. The teachers work in teams of two while in the field and a ratio of 2 teachers to 13 students will be maintained.

Equipment: Appropriate clothing and equipment are necessary to minimize the risk of injury and/or illness from exposure to these elements. ***It is the responsibility of parents and students to read the equipment list and ensure that they have adequate clothing and equipment for the trip.*** Group equipment such as tents, stoves, and water filters will be provided by the Explore program. All equipment will be checked by the teachers before departure.

MANAGING RISK

Managing risk involves considering the various aspects of a given activity, determining what hazards are associated with the activity, how significant the hazards are, and what the vulnerability to the group is as a result of the hazards. With this information, it is possible to determine if the potential educational outcomes warrant the risk.

MANAGING RISK (continued):

Instructors

- **Medical Care:** Each trip will have **at minimum** one teacher leader with 80 hours of Wilderness First Aid training; all instructors are required to have a minimum of 40hrs of wilderness first aid training including a background in dealing with traumatic injuries and illness assessment. All instructors are required to have current CPR certification. When on water all instructors must have at minimum of Bronze Cross Life Saving certification. Teacher leaders carry first aid kits equipped with the following “over-the-counter” medications: ibuprofen, Tylenol, Immodium (anti-diarrhea), Tylenol Cold and Sinus, Graval, and Benedryl. Should the child’s condition warrant it, we will assist the students in taking this medication.
- **Outdoor Experience:** Instructors are experienced outdoor educators. This experience includes working with students on multi-day trips in the outdoors.

Transportation:

It is Collingwood School’s policy that students are to be transported in school buses. Instructors driving students hold a valid Class 4 professional driver’s license, inspect the vehicle prior to departure, and are required to have a Driver’s Abstract on file with the school. Tire chains are carried for use in winter driving conditions. In rare instances, a student who is ill or injured may be transported in an alternative vehicle appropriate to both weather and circumstance.

Contingency Plans:

Pre-trip planning is an important aspect of the Explore risk management strategy. Scouting trips, location assessments, involving a site visit and hazard assessment, are all completed for all locations that the Explore program visits. Each group has established contingency plans in case of severe weather changes and a variety of urgent and non-urgent situations. Collingwood School has established protocols to support the Explore teachers in the field.

Communication:

Instructors carry a satellite phone and /or a cell phone with them at all times. A communications protocol is established for group check-ins and emergency situations.

INHERENT RISKS of SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

There are inherent risks involved in the pursuit of outdoor activities. Risks are unique to specific activities and are covered individually below.

Activity	Specific Inherent Risks	Risk reduction Strategy	Student : Teacher Ratio	Instructor Qualifications
Hiking	Falls Hypothermia	Students advised of dangers & properly equipped	2:13 over night 1:10 day hike	Experience leading groups in wilderness, Wilderness 1 st Aid
Camping	Burns from stoves/wild animals/hypothermia	Teach proper stove handling techniques, food management (bear caches), proper clothing	2:13	Wilderness 1 st Aid, experience taking groups camping, knowledge of the area
Cross Country Skiing	Hypothermia/injury due to falling/cold injuries	Proper clothing, techniques on how to stop, take off skis and walk if uncomfortable, space between skiers	2:13	Wilderness 1 st Aid/ski instructor qualifications
Snow Shoeing	Injury from falling or tripping/weather injuries	Proper clothing, techniques on how to travel effectively on flat, uphill and downhill terrain	2:13 or 4:26	Experience teaching snowshoeing/Wilderness 1 st Aid
Snow Shelter Building	Collapse of structure	Detailed assessment of snow conditions. Structural guidelines i.e.-dome shaped ceiling	2:13	Experience teaching snow shelters