



519-990-0756

pat@naturalpathways.ca

www.naturalpathways.ca

**Preparing for Forest and
Nature School
Information Letter and
Assumption of Risk for
Parents/Guardians**

We welcome your participation with Natural Pathways Learning Centre where we offer Forest and Nature School programs. The staff at NPLC is excited for this opportunity to share the forest school philosophy. We support and engage participants through outdoor learning, risky play, through an emergent and inquiry-based curriculum. You can learn more about our programs and approach by visiting our website at www.naturalpathways.ca To access our Parent Handbook click on Documents.

Children will get wet and dirty when visiting us - we encourage it! For this reason, we require that children and adults be prepared with:

- long pants, long sleeve shirts, socks and sturdy boots (or sturdy closed-toe shoes that will get dirty)
- a backpack with a change of clothing, reusable water bottle and litter-free, nut-free snack/lunch
- dress for the weather, **layers are best** – we spend most of our time **outside in all weather**, including rain and cold, so please help your child enjoy their time with us
- See the Parent Handbook on our website for more information on clothing and activities

Location:

Our Forest and Nature School programs are offered at forest sites in Essex County. Currently we are offering our programs at Camp Bryerswood located at 6480 Texas Road in Amherstburg. Occasionally our programs are offered at other sites. Please check our website and our Facebook page for more details and updates.

Assumption of Risk and Permission Form

**Please Note: Completion of this form is required for your child's participation at
Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School**

Risk Assessment Summary

Participating at Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School, an outdoor, nature-based program, includes inherent and foreseeable risks of harm. You are required to accept these and other risks as a condition of you and/or your child's participation. While the variety of risks is more than can be listed here, and keeping in mind that Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School educators are trained, experienced and make a strong effort in supporting children to stay safe while learning and playing in nature, the following sections cover the main areas of risk that you are required to acknowledge and sign your name indicating permission to participate for your child and/or for yourself as a adult participant.

The Risk Assessment Summary is intended to enable you and your child to better understand and accept the various risks involved at Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School. It is your responsibility to weigh and evaluate the risks on behalf of your child. Your child is under no obligation to participate in all activities at Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School and may choose not to participate at any time after you sign this form.

Section 1 : Although we do everything we can to prevent injury, including completion of all Forest School Canada (FSC) risk assessments, Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School is an outdoor program and therefore there is an inherent level of risk. We encourage children to take supported risks in order to learn how to navigate and manage risk in a responsible manner. Risk/benefit assessments are completed on every activity, every day and the risk of outdoor activity is reviewed regularly. We have a low student:teacher ratio (5:1), plus volunteers.

I acknowledge that a Forest School program carries with it elements of risk and the possibility of injury including, but not limited to; cuts, scrapes, bruises, insect bites, poison ivy, as well as more serious injuries. I understand that injuries sustained during outdoor activities have the potential to be severe and in very rare cases, even fatal.	
Parent/Guardian signature	Date

Section 2 : Your child will be taught fire safety rules. Children will not be permitted to participate in fire preparations unless the safety procedures are followed. The teachers reserve the right to exclude children whom they deem are not well prepared. Before children actually have a fire or use tools, hours are spent in preparation. Before any class is allowed to have a fire, safety procedures around fire are taught and practised.

I understand that fires and open fire cooking are activities at Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School and I acknowledge the risk of injury involved in such activities.	
Parent/Guardian signature	Date

Section 3 : Your child may be using tools such as hammers, knives and hand drills after being well prepared and only when closely supervised. Tools are used on a 1:1 basis. This means that no child will use a tool unless they are being closely supervised by a Natural Pathways Educator or appointed volunteer. Children are taught correct tool use and before children use tools, hours are spent in preparation.

I understand that children and adults will be using tools at Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School and I acknowledge the risk of injury involved in such activities.	
Parent/Guardian signature	Date

Section 4:

In case of an injury to my child or myself while in the care, custody, or control of Natural Pathways Forest and Nature School, I will hereby waive all claims against NPLC, its Directors, Facilitators, Teachers, Volunteers, and Members of all responsibility for any injury, loss, or damage which I or my child might sustain while participating in any NPLC activity.	
Parent/Guardian signature	Date

Name of Child/Adult participant _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Print Name Clearly _____ Emergency Contact # (s) _____