



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What will students be doing on days with inclement weather (heavy rain, very cold conditions)?

We are an environmental education centre and most of our program is delivered outdoors in all kinds of weather. That is why we encourage students to dress according to the weather conditions (see parent letter for appropriate seasonal clothing suggestions). We do have a stock of rain slickers, rubber and winterized rubber boots and assorted hats, mitts, sweater and pants students can borrow if they don't come with proper clothing.

On very cold days we are still outside much of the time, **even on days when schools may have indoor recesses and lunch breaks.** However conditions are monitored and the program is adjusted so that students groups may be brought in to warm up as needed.

If the temperature is forecast below -28 degrees Celsius our staff or the teacher may choose to reschedule. (We have some snow days set aside for this purpose)

### Does your centre operate on days when driving conditions are poor?

If school busses are cancelled due to inclement weather for our Zone then we are also closed as the busses that serve us are also cancelled. Please consult the Durham Board website, local radio stations or you child's school for more information.

### Can students bring electronic devices such as cell phones to the Nonquon?

They can but we don't advise it. Time at our centre is a great opportunity to unplug and enjoy the natural environment. We advise students who do bring technology to put it safely away in their bag until they depart. Some students who have not heeded this warning have lost expensive cell phones on one of our many trails. Staff at Nonquon are not responsible for lost items. Given the extensive nature of our trails and the deep snow or dense foliage finding a lost cell phone is unlikely.

### Can Nonquon accommodate students with physical challenges?

We make it a priority to accommodate all students. We do our very best to include students with special needs in as many aspects of our program as we can, although some modification is necessary. We encourage students to attend when possible with their regular support worker. We do have an all-terrain wheel chair and snow coach available for students with some upper body control to use which will help them to negotiate our trails.

Not all of our buildings are wheelchair accessible. Teachers make staff aware of any special needs for students prior to visiting so we can book that group into the right classroom.

### Are there any dangers from wild animals, Poison Ivy, or insects?

The danger is minimal. We are based in a natural setting and it is possible to encounter natural wild life, but it is very unlikely. Many animal species are nocturnal by nature and are not seen during the day. Others tend to avoid our trails and property as there is too much noise from student groups.

There can be a risk of bee or wasp stings. **Students with allergies should come to the Nonquon with at least 2 Epi-Pens and carry them with them at all times.**

**Mosquitos** are only really a concern in late May and June. It is recommended that students wear light coloured long sleeved shirts and pants and will be directed on how to use Insect repellent as needed during these times.

Due to the wet nature of our soil Poison Ivy will not grow on our property, so it is not a concern.

Also, **Ticks** and **Rabies** are not currently a concern in our area.

### **Can I find Nonquon using Google Maps?**

**NO**, if you use Google Maps to find our centre you will be directed to a church parking lot in Port Perry. Please use the [map available](#) from your child's teacher or print a copy from our page on the [DDSB.ca website](#).

### **Is there parking available for parent volunteers?**

Parking is limited to a few cars so that there will be space for school busses to turn around and exit. If possible please ride with the class in the school bus or carpool.

**Program Facilitators, Nonquon EEC**