

Handsworth Secondary School

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[https://www.sd44.ca/school/handsworth/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.sd44.ca/school/handsworth/Pages/default.aspx#/)

North Vancouver School District Field Trip Informed Consent

One Day Field Trip

For: GRADE 8 RETREAT – CHEAKAMUS CENTRE: SEPTEMBER 22/23, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

*The written, informed consent of parents/guardians is required for participation of students in all One-Day field trips in North Vancouver School District No. 44. The purpose of the Informed Consent document is to provide students and parents/guardians with information that is related specifically to the field trip. The parent/guardian consenting signatures on this document indicate acknowledgement and acceptance of the information contained herein inclusive of risks and potential consequences. **NOTE: This school field trip is optional. Alternate arrangements will be made for students who do not participate.***

The legal requirement of implementing the Informed Consent document is the direct result of a number of tragic outcomes that have occurred on school field trips in other school district jurisdictions. The intent here is to prevent the occurrence of tragedy, to attempt to ensure safety, to inform students and parents/guardians of the field trip itinerary and purpose(s), and to brief students and parents/guardians on the inherent risks of travel.

Within this package, you will find information relating to:

- *Description of how the field trip supplements the educational program*
- *Notice that the field trip is optional, and that arrangements will be made for students who are not participating*
- *Notification of student/parent Pre-Trip meeting. A Pre-Trip meeting is required for all Multiple-Day and/or Out-of-Province field trips.*
- *Description of supervisors: teachers, employees of the Board and other adult volunteers, along with contact information*
- *Transportation and accommodation arrangements*
- *Itinerary consisting of date(s), departure and return times, and schedule of planned activities*
- *Description of planned activities and levels of direct and indirect supervision*
- *Description of inherent risks and potential consequences*
- *Assessment of student skills and abilities as pertaining to the field trip activities (if applicable)*

- *Student Awareness of Risk and Responsibility Form completed by student (if applicable)*
- *Behavioural expectations of students plus rules and regulations*
- *Emergency Planning/Cancellation of Trip information, including cancellation provisions, collection/disclosure of student medical and personal information, first-aid arrangements, and the Emergency Communication and Return Plan*
- *Description of budget consisting of revenue (cost to student) and expenditures (cost of trip) (optional trips only)*
- *Parent/guardian responsibility to arrange student accident or liability insurance*
- *Parent/guardian responsibility to determine whether the student may participate in the field trip*

PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of all field trips is to provide experiences that are virtually impossible to achieve in a school setting. The following is a summary of our planned field trip to Cheakamus Centre, which is intended to supplement our educational program for our Grade 8s

- *Contribute to a strong sense of belonging to the school community through shared experiences with peers, student leaders, and Handsworth staff.*
- *Set the tone for a positive and inclusive start to students' secondary school journey*
- *Connect Grade 8 students with the Cheakamus Centre and provide opportunity for land-based, outdoor learning.*
- *Create friendships and connections that will follow through secondary experience and support transition to high school*

By virtue of being out of the school setting, students on a field trip learn to be ambassadors for their school, their community and even their country. They learn the realities of travel, the responsibilities and independence of self-governance, the communication skills and leadership skills necessary for teamwork, and the social skills necessary for a variety of circumstances.

LEVELS OF SUPERVISION:

The level of supervision is divided into direct and indirect. Direct supervision is the time students spend with the trip sponsor(s) and/or chaperone(s) participating in the trip's planned activities. Indirect supervision is the time students may spend as "free time" in between scheduled group activities. Under indirect supervision, the students may not necessarily be in the company of a sponsor or chaperone. It is expected that students, while under indirect supervision, will act with common sense in accordance with school and field trip behaviour expectations, stay within the articulated geographical boundaries, and act with the best interests of all concerned parties utmost in their minds and actions. Sponsors and chaperones will determine "free time", check-in times and methods, and clearly articulate them to students. Students, when under indirect supervision, will be informed of how to reach a sponsor or chaperone in the case of an emergency.

TRANSPORTATION:

Field trip sponsors will arrange for transportation that best meets the needs of the trip in question. Transportation of students by private vehicles shall be in accordance with Board Policy 607: Transportation of Students and School District transportation procedures. All field trip transportation is subject to the regulation and law of the relevant municipal, provincial, federal or international jurisdiction. Students must use the transportation method arranged by the trip sponsors to ensure safety, timely arrival, and reasonable accident liability. Following are the specific details for the particular trip your child is attending:

Return coach and school bus transportation to and from Handsworth

Students travelling by private vehicle who are under the age of 9 years and not yet 145 cm (4'9") tall will require a booster seat (if applicable).

ITINERARY:

Group One – September 22, 2026 / Group Two – September 23, 2026

<i>7:30am</i>	<i>Students arrive at Handsworth Grand</i>
<i>Commons 7:45-8:00am</i>	<i>Buses depart from Handsworth Secondary</i>
<i>9:15-9:30am</i>	<i>Arrive at Cheakamus Center – Welcome & Orientation</i>
<i>10:00am–1:45pm</i>	<i>Cheakamus Challenge</i>
<i>11:30am-1:00pm</i>	<i>30-minute Staggered Lunch Breaks (Groups)</i>
<i>1:45pm-3:15pm</i>	<i>Handsworth Leadership Activities</i>
<i>3:15pm</i>	<i>Load Buses</i>
<i>3:30pm</i>	<i>Departure from Cheakamus Center</i>
<i>4:45pm</i>	<i>Arrive back at Handsworth Secondary School</i>

RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES:

There is a degree of risk in all daily activities. The risk is increased to varying degrees when students are away from the safety and supervision of the school setting. It is impossible to itemize every possible element of risk associated with a field trip. Generally speaking, this field trip may include, but not be limited, to the following inherent risks and all risks associated with:

- *Travel Risks:*

Circumstances can change due to unpredictable natural disasters, medical emergencies or human conflict. Parents should familiarize themselves with current information regarding travel risks by visiting Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada's website at www.voyage.gc.ca prior to the date of travel.

In the event a significant security, safety or health issue arises before the field trip commences, or while the field trip is in progress, the field trip will be cancelled. If the field trip has commenced, students and supervisors will return as soon as possible, unless the Superintendent or his designate determines there are no significant security, safety or health risks, or that remaining out of the province is a safer option than immediate return to North Vancouver.

- **Activity Risks:**

Outdoor activities and games, Walking on uneven terrain, Outdoor activities in all weather; This day trip to the Cheakamus Centre and subsequent day's activities at Handsworth Secondary may include, but are not limited to, the following inherent risks and risks associated with:

- Travel by vehicle and foot
- Outdoor activities
- Encountering wildlife including insects
- Unpredictable weather
- Being close to water (ex. river, stream, pond, lake)

Sponsors, chaperones, and students will do all they can to ensure a safe and controlled experience to reduce inherent risk. The consequences of risk are, again, myriad and dependent on the situation. Students and parents/guardians need to be aware that injury can occur from risk, and that injury can range from minor to fatal. Again, sponsors, chaperones, and students will do all they can to ensure a safe and controlled experience. By virtue of signing this Informed Consent form, you are acknowledging your understanding and acceptance of the inherent risks and possible consequences associated with this field trip.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Before students may participate in any planned experience while on a field trip, they must assure the field trip sponsor(s) and chaperone(s) that they have the necessary and required skills, training and common sense to participate in the experience. Again, there is a range of skill level dependent on the activity. For example, during free time students may have access to an activity that may in itself have certain risks. For example, students who do not possess swimming skills should not attempt any activity in or around water that may result in or require swimming. Common sense must prevail.

If a risk activity, such as skiing, is the purpose of the field trip, the sponsor(s) and chaperone(s) must assess and be assured that students have the necessary and required skills, training, and common sense to realistically participate in the activity at varying degrees of competence. Students are solely responsible for being forthright and honest in declaring their level of skills in the "self-assessment" section of the Student Awareness of Risk and Responsibility Form entitled "My level of skills and abilities".

In order to comply with these expectations, for trips that involve international travel and/or a relatively high level of risk, students must complete the Student Awareness of Risk and Responsibility Form.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS, SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS:

While on any Handsworth Secondary field trip, it is important that students remember that they are on a school outing and behavioral expectations are consistent with all school rules. As such, students come under the jurisdiction of the School District Student Conduct Policy and the Handsworth's Code of Conduct for the full duration of the field trip. It is very important for students to remember that when they are on a field trip they are representatives of Handsworth and the North Vancouver School District and are expected to behave accordingly.

1. *The safety of the group must be of utmost priority. Students must always be concerned about the welfare of all members of the field trip.*
2. *Students who commit a criminal offence or who are found with or under the influence of substances may be subject to the demands of the local law enforcement agency involved. This may result in serious consequences that may include, but not be limited to, being sent home with a chaperone at the parent/guardian(s) expense.*
3. *The purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed at any time, regardless of the age of the student, or the legal drinking age of the location that is being visited. Failure to comply will result in serious consequences that may include, but not be limited to, being sent home with a chaperone at the parent/guardian(s) expense.*
4. *Smoking is not permitted on field trips.*
5. *Students must abide by all restrictions set by supervisor(s)/chaperone(s) with respect to “off-limits” areas and activities.*
6. *Approved transportation or chartered vehicles must be used at all times.*
7. *Written, parent/guardian permission must be given to the head chaperone, in advance, if a student wishes to visit specified relatives or friends. These specified people must come to collect the student and identify themselves to the head chaperone.*
8. *If applicable, students must register on the sign in/sign out sheets in the lobby of the hotel when leaving and returning to the hotel during “free time”.*
9. *All “free time” activities are secondary to the planned activity and travel schedule. Students must be available for all scheduled activities unless they are ill. Illness caused by lack of sleep or any other preventable cause will result in a restriction of privileges as deemed suitable by the chaperones.*
10. *If applicable, all students are required to help load and unload the bus. No one will be dismissed until all duties are completed. This means carrying more than just one’s own luggage and gear.*
11. *If applicable, uniforms must be kept clean and pressed. When not being worn, uniforms should be hung up.*
12. *All students must be in their own rooms at times specified by the chaperones. Curfew will be set daily based on the schedule and student behaviour.*
13. *Students are not to have anyone other than authorized field trip participants in their room. After curfew, only one’s roommates are to be in one’s room. If a roommate leaves, students are expected to notify a chaperone.*
14. *Students are not to disturb other hotel guests. This is particularly important in the halls. Students are to be quiet in the halls and reasonably quiet in the rooms.*
15. *For an Out-of-Province trip, students are required to travel with photo identification. For an Out-of-Country trip, students are required to travel with a valid passport.*
16. *Students whose behaviour is deemed inappropriate and/or in contravention of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action on the trip as determined by the chaperones, and upon return, as determined by the administration.*

The Handsworth Secondary Code of Conduct applies at all times during the Handsworth Grade 8 Retreat (including the Cheakamus Centre activities) in conjunction with the Cheakamus Centre Code - Cooperation, Common Sense, and Consideration. Students are expected to:

- *Stay inbounds*
- *Follow instructions from staff and student leaders*
- *Treat animals and plants with care and respect*
- *Report sickness and accidents to staff immediately*
- *Follow fire alarm and emergency procedures as discussed in the orientation safety tour.*

EMERGENCY PLANNING/CANCELLATION OF TRIP:

A. Cancellation of Trip

In the event a significant security, safety or health issue arises before the field trip commences, or while the field trip is in progress, the field trip will be cancelled. If the field trip has commenced, students and supervisors will return as soon as possible, unless the Superintendent or his delegate determines there are no significant security, safety or health risks or that remaining out of the province is a safer option than immediate return to North Vancouver.

If a field trip requires the payment of a deposit and/or monies either in advance of the field trip or during the field trip and the field trip is cancelled either in part or in whole, or the itinerary altered, neither the school nor the Board shall be liable for any refund either in part, or in whole.

B. Medical Information

All students must submit a completed medical form with parent/guardian signature in order to participate in a multiple-day field trip. Parents/guardians are required to fill in the separate medical/emergency contact information form.

The information provided on the medical/emergency contact information form is critical for guiding appropriate medical responses if needed.

A “basic needs” first aid kit will travel with the group. Student Emergency Procedure Plans/medical supplies will be brought for participating students with life-threatening medical conditions (e.g., anaphylaxis). Students with specialized medication(s) or conditions must be able to responsibly look after their regular, daily medical needs without specialized assistance. Where regular urban emergency medical assistance is available, it will be used when necessary. Where regular urban emergency medical assistance is not available, special provisions for emergencies will be addressed by available staff.

C. Emergency Communication and Return Plan

An Emergency Communication and Return Plan will be developed for this field trip. The Plan will include an Emergency Communication Information Sheet which identifies communication procedures in the event of an emergency, and names a primary Board Employee sponsor/supervisor contact in attendance on the field trip, and one primary school district staff contact on location in North Vancouver. The Emergency Communication Information Sheet will also include contact

information for hotels/hosts. A copy of the Emergency Communication Information Sheet will be provided to all parents/guardians, students and chaperones in advance of the trip departure.

The master Emergency Communication Information Sheet, as well as the following supplementary listings, will be maintained at the school, with copies provided to the participating primary Board Employee sponsor/supervisor:

- Current phone number(s) for a minimum of one emergency contact person for each student. At least one named contact must be present in North Vancouver for the duration of the trip. Final re-confirmation of emergency contacts and contact numbers will be required within one week of trip departure.
- Contact details for travel agent/travel agency/tour operator.
- A final listing of all students, their birthdates and any pertinent medical information, and, in the case of
 - Out-of-Country trips, their passport numbers.
 - A copy of the signed Informed Consent Approval for each student.
 - At least one supervising adult will have a cell phone.

In the event of student injury, parents/guardians will be notified. For all incidents involving injury, supervising school personnel will record details of the incident and, as soon as practicable, complete an Incident Report submission.

D. Consent for Disclosure of Personal Information

By signing the Informed Consent, each parent and/or guardian consents to the disclosure of their child's personal information, including medical information, by the sponsor or chaperone to third parties in the event the sponsor or chaperone consider such disclosure necessary. Examples of third parties include travel agents, law enforcement officers, physicians, the Canadian Embassy or Foreign Affairs staff.

E. Medical/Travel/Cancellation Insurance

Group medical/travel/cancellation insurance will be obtained for all Out-of-Province field trips and may be arranged for other multiple-day field trips. Where group coverage is not provided, it is up to parents/guardians to ensure that their child has the necessary medical, accident, cancellation and/or liability insurance.

BUDGET:

- Cheakamus fee \$90
 - Transportation; Lunch; Facilitators
- Handsworth fee \$45
 - Snack; Welcome Swag; Student Leaders

Total Cost: \$135

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Aw-Yong, Vice-Principal Handsworth Secondary

**This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.**

**FIELD TRIP
INFORMED CONSENT APPROVAL**

For: Cheakamus Centre, September 22/23, 2026

Class or Division: All Grade 8s

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

A student must have parent/guardian written and signed permission in order to participate in any field trip. Without this signed consent, students will not participate in this field trip.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

I, _____, have read the full Informed Consent document that pertains to my
Print Parent/Guardian's Name

child _____'s field trip to _____.
Print Child's Name

My signature on this form indicates that my child has my informed consent to attend the field trip and confirms the following:

- I am aware of the behavioural expectations of my child while attending this field trip, and that there will be consequences for non-compliance, which may include, but not be limited to, being sent home with a chaperone escort at my/our expense.*
- I am aware of the inherent risks and potential consequences that may occur on this field trip.*
- I understand that the field trip may be cancelled for security, safety or health concerns.*
- I agree it is my responsibility to ensure my child has the necessary medical, accident, cancellation and/or liability insurance.*
- I consent to the disclosure of my child's personal information to third parties in the event the sponsor or chaperone considers such disclosure necessary.*
- I agree to indemnify the District for any cancellation fees or other costs associated with the cancellation of my child's participation on this field trip and authorize the District to receive or recover any insurance monies paid in respect to such cancellation.*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Return this Field Trip Informed Consent Approval to your child's School

**This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.**

Dietary/Medical Information

Student Name: _____ **Grade/Division:** _____

☐ Yes ☐ No My child has food allergies and/or dietary restrictions. If yes, please provide details below.

Food Allergy	Reaction/Description <i>*Please bring Epi Pen if required for anaphylactic reactions.</i>	Epi Pen Required?	
		Yes	No
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
Dietary Restrictions <i>i.e. vegetarian, gluten free, lactose intolerant</i>			
Medical Considerations			

Parent/guardian name

Parent/guardian Signature

Date

Student Awareness of Risk and Responsibility Form

_____, is arranging
Name of School

_____ for
Description of Activity

_____ on _____
Name of Class/Group *Date(s)*

I, _____, understand that activities of this type may expose me to
Name of student
elements of risk. I have been briefed on the possible risks involved and the precautions that are to be taken.

The risks and precautions were explained to me by _____

Please comment:

- Expectations for my behaviour _____

- My individual and group responsibilities _____

- My level of skills and abilities _____

- My understanding of the destination area and boundaries _____

- I understand the possible risks and consequences (i.e., injury or death) _____

- My right to be excused from an activity if I feel my safety to be at risk _____

- Safety precautions _____

- Safety equipment _____

I have been made aware of the possible risks and consequences (i.e. injury or death) related to the identified activity and freely agree to participate in the training and competition and to act in a safe and responsible manner according to *School District Policy 302: Student Conduct* and the *School Code of Conduct*.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Student _____ Teacher's Initials _____

Note: In addition to the Student Awareness of Risk and Responsibility Form, a written informed consent signed by the parent/guardian is required for student participation in this activity.