

About Green Venture

Green Venture is a community based, not-for-profit organization based in Hamilton, Ontario. Our organization is the region's premier environmental education and outreach organization. We aim to provide information and services that help individuals reduce their impact on the environment and contribute to a healthy and economically strong community.

This year Green Venture is excited to offer EcoStars, our Environmental Stewardship Camp. Our camp aims to teach the participants about the environment, environmentally friendly practices, and much more! Participants will engage in different environmentally themed weeks, packed with hands on activities, featured at Green Venture's EcoHouse. Weekly activities include hiking outside, gardening, feeding our worms, eco-conscious crafts, making smoothies by bike, field trips and much more! Camp weeks will feature various special guests and at least one trip per week. Destinations and special guests may include, Hamilton's Museum of Steam and Technology, Farm tours and the Reptile Store

EcoStars Camper Code of Conduct

Please review the following rules of conduct for our camp participants as well our disciplinary policy to ensure both parents/guardians and the participant themselves are aware of the consequences of inappropriate behaviour(s)/action(s).

1. **Be respectful to yourself, others, the environment and property:** Any aggressive/abusive behaviour towards others such as fighting or bullying or using inappropriate language will not be permitted. Since the majority of the camp will take place at Green Venture's EcoHouse, or at field trip locations, property damage will not be tolerated (including but not limited to: graffiti, vandalism, and destruction of plants).
2. **Participation in planned EcoStar activities:** Our program is limited to twenty (20) participants a week and we will maintain at most a 10:1 ratio of participants to staff. During the course of the camp we require all participants be supervised at all times and not be left unattended; due to this we are unable to provide extended individual focused attention. We encourage all participants to attempt to participate in all activities and interact with all other participants. If the participant requires one-on-one care, a caregiver/guardian/parent must participate in the program with the participant at all times. Some days a volunteer may be with the group, however this does not change our ratio of staff to participants and they will not be available for one-on-one care.
3. **Follow instructions:** During the course of our camp program there will be many activities, each with their own safety guidelines and rules to ensure everyone's well-being and safety. Due to this we ask that at all times participants listen to and follow instructions given by staff to help ensure everyone's well-being and so that everyone can enjoy each activity.
4. **No Bullying:** Examples of this include teasing, name-calling, inappropriate language (racial slurs, profanity), or inappropriate practical jokes directed at a specific person or group of people.

EcoStars Discipline Policy

If a camper should demonstrate any of the inappropriate behaviours/actions as outlined below at any point during the camp, the following disciplinary action can be taken by Green Venture staff:

- **First Occurrence:**
 - A verbal warning will be given to the participant along with a clear explanation and possibly a discussion of their inappropriate action/behaviour.
- **Second Occurrence:**
 - The participant will be given a time-out, which will be used as a time to reflect on their inappropriate action(s)/behaviour(s). In addition, a clear explanation of what was deemed inappropriate will be given and a discussion will be had as to why they are displaying such inappropriate behaviour(s)/action(s).
- **Third Occurrence:**
 - As a last resort, the participant may be asked to leave the camp as a result of their inappropriate behaviour(s)/action(s).

Inappropriate behaviours/actions

The following list of inappropriate behaviour should be reviewed by the participant and their parent/guardian prior to the start of camp:

- A. Any aggressive behaviours such as: fighting, inappropriate behaviour towards another participant and/or a staff, and/or intimidation
- B. Failure to follow any of the camp rules and/or camp safety rules
- C. Repeated inappropriate language (profanity)
- D. Stealing
- E. Bringing weapons (I.e. knives, guns and/or other unnecessary sharp objects)
- F. Any other form of conduct that is deemed inappropriate

Important notes:

- Camp participants will have a chance every day to “reset” their behaviour each morning as they arrive to camp.
- Green Venture staff will work with parents/guardians to help possibly deter any inappropriate actions/behaviours.
- Green Venture’s hope is that every participant will enjoy and learn during the course of the camp and this policy is set in place to help improve and protect all participants.