

EcoStars Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the child to staff ratio for the EcoStars Camp?

This year, the camper to staff ratio is 10:1. This ratio provides more than enough staff to supervise camp groups while ensuring safety, participation and enjoyment for all campers. In addition, a supervisor will be in the building at all times.

2. How does transportation to camp and for trips work?

Currently, all transportation from home to camp, and camp to home is the responsibility of the parents, or the Person(s) authorized to pick up camper as identified on the Camper Registration Form. As for trips, all transportation between camp and the trip location is provided and covered by Green Venture. The transportation companies we use include, but are not limited to: Attridge Bus Company, chartered HSR and regular HSR buses.

3. Is the EcoStars camp wheelchair accessible?

No. We regret to inform you that the EcoStars camp is currently not wheelchair accessible. If you are concerned about mobility, please get in touch with us to arrange a visit to our site, EcoHouse.

4. Are all of your staff police checked?

Yes, staff are not able to work in our facilities without an up-to-date police clearance form that has been issued prior to the start of camp.

5. Where can I find what my child needs to bring every day to camp?

A list of what to bring to camp can be found attached to the 2019 EcoStars Summer Camp Registration Package at: **Green Venture's EcoStars Summer Camp Required Items**

6. Does the EcoStars camp provide lunch?

No, Green Venture's EcoStars camp does not provide lunch and campers are expected to bring a lunch to camp unless otherwise specified. It is preferred that campers bring a "litter-less" lunch. Some days, snacks will be provided from the garden, local farmer's markets or grocery stores. See **Information about Litterless Lunches** for more information on litterless lunches.

7. How much down time is there during the day?

With an extensive itinerary and variety of activities for campers, there is no downtime at any point throughout the day. From drop-off to pick-up, campers will be scheduled with activities such as hiking outside, gardening, feeding worms, eco-conscious crafts, making smoothies with a bike and much more! However, staff are mindful of creating a balance between high energy activities, and calmer activities.

8. What park or splash pad will be used during the camp?

Campers may be taken to local Veevers Park, where there is a splash pad and play structure. Prior to the park being used by our campers our staff does a visit and cleanup to ensure camper safety.

9. How do you ensure my child's safety in public?

In addition to our highly trained and dedicated staff keeping a watchful eye on campers, we supply all registered campers with a brightly coloured camp shirt that is mandatory to wear at camp. This ensures that in large crowds, constant head counts can be performed fast and effectively, and so that Green Venture staff can easily identify and locate any campers that wander too far from the group or deviate from the clearly defined and strictly enforced boundaries of the public activity.

10. How vigorous is your staff training?

Our staff training is an intensive, structured training program which includes information on first aid, CPR, common camp scenarios, managing groups of kids, team building and how to run the activities and programs associated with the EcoStars Summer Camp Program. The training program is constantly updated to ensure employees are informed on the most up-to-date and recent policies and camp information. In addition to camp counsellors, a supervisor will be onsite at all times.

11. Does every year/session follow the same curriculum?

No, all sessions vary in activities, trips and guest speakers. No two weeks are the same! Our staff at Green Venture have a wide range of specialities such as Ecology, Sustainability, and Energy and Water Conservation.

12. How hands on does the EcoStars Camp actually get on trip days?

During trip days our campers get just as much hand-on experiences as they do during a normal camp day.

13. How do I register my child for the EcoStars Camp?

You can register your child for any camp sessions in two different ways:

- You can download the Registration Package from our website, and submit the completed copy electronically via email to education@greenventure.ca
- You can download the Registration Package from our website or pick one up from the Green Venture EcoHouse, fill it out by hand and submit it manually to the Green Venture Education Department.

14. Where do I drop my child off for the EcoStars Camp?

The location for drop-off and pick-up of campers are the front gates of the Green Venture's EcoHouse, located by our community garden. Green Venture's EcoHouse is located at 22 Veevers Drive, Hamilton, ON.

15. Is the EcoStars Summer Camp fully insured?

Yes, Green Venture is fully insured. Green Venture currently carries \$2 million in liability insurance.

Education Manager
905-540-8787 ext.154

16. If an emergency comes up at home, how can I get a hold of my child while he/she is at camp?

Green Venture's EcoHouse is always open during camp hours and can be reached at 905-540-8787 ext 154.

17. Do campers need to bring money with them?

Campers are required to bring a lunch on all camp days unless otherwise specified. Campers are permitted however to bring money with them if they want to purchase things on any camp trips. Typically, about half the campers come with some money, and the other half does not, but it is certainly in no way a requirement. It is important to note that Green Venture is not responsible for any lost money.

18. What if my child cannot, or does not want to participate in a certain activity at camp?

No campers will be forced to participate in any activity in which he or she does not feel comfortable participating in or is physically unable to. However, to ensure safety and proper supervision, children sitting out will be required to be present at the activity.

19. How long is lunch time?

Lunch time is between 30 to 45 minutes, which includes some free time. Lunch will be supervised by camp staff.

20. What age groups can attend the camp?

Green Venture's EcoStars camp is for children ages 7 to 12.

21. How can I pay?

Payment can be made by cash, VISA, Mastercard or by Cheque. Post dated cheques are not accepted. Cheques should be made payable to Green Venture.