



# IISD-ELA High School Environmental Student Learning Experience

# Information for Sponsoring Teachers

Dear Sponsoring Teacher,

Please find below general information about an exceptional science experience you may wish to promote with some of your more capable and deserving students. Sponsoring teacher requirements are discussed in the last section.

To meet our goal of providing an extraordinary experience, the organizers require a little of your time and your careful consideration regarding the students you recommend for this opportunity.

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This July 12-24, 2020 marks the sixth annual IISD Experimental Lakes Area Environmental Science Experience. This field course is offered for students who will be entering 11th or 12th grade in the fall of 2020.



## About the Science and Location

The IISD Experimental Lakes Area Environmental Science Research Station (IISD-ELA), located in northwestern Ontario, is an exceptional natural laboratory composed of 58 small lakes and their watersheds set aside for scientific research. It is one of the only places in the world where it is possible to conduct experiments on whole ecosystems.

This unique research program has influenced billion-dollar decisions of governments and industries and has generated many cost-effective policies, regulations and management. The science conducted by the world-class researchers at IISD-ELA has resulted in far greater understanding of environmental issues and significantly reduced human impacts on the natural world—think acid rain, eutrophication, mercury poisoning, aquaculture, oil spills and climate change. Worldwide, there is no other environmental research station like IISD-ELA.

There may be no better place in Canada for eager and responsible high school students to mentor with established world-class scientists.





## About the High School Student Program

IISD-ELA has been running a field course for high school students since 2014. Students work with their peers, two adult leaders and participating scientists through long days observing, helping, asking, answering, doing and learning a phenomenal amount about environmental science. By engaging directly with the science happening at IISD-ELA students learn limnology, the “whole system” concept, chemistry, ecological interactions and human impacts on the environment.

During week one, students will accompany different scientists each day as they continue their field work in a diverse range of practical environmental research programs.

Between weeks one and two, students will regroup, recharge and plan while on a 4-day refreshing and challenging backcountry canoe trip through the heart of this world-renowned wilderness canoeing area.

During week two, students will follow their own unique path of research, learning more about the processes of environmental science in the field, and about the ongoing IISD-ELA science that especially interests them.

Throughout the experience students will share mealtimes and evening sessions with scientists; often these times are when wide-ranging discussions solidify concepts and raise further questions for the next day's focus.

Transportation, lodging and all meals are provided. Students will sleep in dormitory style accommodations at the IISD-ELA field station, except when out on their canoe trip.

## Sponsoring Teachers' Requirements

Students will have two highly experienced adults guiding them every day. These two adults will work diligently to connect with and support each student.

That said, students will spend many hours of each day with adults who are scientists, not teachers.

The most successful program will be populated with students who:

- ◆ Are responsible and mature for their age.
- ◆ Are quite independent and self-sufficient, but who still ask questions when they need to, especially where safety is involved.
- ◆ Are capable communicators who will, with some coaching perhaps, strive to build respectful relationships with scientists.
- ◆ Are physically strong and have at least moderate endurance capabilities, as this is often a physically demanding course.
- ◆ Indigenous and minority students are strongly encouraged to apply.
- ◆ Will be focused on producing a successful experience for each other, as well as for themselves.
- ◆ Are ready to put all their energy into engaging with new experiences, trusting that the way to learn the most from this experience is to invest fully.



Please help ensure the success of all participants with your very careful consideration of the student(s) whom you recommend. Throughout the participant selection process we hope you will be willing to discuss any questions we have, should we contact you.

If you have any questions at all, we are happy to respond promptly.

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Thank you very much in advance for promoting this opportunity with your students and for sponsoring those few whom you feel will be most successful in this independent learning atmosphere.

## Cost and Bursaries

The cost of the program is \$2,000/student for the 13-day period. However, thanks to generous support from The Estate of Robert L. Cooke and many other donors, we have bursary funding available to students who are not able to cover the full cost of the program.

The cost includes: travel to the site from Winnipeg, food, accommodation, the use of equipment and laboratory space at IISD-ELA, and the time of two program leaders who will facilitate and guide the learning experience.

To apply for the bursary funding, please include the relevant information in the application form at the link below.

## Application Process

Students must fill in the application form at the following link by December 20, 2019.

Application form:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYKT5WN>

Selection for the program will be completed no later than January 10, 2020 and successful applicants will be informed by phone during the following week.



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The IISD-ELA High School Environmental Student Learning Experience is made possible with generous support from The Estate of Robert L. Cooke and private donors.