

# IISD Experimental Lakes Area Visitor Checklist

April 2026

## Accommodations

*Available in camp:*

- ➔ Assigned room (typically individual for staff; shared for students, tours and field courses) with shared common areas (e.g., entryway, bathroom, living room, porch, etc.)
- ➔ Bathroom facilities – full plumbing (i.e., toilets, sinks, showers, fans, hand soap)
- ➔ Mattress (twin or double), bed frame
- ➔ Your room may have: desk with shelves and light, chair, dresser, side table with lamp, closet with hangers, garbage can, corkboard, mirror, fan
- ➔ Power outlets, Wi-Fi internet access

*Recommended to bring to camp:*

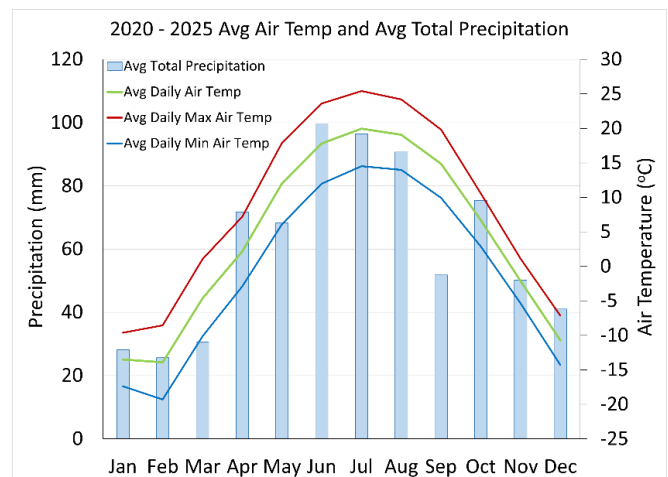
- ➔ Chargers, alarm clock (battery-operated), fan, power bar (surge protector)
- ➔ Pillow (limited availability), sleeping bag, warm blankets (limited availability)
- ➔ Toiletries (e.g., shampoo, soap, toothbrush and paste, lotion, etc.) and towels (shower/beach)

**\*\*Visitors are not permitted to bring their pets to the IISD-ELA facility**

## Clothing and Personal Gear

*Recommended to bring to camp:*

- ➔ Clothing (e.g., base layers, undergarments, pants, flannels, sweaters/fleeces, warm socks, etc.)
- ➔ Cold-weather clothing (e.g., jackets, vests, snow pants, gloves/mitts, hats/toques, scarves, etc.)
- ➔ Daypack/backpack
- ➔ Footwear (e.g., rubber boots, hiking/work boots, winter boots, runners, sandals, etc.)
- ➔ Headgear (e.g., polarized sunglasses, baseball cap, sun hat, bug hat, toque, etc.)
- ➔ Personal rain gear
- ➔ Sunscreen and bug repellent
- ➔ Swimwear and towel
- ➔ Utility knife/multitool
- ➔ Water bottles and thermoses





## Laundry

### *Available in camp:*

- Clothes washers and dryers (general use, no cost; \*no laundry services provided)
- Clotheslines (outside of most residences) and drying racks
- Fitted and flat sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets, bathmats
- Laundry soap (septic field-friendly)

### *Recommended to bring to camp:*

- Bedding, especially pillow and sleeping bag/blankets (if you want to use your own)
- Laundry bag or basket
- Mattress cover (twin or double)

## First Aid and Safety

**\*\*IISD-ELA does not have professional medical staff, but all individuals on site are trained in First Aid.**

### *Available in camp:*

- First aid kits in every building and vehicle
- Full first-aid room including
  - Automated External Defibrillator
  - Naloxone kits
  - EpiPens
  - Spine board
  - Various first aid supplies (e.g., bandages, burn dressings, disinfectants, splints, etc.)
  - Various first aid equipment (e.g., crutches, eye wash station, neck braces, etc.)

### *Recommended to bring to camp:*

- General medications (e.g., ASA, ibuprofen, allergy medication, cold/flu medication, etc.)
- Personal medications (e.g., EpiPen, prescriptions)
- Non-IISD-ELA employees must bring safety kits for use in field as [required by Transport Canada](#).

## Food Services

### *Available in camp:*

- Drinking water (from lake; potable in dining area and dish pit; water in labs and residences receives some filtration/UV treatment but is not considered potable), coffee/tea
- Meals – three per day plus snacks; field lunches available by request
- Refrigerator space (general use, limited space in all residences)
- Small kitchenettes (selected residences)

### *Recommended to bring to camp:*

- Personal snacks and drinks
- **Alcohol is permitted in camp. Users must comply with the IISD-ELA Alcohol and Drug Policy.**



## Equipment and Vehicles

*In general, researchers should bring their own vehicles for day-to-day use on camp road (recommend trucks or SUVs with good clearance). IISD-ELA vehicles are available to shuttle people between camp and Winnipeg on Fridays/Sundays.*

***IISD-ELA vehicles may only be driven by individuals who are on the IISD-ELA insurance policy.***

*Check with your supervisor to see what equipment they will provide for you and what you will be expected to bring.*

*Available in camp – please request use and send certificates as applicable in advance of your visit:*

- ➔ Boats and 4-stroke motors at all frequently used lakes ([\\*certification required](#))
  - Inflatable boats and electric motors (limited availability)
  - Talk to [Paul Fafard](#) if you have boat questions
- ➔ Chainsaws and related personal protective equipment (\*certification required; bring your own chainsaw safety footwear (required); chaps and helmets provided)
- ➔ Field radios
- ➔ Gasoline for boats/all-terrain vehicles/snowmobiles (non-IISD-ELA vehicles must fill up off-site)
- ➔ General-use wood shop tools
- ➔ Ice augers
- ➔ PFDs (floatation suits, vests), life jackets; external researchers recommended to bring your own
- ➔ Snowmobiles and toboggans ([\\*certification required](#))
- ➔ Utility vehicles – ATVs, UTVs (\*certification required for [ATVs](#) and [UTVs](#) separately)
  - helmets provided

*Recommended to bring to camp:*

- ➔ Field vehicle(s) for use on camp road (truck or SUV with good clearance recommended)
- ➔ All tools, equipment, and supplies needed to complete your work
- ➔ Building materials for everything you plan to build
- ➔ General field gear (rain gear, waterproof/insulated gloves, work gloves, rubber boots, waders, multitools, boat seat cushions, backpacks, etc.)
  - A list of our favourite gear is available [here!](#) (not sponsored)
- ➔ [Safety kits](#), including a well-stocked [first aid kit](#) tailored to your crew's needs. Make sure you check your kit prior to heading into the field to ensure all materials are in good shape and well-stocked.



## Communications and Computing

IISD-ELA phone number: **(807) 226-5162**

Weekly mail pickup from:

**IISD Experimental Lakes Area, Box 1950, Kenora, ON., Canada P9N 3X8**

*Available in camp:*

- Field radios (assigned to crews; talk to [Paul Fafard](#) to arrange use)
- Internet (hardline and Wi-Fi, limited bandwidth in camp; avoid downloading/streaming on site)
- VOIP Telephones (multiple lines, free long-distance in North America)

*Recommended to bring to camp:*

- Cellular devices (no cellular signal in camp, access via a short walk from camp on the Ridge Trail)
  - Recommend enabling “WiFi Calling” feature prior to arrival in camp if available
- Headphones, speaker
- Music library and downloaded videos, podcasts, etc.
- Personal laptop/tablet and other electronics, chargers

*Please keep all devices on airplane mode when not in use.*

## Recreation

*Available in camp:*

- Beach and swimming areas (at own risk; no lifeguards)
- Books (limited library with a few identification books)
- Canoes and some paddles (recommended to bring your own paddle)
- Fire pits (no use when there’s a fire ban)
- Fishing (limited lakes; Ontario fishing licence required)
- Sports and games (e.g., beach volleyball court, horseshoes, table tennis, bocce ball, spike ball, board games, puzzles, etc.)

*Recommended to bring to camp:*

- Binoculars
- Books and field guides
- Camera
- Camping gear (e.g., tent, sleeping bag and pad, cooking equipment, etc.)
- Fishing gear (\*Ontario fishing license required); fish crew gear not available for recreational use
- Headlamp
- Musical instruments
- Other hobby supplies (e.g., knitting, crocheting, painting, sketching, etc.)
- Workout gear



## Scientific Support

IISD-ELA scientific library available (limited titles and texts; ELA-focused publications and theses)

There is some general use limnological sampling equipment on site, but you should plan to bring everything you need to complete your program to camp. Please contact personnel for availability of science-related equipment and tools in the following research areas:

- Chemistry (Sonya Havens [shavens@iisd-ela.org](mailto:shavens@iisd-ela.org), Tia Bartel-Ens [tbartelens@iisd-ela.org](mailto:tbartelens@iisd-ela.org))
- HydroLiM (Paul Fafard [pfafard@iisd-ela.org](mailto:pfafard@iisd-ela.org), Lily Trevenen [ltrevenen@iisd-ela.org](mailto:ltrevenen@iisd-ela.org))
- Fish (Mike Rennie [mdrennie@iisd-ela.org](mailto:mdrennie@iisd-ela.org), Lee Hrenchuk [lhrenchuk@iisd-ela.org](mailto:lhrenchuk@iisd-ela.org), Lauren Hayhurst [lhayhurst@iisd-ela.org](mailto:lhayhurst@iisd-ela.org), AJ Chapelsky [ajchapelsky@iisd-ela.org](mailto:ajchapelsky@iisd-ela.org))
- Plankton Ecology (Scott Higgins [shiggins@iisd-ela.org](mailto:shiggins@iisd-ela.org), Mike Paterson [mpaterson@iisd-ela.org](mailto:mpaterson@iisd-ela.org), Patrique Bulloch [pbulloch@iisd-ela.org](mailto:pbulloch@iisd-ela.org))
- Toxicology (Vince Palace [vpalace@iisd-ela.org](mailto:vpalace@iisd-ela.org), Jose Luis Rodriguez-Gil [jlrodriguez@iisd-ela.org](mailto:jlrodriguez@iisd-ela.org), Lauren Timlick [ltimlick@iisd-ela.org](mailto:ltimlick@iisd-ela.org))
- In-situ monitoring (Aidan Guttormson, [aguttormson@iisd-ela.org](mailto:aguttormson@iisd-ela.org))
- Remediation ecology (Madeline Stanley [mstanley@iisd-ela.org](mailto:mstanley@iisd-ela.org); Krista Robertson [krobertson@iisd-ela.org](mailto:krobertson@iisd-ela.org))
- Microplastics (Desiree Langenfeld [dlangenfeld@iisd-ela.org](mailto:dlangenfeld@iisd-ela.org))
- eDNA (Lisa Peters [lpeters@iisd-ela.org](mailto:lpeters@iisd-ela.org), Morgan Anderson [manderson@iisd-ela.org](mailto:manderson@iisd-ela.org))

## Operational Support

- Facility operations (Roger Mollot [rmollot@iisd-ela.org](mailto:rmollot@iisd-ela.org), Chelsea Boychuk [cboychuk@iisd-ela.org](mailto:cboychuk@iisd-ela.org))
- Education and Relations (Matthew Klachefsky [mklachefsky@iisd-ela.org](mailto:mklachefsky@iisd-ela.org), Sarah Warrack [swarrack@iisd-ela.org](mailto:swarrack@iisd-ela.org), Cassidy Mazur [cmazur@iisd-ela.org](mailto:cmazur@iisd-ela.org), Noelle Wood [nwood@iisd-ela.org](mailto:nwood@iisd-ela.org))
- Indigenous Relations (Dilber Yunus [dyunus@iisd-ela.org](mailto:dyunus@iisd-ela.org), Serene Parenteau [sparenteau@iisd-ela.org](mailto:sparenteau@iisd-ela.org))
- Fundraising and Philanthropy (Erin Bend [ebend@iisd-ela.org](mailto:ebend@iisd-ela.org))
- Media and Communications (Sumeep Bath [sbath@iisd-ela.org](mailto:sbath@iisd-ela.org))

## Useful links

- More information about the facility: <https://www.iisd.org/ela/visit-the-lakes/facilities/>
- Historical weather: [Rawson Lake Environment Canada station](#)
- Current weather conditions: [Weather Underground IISD-ELA station](#)