



Fresh Water Field Study Frequently Asked Questions

What is the program? The Environmental Education program in Kananaskis Country, in partnership with the Elbow River Watershed Partnership, offers a Fresh Water Field Study for Grade 8, 9 and Biology 20 students. There are two parts to the program: a **one hour In-Class pre-program** to orient students to the Elbow River watershed, the value of water and their upcoming field trip, and a **full day Field Study**. Based on the premise, “*the river is an expression of the landscape*”, students become scientists monitoring the Elbow River from its pristine headwaters in Kananaskis Country to the city of Calgary. Travelling by bus, stops will be made at key locations to test the water for a variety of abiotic and biotic factors, as well as, study the land use impacts on this aquatic ecosystem. Note: A short **30 minute teacher orientation** to the program and further teacher resources will be given to all attending teachers from your school on the same day as your in-class presentation either during lunch or after school.

Who is the program for? The field study is designed to meet the science curriculum for Grade 8 (Fresh & Saltwater Systems), Grade 9 (Environmental Chemistry) and Biology 20 (Ecosystems & Population Change) students, as outlined in the Alberta Program of Studies. Adaptations can be made in discussion with teachers to meet further curriculum outcomes.

Where will we go? Travelling by bus, the following locations are used within the program:

- Elbow Valley Visitor Centre (this is where your programmer will meet you)
- Elbow Falls (1st water quality stop)
- Canyon Creek (land use stop)
- Allen Bill (land use stop – for grade 8 program)
- MacLean Creek (land use stop)
- Red Wood Meadows (2nd water quality stop; last stop for grade 8 programs)
- Elbow Springs Golf Course (3rd water quality stop for grade 9 and Biology 20 students only)

When does the program run? The field study is available May/June and September/October. In-Class presentations are scheduled in April for all spring programs and in September for all fall programs. Note: program availability is dependent upon funding and available programming staff which can fluctuate on a yearly basis.

How does our school register? Spring registration commences January 2 each year. Fall registration commences June 1 each year. Note: all programs are offered on a first come, first serve basis. Please email Anne Naumann, the program Administrator at: FreshWaterFieldStudy@gmail.com with the following information:

- Name of your school
- Grade of the students you want to take on the field trip(s) and the number of classes to attend
- Name & email address of the Lead Teacher
- Possible dates you would prefer to go on the field trips (and dates to avoid)
- Possible dates you would prefer to have the In-Class sessions (and dates to avoid)

How are field trip dates assigned? We will do our best to accommodate specific date requests from schools, however, we are sensitive to Grade 9 and Biology 20 students who have exams in June and will try to accommodate a program in May to meet their needs.

How many students can participate? Typically we can accommodate 2 programs per day with a maximum of 35 people per program (a total of all students, teachers & volunteers). You will need between 3 and 5 adults for each program group (1 adult per working group of 5 to 6 students).

What is the cost? \$300. This is a flat fee for both the in-class and field study. All funds received go directly back into the program and are significantly augmented by funds received and administered by the ERWP. *Note fees do not include the cost of bussing.*

How can we pay? Fees can be made by cheque payable to the **Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP)** or by credit card. An additional fee will be charged to schools that make credit card payments. For more details on payment, contact FreshWaterFieldStudy@gmail.com. *Note schools are responsible for booking and paying for their bus for their field study day(s).*

What if we need to switch our dates or cancel? Once you book a field study date, we will give you as much information as we can in advance to avoid any last minute problems with your booking.

- **Switching dates:** if you determine you need to switch dates (i.e. it conflicts with another school event you weren't aware of), contact FreshWaterFieldStudy@gmail.com as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate an alternate date. Keep in mind program dates generally fill up; a switch will generally require a request to another school to swap dates, and that can't always be arranged.
- **Cancelling on the day:** If you need to cancel on the day of the program due to unforeseen circumstances (such as a broken down bus), you will not be charged for your missed date. All cancellations due to foreseen circumstances, however, will be charged the full amount of the program. We will do our best to re-accommodate your group(s) on another date if possible.
- **Cancelling within 4 weeks of your date:** If you cancel within 4 weeks of your field study date, you will be charged \$75 per group that cancelled.
- **Cancelling more than 4 weeks prior to your date:** If you cancel more than 4 weeks in advance of your field study date, you will not be charged a cancellation fee.

Is the field trip weather-dependent? No. Field Study days go rain, snow, or shine. Keep in mind the temperature is generally several degrees colder in the mountain-based field study area than in Calgary or surrounding area. Participants should bring rain gear and dress in layers to maximize comfort. Waterproof footwear such as rubber boots, hiking boots or waterproof hiking shoes are recommended as students will be standing in the river to collect water samples. See the pictures below of the same trip, with different weather conditions during the day.



What do we do about lunch? Participants should bring a bag lunch (preferably garbage-free, using re-usable containers), filled water bottle, as well as, an extra beverage and snack for the day. Participants eat their lunch on the bus between field study stops. *Note: there is no place to wash hands during the field study.* As such, we recommend teachers bring hand sanitizer for their students.

What about student illness or injury? Any student, who is ill or is exhibiting signs of flu, should not attend the field study. Alberta Park's programmers are trained in first aid, carry a first aid kit, and a hand held radio with direct access to the Kananaskis Country Emergency Services. We recommend teachers or chaperones be trained in standard first aid, and bring a first aid kit as well.