

**Youth Environmental Leadership Expedition 2020**

**Application Form**

***Eligibility***

The application process for our youth environmental leadership expedition is based on the following criteria: 1) the applicant’s interest in nature, conservation and environmental issues; 2) the applicant’s desire to develop their leadership capabilities, 3) the applicant’s interest and willingness to learn visual storytelling skills (photography and filmmaking).

To be eligible for the expedition, youth must be 15-19 years old at the time of the expedition (unless otherwise specified by Biosphere Environmental Education). We accept youth from any country in the world. Due to the nature of the expedition and its activities, applicants must be capable of moderate physical activity, in good health, and able to follow instructions given by expedition staff. Further conditions of participation are given in the Liability Waiver and Medical Consent Form, which will be completed by applicants who are accepted into the program.

Applicants must submit a completed and signed application. If you are submitting your application electronically, please ensure the signature pages are printed, signed in ink, scanned, and then sent to Biosphere Environmental Education.

The written portion of the application can be submitted via email or sent via postal mail to Biosphere Environmental Education at [biosphere.ed@gmail.com](mailto:biosphere.ed@gmail.com) or 1107 Althorpe Road, Westport, Ontario, K0G 1X0, Canada. If you are submitting your written portion of your application via email, we suggest that you password protect your application (Word file) and send us the password in a separate email. The video portion of the application can submitted via Dropbox (or other similar electronic means that is agreed upon by Biosphere), via Youtube or Vimeo, or as a file on a USB stick sent to Biosphere via postal mail. Please let us know how you will be submitting your video.

***Payment of Fees***

Once an applicant has been notified of their acceptance into the expedition, a minimum deposit of $500 CDN is required within 14 business days of acceptance, along with your signed acceptance letter, in order to reserve your place on expedition. **No payment is required with this application form.**

Expedition fees cover: all accommodation and meals during the expedition, all activities, park entrance fees, and the educational program of the expedition. **Fees do not include** the cost of your travel to and from the expedition start point, personal travel medical insurance (which is mandatory for participants from outside of Canada and for all international expeditions) and personal spending money.

**APPLICATION FORM**

Please ensure you read the eligibility criteria and read through the application form once prior to filling it out. If you have any questions, please contact us prior to submitting your application.

Applications may be submitted via email ([biosphere.ed@gmail.com](mailto:biosphere.ed@gmail.com)) or by postal mail (Biosphere Environmental Education, 1107 Althorpe Road, Westport, Ontario, K0G 1X0, CANADA). If submitting via email, if you wish to password protect your application, please email us the password in a separate email.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION FORM. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE FORM MAY DISQUALIFY YOUR APPLICATION. PLEASE TYPE YOUR INFORMATION BELOW.**

**PART A - STUDENT’S GENERAL INFORMATION**

\*First Name:

\*Middle Name(s):

\*Last Name:

Preferred First Name:

* *please provide your name as it appears on your passport*

Street Address:

City/Town:

Province/Territory/State/Region:

Postal/ZIP Code:

Country:

Home Phone Number:

Secondary Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YYYY)

By which gender to you identify:

Are you 18 years of age or older at the time of submitting this application?

Y N

If yes, please sign below. If no, please have your parent or guardian sign this form below.

**It is understood that if the applicant is accepted to the youth environmental leadership program, I / we are responsible for all financial obligations as delineated in the schedule of fees.**

**Applicant’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(if 18 years of age or older)**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **OR -**

**Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(if application is under 18 years of age)**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

First Name:

Last Name:

Relationship to student:

Street Address:

City/Town:

Province/Territory/State/Region:

Postal/ZIP Code:

Country:

Home Phone Number:

Secondary Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

**PASSPORT (to be completed for international expeditions or by non-Canadian applicants participating in expeditions within Canada)**

Country Issuing Passport:

Status of Passport (check one):

\_ I currently hold a valid passport which will be valid for 6 months after the last day of travel for the expedition.

\_ I need to renew my passport and will ensure I have received my renewed passport 3 months prior to the start date of the expedition.

**HEALTH**

Applicants must be capable of moderate physical activity, such as hiking over uneven ground, paddling a canoe and swimming while wearing a life jacket. If sea travel is involved in our expedition, during days at sea, the possibility of rough sea conditions may lead to participants experiencing seasickness. All participants will be expected to participate in daily excursions unless they are unable due to health reasons. These excursions may include things such as Zodiac boat cruises and shore landings, generally range from one to four hours in length.

We need to be aware of any and all medical and behavioural concerns and needs of participants. Please describe below any medical conditions, illnesses, disabilities, behavioural, and/or mental health issues (such as ADHD, depression, allergies, heart disease, emphysema, injuries, diabetes, recent surgery, etc.) or other conditions which either, has required the regular care of a doctor, or could prevent the participant from following instructions or lead to any behaviour that would put in jeopardy the safety of any member of the expedition or those associated with the expedition. It is VERY important that you provide as much information as possible and that this information be both accurate and current.  Please be thorough in describing your health as your wellbeing and that of our group depend on your expedition leaders having accurate information about you.

***This information will only be shared with our expedition staff and any necessary medical professionals and will otherwise be kept confidential.***

**List Health and Medical Information below:**

1**.**

2**.**

3**.**

**(add more items if needed)**

*I attest that I am in good health and capable of performing normal activities on this expedition. I further attest that I am capable of caring for myself during the expedition, I am capable of understanding and following instructions given by expedition staff and those associated with the expedition, and that I will not impede the progress of the expedition, the enjoyment of others aboard, and that I will not put at risk any member of the expedition or any person associated with the expedition. I understand that this expedition may take me far from the nearest medical facility and that all expedition members must be self-sufficient. With that understanding, I certify that I have not been recently treated for, nor am I aware of any physical, mental, behavioural condition or disability that would create a hazard to myself or other members of the expedition or person associated with the expedition.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I certify that the above statement about (print name)

my health and medical status is true and that I have, to the best of my knowledge, provided all up to date information about my health and medical status.

**Applicant’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(if 18 years of age or older)**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**-** OR -

**Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(if application is under 18 years of age)**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**EDUCATION**

At the time of submitting this application what grade/year are you enrolled in?

Name of your current school:

Address of your current school:

City/Town:

Province/Territory/State/Region:

Postal/ZIP Code:

Country:

School Phone Number:

School’s E-mail Address:

Please give the name and email address of one of your teachers who could serve as a reference:

**PART B - ABOUT YOU**

**(questions & video)**

There are two sections for this part of the application, in which we want to know more about you. The first consists of a series of short questions. Write your response to each question below using Word or a similar word processing software. You may also type your answers in a separate Word document to be attached to this application. If you do, please be sure to number correctly all of your answers. *There is a 250 word limit for each answer. You do not have to write 250 words for each answer, but this is the maximum word count for each answer. Answers longer than 250 words may lead to rejections of your application.*

The second section consists of a video. We want you to make a short video of you telling us why you want to be a part of our youth environmental leadership expedition. ***The video must be under 2 minutes long. Videos longer than this will not be accepted.*** The video doesn’t have to be fancy - just you telling us why you think we should select you for our expedition.

*Questions*

1. Why do you want to participate in this youth environmental leadership expedition?

2. What do you think are the world’s most pressing environmental issues? If you could do something about them, what would you do?

3. Why is leadership important?

4. List your main interests, hobbies, and other extracurricular activities in which you are involved.

5. What do you feel are your strengths or outstanding qualities of character?

6. What do you feel are your weaknesses or areas in which you wish to improve? How do you hope that being part of the expedition might help you with this?

7. No photography or filmmaking experience is necessary, however please list any photography, video or filmmaking experience you do have.

8. Do you own a camera? If so, please describe what you own and would bring on the expedition. (*please note that the camera equipment you own in no way will affect your likelihood of acceptance to our program. No fancy equipment is necessary; we use everything from smartphones to point and shoot cameras, to dSLRs*).

9. Tell us something about yourself - something you are proud of - that demonstrates strength of character and that you don’t feel there was an opportunity to share in answering the other questions in this application.

***Video***

To submit your video, please create and account on Youtube or Vimeo. Upload your video and set your privacy access setting to ‘private’. This way nobody can view your video except for the people that you share your url (web address) with. If you password protect your video, be sure to send us the password. If you have any problems with this, please do not hesitate to contact us for help at biosphere.ed@gmail.com.

Please type below the url (web address) of your video on either Youtube or Vimeo so that we can view it. Be sure to keep your video under 2 minutes long. For your privacy settings, if you need to specify an email address to provide us with access to your video, please use the following email address: biosphere.ed@gmail.com.

Video url: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_