Message from ALIVE Outdoors

ALIVE Outdoors is an experiential and outdoor education company specializing in the development and delivery of customized, meaningful programs for schools and organizations.

What makes us distinctive is the depth of personal service and care we provide. We measure our success by the enduring relationships we build with all who participate in our programs.

We are sincerely grateful to all of the schools and clients that entrust ALIVE Outdoors with aspects of their student leadership training, outdoor experiential education programs, international experiential and service learning trips, workshops and educational consulting.

In line with our organizational mission, ALIVE Outdoors believes that an important part of being at the forefront of experiential programming is to empower schools, students, and parents to better understand the purposeful structure of our school programs. Every activity we program and deliver has specific learning objectives that are balanced with risk management practices that are recognized or exceed current industry practices. At ALIVE we do a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes for every program to ensure we are providing exceptional programming at incredible facilities, with highly skilled instructors.

Part of our goal is to further the fields of experiential and outdoor education. With this in mind we are sharing with you some of the learning objectives and general risk management practices that have helped us deliver high quality ALIVE programming for over the last decade and a half. Along with the relevant activity information we have carefully chosen photos from all our programs to help you visualize what it looks like to participate in the activities we facilitate. Being informed with high quality and accurate information is essential to empowering teachers, parents and students. As ALIVE Outdoors moves towards its 20 year anniversary, we are excited about building even stronger relationships with our school partners and providing the highest quality educational and leadership programming for students.

Sincerely,
The ALIVE Outdoors Team

ALIVE’s Model of Experiential Learning

Our Educational Philosophy

ALIVE’s educational philosophy is grounded in the theory of experiential education and is implemented in the programs we run through our four-stage experiential learning model. Our goal is to use perceived and real risks as teaching tools to enhance self-confidence, deep self-awareness and resiliency, as well as to strengthen each community’s foundation. We want people to recognize their strengths and to challenge their assumptions about themselves and others. We believe that there are risks associated with not taking risks in our lives, and that many people reflect back on their life wishing they had more experiences where they stepped out of their comfort zone.

We design programs to help students expand their comfort zones to confront new challenges.

ALIVE Instructors

Our instructor team is comprised of highly qualified experiential educators. They have been contracted for their expertise, leadership qualities, qualifications, pedagogical approach and enthusiasm for working with young people in the outdoors. They are all trained in first aid, CPR and risk management. Instructors on the water are all certified lifeguards. Many of our instructors have their Wilderness First Responder certification - an 80 hour first aid course. Together our united goal is to enhance the lives of all the students we work with, helping them become richer individuals.

Caring for each participant’s well-being is our number one priority followed by our commitment to help young people recognize their inner potential. The ALIVE Instructors work with the seasonal Outdoor Centre staff of our partner operators to facilitate a meaningful outdoor education program. The school’s teachers are responsible for night duty, and for helping maintain a high level of energy throughout the duration of the program.

Philosophy of Risk in Education

We live in a culture that breeds fear and drives us towards playing “safe.” It is our opinion that many people are not encouraged to tap into their inner courage reserves and embrace their potential. During all of our ALIVE Outdoors programs, students are deliberately encouraged to take part in activities involving unfamiliar risks that are not part of their daily lives. Our goal is to use perceived and real risks as teaching tools to enhance self-confidence, deep self-awareness and resiliency, as well as to strengthen each community’s foundation. We want people to recognize their strengths and to challenge their assumptions about themselves and others. We believe that there are risks associated with not taking risks in our lives, and that many people reflect back on their life wishing they had more experiences where they stepped out of their comfort zone.
Wilderness Canoe Trips and Camping

Structured time experiencing nature provides students the opportunities to slowdown and reconnect with themselves, their peers and the natural world. ALIVE facilitates canoe trips and camping experiences that take students into the Canadian Wilderness to help them grow and build lifelong relationships and memories. Our canoe trips regularly travel through wilderness areas such as Algonquin Provincial Park and Temagami. Spending time traveling outside, eating, sleeping and learning is all part of the ALIVE experience!

Learning Outcomes
- Canoeing and paddling skills
- Self-supported travel and camping
- Group dynamics, peer support and living in community
- Group leadership and facilitation skills
- Land and water safety for groups
- Backcountry cooking and nutrition
- Nature and place-based learning
- Minimal impact camping practices
- Self-care and personal growth
- Discovery and adventure

Risk Management
- Instructors meet or exceed industry standard first aid and water safety certifications
- Personal Flotation Devices are worn at all times while canoeing and swimming
- Swimming activities are strictly supervised (1 certified swim guard for 5 swimmers, with a maximum of 10 swimmers for 2 guards)
- Canoe trips follow designated routes in purposefully designated canoe travel areas
- Drinking water is treated prior to consumption
- Meals are pre-planned to satisfy nutritional and allergy requirements
- Closed-toed shoes are worn at all times

ALIVE OUTDOORS HAS REVOLUTIONIZED THE WAY IN WHICH WE OFFER EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION. THE ALIVE TEAM HAVE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH US TO DEVELOP A VERY INNOVATIVE AND ENGAGING OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM. IT HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS AND HAS BECOME A PILLAR IN THE SCHOOL. ALIVE EXCELS AT DELIVERING PROGRAMS THAT MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF A SCHOOL SUCH AS OURS. - VICE PRINCIPAL, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCHOOLS
Residential Water-based Activities

One of the most memorable parts of being at camp is time spent in and around the lake. Depending on the season, ALIVE facilitates programs for students to be on the water. Swimming, paddling, and having fun on water elements and water trampolines are some of the opportunities students might have. Students are encouraged to participate in the water activities they feel comfortable with while under the supervision of qualified instructors. Exploring the landscape from the water brings a fresh perspective to learning. During ALIVE programs students spend time learning paddling strokes and practicing their newly refined skills in canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards.

Learning Outcomes
- Paddling skills (canoe, kayak, paddle-board)
- Swimming and responsible fun on the water
- Teamwork and initiative
- Group development
- Challenge and expanding comfort zones
- Fun
- Physical activity

Risk Management
- Instructors meet or exceed industry standard first aid and water safety certifications
- Lifejackets are worn at all times for canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, and water elements
- Swimming activities are supervised by qualified instructors
- Student to staff ratios are maintained (check in/check out systems enforced during all swim activities)
- Participation is dependent on time of year and water temperature
- Instructors brief students on protocols

I owe everyone at ALIVE for changing me as a person, for trusting, for encouraging me, and for turning me into a leader. Without any exaggeration, ALIVE has changed my life. I am comfortable in my own skin. I am not afraid to voice my opinion and I am a better person because of ALIVE. Thank you.

- Graduate, SMCS
High Ropes, Climbing Wall and Zipline

Engaging in facilitated high ropes course elements provides students with the opportunity to confront and overcome challenges that help develop courage, strength, and resiliency. High ropes courses are facilitated through a supportive community environment. All our high ropes, climbing wall and zipline challenges are supervised by qualified instructor teams in accordance with specific protocols and facilitation techniques. Students are guided through safety protocols, belaying techniques and communication practices.

Learning Outcomes
- Expanding comfort zones
- Practicing supportive communication techniques
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Building confidence
- Confronting and growing from challenge
- Developing responsibility through team belaying
- Personal empowerment
- Building community trust

Risk Management
- Properly fitted helmets and harnesses are always worn
- Certified ropes instructors are present at all climbing and ropes course activities
- The Challenge by Choice principle is explained, practiced and respected throughout programming
- Students are briefed on appropriate belay techniques and communication requirements under the supervision of instructors
- Closed-toed shoes are always worn on high ropes elements and climbing walls

ALIVE OUTDOORS PROGRAMMING PERFECTLY ILLUSTRATES THE CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY, AND RESILIENCE STUDENTS CAN GAIN WHEN THEY LEARN BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM WALLS.
- TEACHER, ST. MILDRED’S-LIGHTBOURN SCHOOL
Initiatives and Low Ropes Challenges

Unique team initiatives and low ropes challenges engage a student’s mind, body and creative inquiry. ALIVE facilitates team initiatives and low ropes challenges within all our programs. Focused problem solving and creative thinking lead to significant cognitive and emotional growth that we believe can be applied throughout a student's life. Working as a team helps to build and demonstrate the importance of communication, cooperation, leadership and fellowship. All our initiatives and challenge elements are lead by experienced group facilitators who understand the power of experience and reflection on actions.

Learning Outcomes
- Developing cooperation and communication skills
- Creative thinking and problem solving
- Trust building
- Listening skills
- Building personal leadership style
- Practicing and enforcing group dynamics principles
- Perseverance
- Building community

Risk Management
- Students are briefed on hazard recognition
- Spotting techniques and supportive behaviour are taught and supervised by instructors
- Appropriate body lifting techniques are taught and supervised by instructors
- Closed-toed shoes are worn for all low ropes, wall and spider's web challenges
- A supportive learning environment is established and maintained

THE ALIVE OUTDOORS INSTRUCTORS ARE SOME OF THE MOST OUTGOING, FUN, ENCOURAGING, AND INSPIRING PEOPLE THAT I HAVE EVER MET. - STUDENT, HNMCS
Residential Land Activities

Residential camp settings allow for endless opportunities to learn and have fun outdoors. Depending on the specific camp location there are numerous activities that students will participate in. Some of the outdoor recreation programs we facilitate include nature hikes, archery, team sports and mountain biking at some locations.

We engage student’s creative energy through photography, nature art and fire building challenges. So much can be learned from being active in the outdoors.

Learning Outcomes

- Experiential ecology in the natural environment and development of a sense of wonder
- Physical skill development
- Deepening understanding of self
- Development of creative and artistic skills
- Personal responsibility
- Sense of self awareness
- Building friendship, community and collaboration
- Team building

Risk Management

- All land activities are closely supervised by instructors
- On nature hikes, instructors are certified in first aid and carry first aid kits at all times
- Students are briefed on protocols and proper use of equipment prior to engaging in land activities
- Physical full-body contact sports are prohibited
- Specialized instructors and risk management policies are followed for mountain bike programs (mountain biking is currently offered for programs occurring in British Columbia)
- Students wear goggles for road hockey

Nature Hikes

Mountain Biking

Team Sports

Archery and Crossbow

Photography

Campfires, Cookouts and Firebuilding

I HAVE LEARNED THE TRUE MEANING OF RESPECT, LEADERSHIP, TEAMWORK AND PASSION. IF IT WASN’T FOR THE ALIVE CAMPS I WOULDN’T BE THE PERSON I AM NOW. – STUDENT
Residential Winter Activities

The Canadian winter offers students the chance to experience a vast number of physical and natural activities when the lakes freeze and the forest floor is covered with snow. Skimming over the snow's surface on cross country skis, travelling in deep powder on snowshoes, playing broomball, tobogganning, sleeping out overnight in winter shelters or animal tracking and ecology are highlights of ALIVE winter programs. Our winter programs build confidence and new perspectives through engaging students in the winter landscape.

Our packing list outlines the specific clothing necessary for the winter environment. For example, waterproof winter boots with removable liners help students stay comfortable and maximize learning potential while spending time outdoors.

Learning Outcomes
- Development of winter travel skills
- Importance of physical activity and self-care techniques for winter conditions
- Fun and unique learning environment
- Winter ecology and winter animal identification
- Building resiliency, confidence and competencies
- Fostering new perspectives through engaging in the winter landscape

Risk Management
- Helmets are always worn while tobogganning, tubing, ice-skating, and broomball
- Helmets and safety goggles are always worn for ice climbing
- Activities are adjusted depending on winter temperature and conditions
- Students are briefed on dressing for participation in winter physical activity
- Indoor spaces are available for warming and programming
- Activities on ice are allowed only when ice thickness is deemed appropriate by specific facilities

ALIVE OUTDOORS IS A RARE GEM AMONG OUTDOOR COMPANIES. ALIVE HOLDS TRUE TO THEIR PROMISE THAT THEIR TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS ARE MEANINGFUL AND TRANSFORMATIVE. THEY HELP AND ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TRULY FIND THEIR PERSONAL STRENGTHS AND ALLOW THEMSELVES TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG PERSONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS. - TEACHER, FOREST HILL JR./SR.
Specialty Programs and Providers

To offer the best in customized programming, ALIVE may sometimes contract specialty program providers to complement and deepen the intention in a small portion of our programs. Working alongside our school partners we select professional and reputable organizations who provide specially trained instructors and resources to facilitate specific expertise in a number of program areas.

During the winter, Winterdance Dogsled tours exposes students to the culture and sport of dogsledding. The experience of mushing provides a unique look into leadership, followership and working as part of a high functioning team. Madawaska Kanu Centre (MKC), the prominent whitewater training facility in Canada, delivers programming for students to experience a comprehensive progression of whitewater canoeing skills from their training facility on the Madawaska River.

In both winter and fall seasons you can find Earth Tracks or The P.I.N.E Project introducing students to traditional skills such as fire building with a bow drill, primitive shelter building, ember carving and plant and animal identification to name only a few in some primitive skills programming. Students are taught to use fire and carving tools under direct supervision. Through these activities, both organizations do a superior job deepening each student’s relationship with, and reverence for the natural world.

Our specialty providers are chosen based on risk management protocols and operating procedures, quality of instruction and congruency with ALIVE programming goals and overall educational philosophy. Pictures of students participating in activities from our most commonly used providers are scattered throughout this section. For more information, please contact us or visit our specialty programs and providers respective websites.

I would highly recommend that any school who is seriously looking to implement an outdoor experiential learning program, or revitalize an existing program, begin this process by contacting ALIVE outdoors. The level of service, program customization potential, and professionalism that ALIVE offers to school groups are second to none. - Sr. School Principal, HSC

Specialty Programs and Providers

Dog Sledding with Winterdance

Madawaska Kanu Centre

Whitewater Paddling with Madawaska Kanu Centre

Wilderness Skills with Earth Tracks

Primitive Skills with The P.I.N.E Project
Time at Residential Camp

From the moment students get off the bus they will be warmly welcomed into the ALIVE community. Each day spent with ALIVE is filled with purposefully programmed activities that empower students through interactions with their peers, teachers and the specific ALIVE instructors that have been carefully chosen for the program. Being with ALIVE is about connecting with community through the rituals and routines of camp life. Dining hall songs, physical activity, campfires and a hint of silly all contribute to a memorable experience. What makes an ALIVE experience meaningful is the exceptional quality of our programming and workshops. Time spent away from technology and the comforts of home enables young people to step away from daily distractions and deepen their sense of self and highlight the importance of community.

ALIVE purposefully delivers our programs at highly respected residential camps. Each facility is a little bit different due to their specific history and location. Students stay in community gender specific cabins while on ALIVE residential programs and can expect a rustic camp feel. Some cabins have bathrooms, including showers right in the cabin. Some sites require students to take a short walk to the facilities. Teachers and staff cabins are within close proximity to student cabins. Teachers are responsible for night supervision and ensure students are comfortable and settled into their beds every night. Many schools place senior leaders in the cabins as counsellors. Students should bring with them a single fitted sheet, sleeping bag, pillow, towel and anything they might need to be comfortable while away from home. Cabins for spring and fall programs are mostly unheated, all cabins for winter programs are heated.

Meal times at camp are memorable for many reasons. Gathering in community to share exciting moments from the day’s activities over healthy and varied meal options are essential to an ALIVE residential program experience. ALIVE maintains strong relationships with the cooks and kitchen staff at our partner sites to actively encourage that they meet the dietary requirements of our students through comprehensive menu planning and food preparation. All our programs are structured around shared breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening snack. Menus are planned so that fresh fruits, vegetables and varied nutritious options are available. We believe in eating good food and sharing that value with all our students. Parents of students with severe allergies should contact the ALIVE office to be connected with the host site’s Head of Food Services to discuss individual dietary requirements for their child’s specific program.

Dietary Restrictions

We do our best to accommodate all dietary requirements, yet we rely heavily on parents and students to bring their own bags to meet their needs. ALIVE facilities are Nut-Aware, meaning that no foods produced from the facilities will have nuts or traces of nuts within it. Vegetarian as well as gluten and lactose free options are available. Most of our programs require participants to bring a bagged lunch for the first day of the program. This lunch must be nut free. Other than this lunch, ALIVE does not allow any extra food of any kind during the program. Extra food can cause life-threatening harm to those with food allergies. Please share all dietary restrictions on the medical form in full detail so we can work with our facilities to accommodate food-related needs.

Allergies and Medications

All our facilities are Nut-Aware and we work diligently to reduce the potential exposure that students have to common allergens (such as nuts). Knowing about allergies and medications as far in advance as possible allows us to help accommodate and reduce potential exposure. Specifically stating allergies and medications on the medical form and following up with the ALIVE office, if necessary, are important steps to staying healthy at camp. Instructors are trained in first aid which includes detecting the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. They are competent in the use of Epipens and are aware of students with documented allergies and medical conditions while on program. Students with documented anaphylaxis or asthma must carry their Epipen and/ or astmatic inhaler (puffer) at all times.
Educational Workshops

Our customizable workshops have grown out of nearly two decades of experience working with over 40,000 students, educators, and administrators. We take individuals and groups through a process of self-discovery and enrichment. Our workshops are interactive, dynamic, creative, and encourage reflective thinking and actionable outcomes.

We educate from the position that long term and significant success in life and work is achieved only when you are rooted in your strengths and values. The belief that leadership begins with self-awareness and ends with action is the foundation for our workshops. Each workshop is delivered from a learner-centered approach using experiential, and outcome based methods.

Visit www.aliveoutdoors.com/workshops for more information

International Programs

There are any number of reasons to travel and learn internationally. Bridging unique geographic features with rich cultural practices are at the heart of experiential learning. ALIVE delivers custom international experiential learning programs to destinations around the globe. We specialize in creating learning opportunities that have meaningful and lasting impacts for our students. Widening perspectives and creating global awareness that can be applied in future contexts is why we believe in and deliver our international program model.

Risk Management Consulting for Independent Schools

Providing inspirational educational experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment has become an essential part of an education grounded in real life situations that provides students with the confidence to work in a globalized and rapidly changing society.

Schools are faced with the ever increasing challenge of offering a range of educational programming built on strong learning outcomes that balance authentic learning opportunities with comprehensive risk management practices for students, teachers, school's and the independent school system in general.

ALIVE has developed a range of experience and expertise surrounding the balance between educational outcomes and risk management. Let us help your school develop a customized risk management portfolio to build seamless connections between your institution, departments, and teachers for better risk mapping, exposure preparedness and risk communication practices. We offer custom risk management consulting, training seminars and program development.

Program Design and Educational Outcomes

Seamlessly designing and implementing educational programming that is scaffolded across a school’s curricular system is key to better learning outcomes, efficient use of resources and the future success rates of graduates. ALIVE builds program scope and sequence models for educational experiences across all grade levels. Monitoring and assessing learning outcomes and program success through research and analytics is the future of experiential education. As one of our custom options, ALIVE constructs and collects custom learning outcome data for current students, teachers and alumni. Ask us how this outcome data can help set your school apart and drive the development of strong educational programming.

Corporate Workshops and Training Seminars

ALIVE prides itself in being a leader in personal growth, leadership development, group dynamics/facilitation, communication, and experiential education. Our programs have successfully grown over the last decade and a half and we continue to expand our scope of impact by empowering and inspiring individuals to be their best self personally and professionally.

ALIVE will build and facilitate custom seminars for your business or organization. We work with businesses to help improve any number of personal or organizational outcomes. Our facilitators have a range of experience working within the business, education and commercial sectors.
NO OTHER GROUP I HAVE EVER BEEN A PART OF HAS GIVEN ME AS MUCH AS WHAT I GOT OUT OF THE ALIVE PROGRAMS. I AM ESTIMATING THAT THROUGH MY YEARS AT SMCS I SPENT ABOUT 35 DAYS AT CAMP. AS A NEAR GRADUATE FROM QUEEN’S, NOW MORE THEN EVER IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT THOSE 35 DAYS HAVE DEFINED ME AS PERSON MORE THEN ANY OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE. I WANT TO THANK YOU BECAUSE ALIVE AND EVERYONE WHO IS A PART OF IT HAS GIVEN ME THE MOST INDISPENSABLE SKILLS AND MOST CHERISHED MEMORIES I WILL EVER HAVE.

- GRADUATE, SMCS