City Honors School

8[™] Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder – Placeholder Form

Please hold a spot for my child to attend the CHS 8th Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder, May 21 to May 24, 2026, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario.

STUDENT NAME: (please print)
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S), BEST CONTACT PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL ADDRESS:
(please print)
(please print)
 Parents, Are you interested in learning about how you can help with fundraising and events for the class? Please contact us about financial assistance for your child to attend the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder if needed. Would you like to sponsor a classmate in need of financial assistance to afford the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder? Might you be interested in chaperoning the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder?
Questions or Comments:

Please have your child return this form to Mr. Sharratt as soon as possible. Keep all other pages of this newsletter for your information.

Also available at http://www.cityhonors.org/page/resources-for-parents/

Dear Parents,

The 8th Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder in Algonquin Park, Canada has become a CHS tradition, but just as importantly it is another way in which we develop students in alignment with the goals of the IB Middle Years Program. This year the trip is scheduled for May 21 to May 24, 2026, pending Board of Education approval.

Planning a trip of this size, approximately 120 students, takes a significant amount of planning and preparation; we begin before the start of the school year. Please complete the placeholder form attached. This form should be turned in to Mr. Sharratt, 8th Grade Class Advisor. All other forms may be retained for your reference and turned in later in the year, if you wish.

The cost of the trip will be \$400, which includes transportation, food, lodging and all camping activities led by the experienced Camp Pathfinder Staff. We are actively fundraising to ensure **all** 8th grade students have the opportunity to participate in a very meaningful experience and make memories that will last a lifetime. The trip is chaperoned by Dr. Kresse and by parent and faculty volunteers.

Schedule of payments:

January 23, $2026 - 1^{st}$ deposit payment of \$100/student March 13, $2026 - 2^{nd}$ payment of \$300/student

We emphasize that we welcome your requests to change these scheduled payment due dates according your individual family's budgetary needs.

Each year, we benefit from the support of the Buffalo Public Schools, CH/FMP Foundation, CHS PTSCO, the Algonquin Campership Fund, contributions from individual families, and a class fundraiser to ensure that all families can send their child on this trip regardless of family budget. Contact Mr Sharratt by email or phone, financial assistance is readily available – jsharratt@buffaloschools.org 716.440.5122.

Please refer to the following letter that was kindly submitted by parent chaperones from a previous year regarding the experience of the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder.

Observations of parent chaperones – Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder

Dear Dr. Kresse and Mr. Sharratt,

I wanted to share with you the observations Greg and I made over the course of the long weekend with the CHS 8th-grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder in Algonquin Park. While each group rotated through the same or very similar activities, the special skills and knowledge of each counselor made each day group's focus slightly different. We understand that Warren focused a little more on the wildflowers, while our counselor, Aidan, may have emphasized history to a somewhat greater degree. Regardless, I am sure that you and your fellow teachers and administrators will find many echoes of the [IB and BPS curriculum] and other significant education and life-long learning outcomes in these experiences.

In terms of history, the students learned the history of logging and land use in the Park as well as the history of the First Nations peoples of the area. They learned this history in the midst of other lessons about cooking on a fire and environmental impacts. The connection with Buffalo's late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century history was made explicit, as many of Buffalo's civic elites and industrialists were involved in the founding of the Park and its early mixed use history of logging, "roughing it," hunting, and fishing. Many of the groups explored the Glen Donald Hotel ruins after canoeing there and using a compass to find some of the old cabin foundations. This hotel was a rustic destination accessible only by train and frequented by wealthy Americans, many of whom were from the Western New York area. This social and transportation history is significant and should have some fruitful comparisons with the history of the railroads and Erie and other canals that students learn.

No history of the occupation and use of the Park can help but lead to a discussion of sustainability and environmental issues. (Even the living environment at the camp – an elaborate human waste management system, composting/garbage/recycling bins at every meal for sorting waste – was a daily reminder of the human impact on the environment.) The Glen Donald site includes a garbage dump with exposed cans, old piping, pot lids, and other remainders and allowed the students to compare and contrast the new and old forms of waste management. The Park itself shows the remnants of the logging industry and the students observed these: a sunken boat left behind when a logging camp closed, the few white pines left behind by loggers sticking up above a deciduous forest, the misshapen white pine that survived the logging on Pathfinder Island. Fireside discussion included the links between logging and vulnerability to fire in the area.

Flora and fauna surrounded the students all day and night. Rare wildflowers like the lady's slipper and the red trillium grew on the island and could be seen on the excursions. Even from the bus on Highway 60 students saw a moose; they later walked through moose scat on the island and a lucky few groups saw a moose and her two calves. Many students for the first time heard the eerie call of the loon and perhaps a few heard the howl of a wolf if they had woken during the night like Greg did. One student caught her first fish — and told the tale around the fire in articulate fashion. Warblers and song birds, ducks, hawks, woodpeckers and their holes were observed and heard.

Students also learned about the geological and climatic factors that make the region unique, including the Canadian Shield, influence of glaciers, and the intersection of the deciduous and boreal forests.

Perhaps one of the loveliest moments came on the last night at camp, when students lay down on the docks to see the stars. Shooting stars, satellites, constellations, the Milky Way – there were students who had never seen the sky without ambient light. What happened after this quiet observation? Parents walked quietly past groups of assembled students and heard them pondering their smallness in the vastness of the universe, asking each other questions about worldly significance and the meaning of human life, discussing whether it's possible that there is no other planet capable of sustaining life. This was not prompted or moderated by adults; this was the spontaneous outpouring of feeling and wonderment in response to the natural world and their intimacy and trust with one another. Is that a specific learning outcome? Hard for me to say – but as a college professor I am quite certain that those students who can let themselves be moved to reflection and even shaken by the world around them make far better college learners than those who do not open their eyes and minds to these sorts of big questions.

The weekend was all about experience – experiential learning, physical activity, fun, problem solving and teamwork, embracing physical and mental challenges, being with friends and making new friends among people they've seen for years. When students were split into teams of two to make fires they were not given a lesson or instructions, just guidance with questions about what wood is good for starting a fire and what wood is good for stoking one to boil water or cook. Aidan referred to an old logger's saying that "only a fool tries to boil water on a cedar fire" and let the students figure out why. They were led through using a compass and topographical map not by a lecture, but by a guided demonstration with lots of questions about degrees and the meaning of the distance between lines on the map. They went out in teams to see if they used the compass correctly. They were given a problem to solve at the ropes course: how to get each member of the team safely across the "molten lava" using only what they were

wearing. Our team came up with using a sweatshirt to snag the hanging rope and then helping each other get on and use it. As the counselor said, "no discounting," meaning accept as sincere the help, encouragement, and praise of the rest of the team — and give that support to one another for a successful outcome. The teaching style of the counselors was effective in that they made their guiding of students appear effortless, even while many steps were taken to lead the students to a conclusion and an attempt at a new task. The ropes course was a physical and psychological challenge. Many of the students had never been in a canoe yet learned how to paddle and experience the challenge of steering a canoe in a headwind. For the student canoeists to reach their destination, they must work together and communicate or the boat will veer all over the place. In a supportive and safe environment, students could challenge themselves physically and mentally by walking across a log 30 feet in the air, jumping off the top of a 20-foot pole, or scaling a climbing wall. There were abundant opportunities for learning or practicing skills — reading a map, shooting an arrow, using a compass, carrying a canoe. The ball games were fun — and turned the world upside down with campers against staff and parents, girls against boys. Lots of team strategy and support, lots of hand-eye coordination, lots of fun.

Ultimately, on the last morning the students divided tasks among themselves for a fun and raucous race. Again, they had to work together and support one another – the challenge emphasized what was part of life all weekend, like social, racial, ethnic, and gender mixing. Individuals bore responsibilities, but ultimately the team was the focus. Even dining played to this, with each table responsible for clearing and cleaning. While students did spend time with familiar friends, we saw tables, tether ball matches, spontaneous ball games of all kinds that brought the students together by interest, mixing the groups without being required to do so. The students sang and listened to others sing and play. The old-fashioned camp songs pairing campers, with rapid hand movements and much laughter, survived onto the bus ride home. From the back I could hear something about your long-legged life and the long-legged sailor and his long-legged wife.

Getting ready to leave many students said how much they were looking forward to a shower and flush toilet, but qualified those wishes by saying how badly they wanted to stay on the island. The shower was the consolation prize for leaving.

I'm sure that other parents shared some of these impressions, and may also have seen variations based on the groups to which they were assigned. It was a pleasure to work, play, learn, dine, and live with these youth for the weekend.

Yours, Claire Schen and Greg Cherr

Camper Gear List

Pack all items into one large duffle to stow in bus cargo and one small day pack (drawstring gym bag or equivalent) to take on board bus.

Packing List

- 1 sleeping bag and pillow
 - campers sleep in wood frame, wood floored, double fly canvas roof tents, on clean, durable plastic wrapped mattress. But they need their own sleeping bag and pillow, and warm clothes for sleep.
- 1 flashlight with new batteries
- 1 rain jacket, 1 pair lightweight long underwear or base layer, 4 pair socks, 1 medium weight wicking/insulating layer, 2 pair shorts, 1 pair long slacks (avoid denim), 3 t-shirts, 2 long-sleeved shirts, a warm outerlayer.
- 1 cap or brimmed shade hat, 1 warm hat
- 1 pair sturdy-soled sneakers for outdoor and play, and a 2nd pair of sneakers for when the 1st pair gets soaked
- 1 bathing suit
- 1 towel
- personal hygiene kit (the camp provides bio-neutral soaps)
 - o include sunscreen
- · day pack/gym bag
 - a book to read on the bus
 - o a lunch to eat on the bus
 - 1 sanitary reusable drinking water bottle or canteen
- sunglasses

Optional

- camera (not capable of wireless communication)
- binoculars
- natural insect repellent
- playing cards or similar game items
- 2nd pair of sneakers may be replaced with a pair of rugged water shoes with a closed-toe design and secure fastening

Prohibited

- insect repellent with over 50% DEET
- · open toed shoes of any kind
- ponchos
- aerosols
- lighters, matches, or fire starting tools or materials
- · edged tools or knives
- tobacco, drugs, alcohols, weapons, or inappropriate items that are prohibited by the Buffalo Public Schools.
- electronic communication or electronic gaming devices

Students should not bring watches or timepieces. The camp staff has prompts built into the program that make it unnecessary for students to refer to clock time.

Parents, please contact James Sharratt if you have any difficulty acquiring these items. We can often provide new or gently used items for families who prefer not to purchase items for expected one time use. For any questions pertaining to the list, or for more detail, please contact Mr. Sharratt.

Camper Health Form

Camper Name					
Parent/Guardian Name(s)					
Parent Guardian Phone Number(s)					
Parent Guardian eMail(s)					
Emergency Contact (other than parent)					
Camper's Primary Care Physician or other doctor:					
Insurance/OHIP provider policy #					
Does the camper wear prescription glasses or contacts, dental appliances, hearing aid: Please specify:	Yes	No			
Does the camper have asthma?	Yes	No			
Please specify severity and treatment:					
Door the compar have distant environmental or medical allergies?	Vas	No			
Does the camper have dietary, environmental, or medical allergies? Please specify allergy, treatment, and precautions:	Yes	No			
Does the camper follow any food preferences, dietary needs, restrictions or food allerg	gies?		Yes	No	
(meatless, vegan, lactose free, nut free, egg free, Halal, pescatarian, or, list common fo	ods that a	re experier	nced as high	ıly distasteft	ıl)
Can the camper swim or tread water?	Yes	No			
Does the camper have any activity restrictions for recreation or problems with sleep Please specify:	Yes	No			
All medications will be kept secure by a chaperone and administered by the Camp Nur Please specify:	rse in acc	ordance wi	th parental	instructions	t .

Will the camper need assistance with mobility during travel or assistance with mobility over rough terrain at camp? If so, please contact Mr. Sharratt.

Will the camper have everything they need to appropriately observe the practices of their religious faith while away from home? Please contact Mr. Sharratt to discuss or ask questions.

Camper Health Form

Camper Name	
To be filled out by Parent:	
	esses, hot weather injuries, chronic or current injury, illness or conditions that you feel feyers, and Mr. Sharratt to be especially aware of. Call Mr. Sharratt at 716.440.5122 to
Tylenol, Pepto-Bismol, Calamine, Benadryl)	ol group to administer over-the-counter medications to your child as needed? (e.g.
	No
caring for your child to provide necessary care?	ne, do you give permission to the Director of Camp Pathfinder to permit a physician
	No
writing. In consideration of the acceptance of my child into the can claims arising from my child's participation in camp activities. I au reason my child requires medical attention beyond that furnished be camp activities and any medical treatment will be performed in the over any claims, legal dispute, or cause of action arising out of my	tivities including canoe tripping, unless I advise the camp as to any restriction in mp program, I hereby release Camp Pathfinder, its officers and employees, from all athorize the camp to secure medical treatment for my child when appropriate. If for any to the camp, I agree to be responsible for any expenses incurred. I acknowledge that the Province of Ontario, and that the Courts of Ontario shall have exclusive jurisdiction child's stay at Camp Pathfinder. I hereby agree that if I commence any legal I hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Ontario.
Parent signature	Date
If your child's Pediatrician has any concerns, please consult with the Your physician's contact information will be shared with the medical	
(optional)	
To be filled out by Physician:	
Please share any health information or concerns for the camper's he (e.g. headache, ear infection, food or substance intolerance, bloody	
I have examined the camper and reviewed the camper's health historan outdoor educational program for four days, including vigorous a	ory. To the best of my knowledge, the camper is in good health and can participate in activities such as swimming, athletics, canoeing, and hiking, except where noted:
<u> </u>	
Physician signature	Date
Phone number	

___ copy of birth certificate enclosed

Travel Documents

Camper Name
Prior to the trip, we secure all student identification for border crossing. This ensures that all children are prepared for international border crossing, and there is no worry of misplaced documents on the morning of departure or during the four days of travel.
Parents, if your child is a US citizen, please return either • a photocopy of birth certificate issued by a US state or US territory or • a photocopy of certificate of US citizenship or naturalization or • a photocopy of Consular's Report of Birth Abroad with this packet.
If you child does not have these, then they may need to travel with original issued documents such as a valid US passport (not a copy), a valid US passport card (not a copy) or a US permanent resident card (not a copy). If your child will need to travel with original issued documents, please contact Mr. Sharratt. We have additional procedures to ensure these original documents are kept especially secure.
Please check below:

Travel document needs are based on current US Customs and Border Protection Identification Requirements US/Canada Border Crossing by land for travelers 19 years of age and younger, traveling with school groups under the written permission of their parent or legal guardian.

___ no copy of birth certificate enclosed, please contact Mr. Sharratt.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM – LONG TERM TRAVEL

This section is to be completed by the Teacher in Charge:
SCHOOL: City Honors School
TRAVEL DESTINATION: Camp Pathfinder, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada DATES OF TRAVEL: May 21-24, 2026
TRANSPORTATION: Charter Bus
TEACHER IN CHARGE: Dr. Kresse
This section is to be completed by the parent/guardian:
STUDENT NAME:
STUDENT ADDRESS WITH ZIP:
DATE OF BIRTH: PLACE OF BIRTH:
PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) NAME:
HOME TELEPHONE:
PARENT(S) WORK TELEPHONE:
PARENT(S) CELLPHONE:
EMERGENCY CONTACT/RELATIONSHIP:
EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE:
PARENTAL AGREEMENT/RELEASE
FARENTAL AGREEMENT/RELEASE
I hereby consent to participation by my child,
not be liable for any delay, loss, or damage resulting therein. In the event of any illness, accident, or incapacity incurred, the group chaperone may consider my child's best interests in securing medical treatment, hospitalization, medication, and/or return transportation at my own expense.
I certify that I have read and I understand this release and agree to abide by its provisions.
Name of Parent/Guardian
Signature Date

Updated November 12, 2009

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM – LONG TERM TRAVEL

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT- Student Name	
I agree to follow the rules and regulations as established in the I also realize that this trip represents a regular school day, and the Education rules and responsibilities. I understand that the satismportant consideration. I understand that I am expected to complete all related assignments.	nerefore, is subject to the Buffalo Board of fety and welfare of the group is the most
In the event of any infraction of the rules, the chaperones reserved if deemed necessary, place a collect telephone call to my parent own expense (or my parent/guardians) as a result of any action and/or well being of the program and it's participants.	nts, and may further send me home at my
As a representative of the Buffalo Public Schools, I agree to manner so as to derive the greatest benefit from this excursion District. I also understand that the teacher/administrator in c pertaining to this excursion.	and make a valuable contribution to the
I, therefore, certify that I have read and understand this behavior provisions.	r agreement and that I agree to abide by its
Student Signature I	Date
I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the studen student behavior agreement. I agree to every part of this relea may have against the program organizers, chaperones, and the my behalf and in my capacity as a legal representative, while the during both supervised and unsupervised activities.	use and hereby relinquish any claim that I e Buffalo Public School District, both on
Parent/Guardian Signature I	Date

Updated November 12, 2009

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM – LONG TERM TRAVEL

STUDENT HEALTH/MEDICAL INFORMATION: Student Name			
Are there any medical limitations to your child's physical activities? If so, explain:			
Are there any medications that your child must take during his/her participation in this excursion? If so,			
please list the medication name, dosage, and time it must be taken. All medication must be given to the teacher in charge prior to departure in its original, labeled prescription bottle.			
Please list any additional medical concerns/issues here:			
This health information is accurate and correct insofar as I know. My child has permission to engage in all activities except as noted above. In the event that I cannot be reached in an emergency, I authorize the school and/or it's agents to obtain the proper treatment to assure the health and well-being of my child. This authorization shall also extend to and include hospitalization for first aid where/when necessary.			
Parent/Guardian Signature Date			

Updated November 12, 2009



William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL

Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I agree that in the event of an emergency, injury, or illness, the staff member(s) in charge of the trip may act on my behalf and at my expense in obtaining medical treatment for my child.

I am responsible for getting my child to and from the departure and return site identified above.

I understand that my child shall be accompanied by staff member(s) during the trip, including while traveling from the departure site to the destination site, and from the destination site to the return site.

I understand that it is within the school's discretion to change travel, accommodations and other arrangements as it deems necessary. I will be informed of such changes as soon as practicable.

I understand that the school in arranging for my child's travel and accommodation selected commercial airlines, trains, restaurants, hotels and other services whose performance and service cannot be controlled by the school. Consequently, the school is not responsible for the actions of these commercial entities, including but not limited to, lost luggage, unsatisfactory quarters, and refunds.

I understand that my child is expected to behave responsibly and to follow the school's discipline code and policies.

I agree and understand that I am responsible for the actions of my child. I release the school from all claims and liabilities that arise in connection with the trip, except if due to the negligence of school officials.

I agree and understand that I am responsible for any financial liability or obligation which I personally incur, or injury or damage to the person or property of others which may cause my child or contributesd to, while participating on this tour.

I understand that students who violate the school's Code of Conduct may be excluded by the school from participating in a trip. Additionally, I understand that if a serious or reported violation occurs while on the trip, it is within the school's discretion to send my child home from the program, of which I will be informed.

I understand that if my child is sent home early, I am responsible for all costs associated with such early departure and forfeit any monies paid that are not refunded to the school.

In an emergency I can be reached at: Day: (_) E	Evening: ()
Additional Contact: Name:	_Day: ()	Evening: ()
I give my permission for my child to particip	pate in this internation	onal school trip.
(Signature of Parent/Guardian)		(Date)





William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Camp Pathfinder, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada

I,, agree to the following r	rules and guidelines and will follow
them while participating in this school-sponsored trip to Canada. I acknow	wledge that the trip starts when I arrive
at the school parking lot and ends when I leave the school parking lot at t	the end of the trip.

- 1. I agree to abide by all New York State local laws when abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. I understand that to abuse or disobey such laws is to waive the right to a refund of any part of my costs and my Chaperones may impose consequences that could include sending me home at my expense or the expense of my family. I understand that should I break any local laws, I will be subject to the laws of Canada and that local authorities may become involved.
- 2. I understand that I will be required to pay incidental personal expenses that I incur, as well as for any damage I cause to airplanes, hotel rooms, busses, ferries, trains, or cruise ships.
- 3. I understand I am responsible for my own personal items and luggage. I understand it is my responsibility to be on time for all meetings/group check-ins/curfew.
- 4. I agree to abide by the directions of the Chaperones during my tour. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Strict adherence to the curfew that will be set for all students in the group
 - b. Strict adherence NOT to leave my room during specified curfew hours
 - c. Strict adherence not to purchase/order/drink alcohol or alcoholic beverages
 - d. Strict adherence not to use tobacco, smoke cigarettes or use hookah/bubble pipes
 - Strict adherence not to bring/purchase/use substances or drugs that are illegal in the United States or in Canada
 - Strict adherence to agree to a luggage/baggage check at any time
 - Strict adherence to the group touring schedule/staying with the group
 - Strict adherence to local customs/dress code requirements
 - Strict adherence to abstinence from any sexual activity (activity which would be illegal if done in public)





William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

- Strict adherence to all charter bus rules
- k. Strict adherence to room assignments
- Strict adherence to the reasonable requests of any chaperone
- m. Strict adherence to all rules posted by Tour Director/Bus Drivers
- n. Understanding that "free time" will be defined by my chaperones
- o. Prescription/ medication that I must take
- 5. I understand that the chaperones may add additional rules, as they deem necessary, while we are on the trip. These rules must be adhered to in the same way as the regulations previously listed above or the same consequences will result
- 6. Failure to follow any of these rules and regulations may result in chaperones determining a consequence for my behavior that can include, but are not limited to: staying behind during scheduled activities, being with a chaperone and not my friends during non-curfew hours, and/or terminating me from the tour immediately. I therefore understand that to disobey such rules or directions is to waive the right to a refund of any part of my costs and that chaperones may then send me home at my and/or my parents'/guardians' expense.

Student Signature	Date



-	mp Pathfinder – Payment Receipt Form
Student Name: Enclosed with payment	(about analy
Enclosed with payment	\$100 first deposit requested by January 23, 2026
	\$300 balance requested by March 13, 2026
	\$400 full payment
	other amount \$
Make checks payable to	"CHS Class of 2030" Submit to Mr. Sharratt during school or mail to: City Honors School - 8 th Grade Class Advisor 186 E. North St. Buffalo, NY 14204
Olana Trin ta Oa	Pothfinder Bormont Bossint Form
-	mp Pathfinder – Payment Receipt Form
Student Name: Enclosed with payment	
Enclosed with payment	\$100 first deposit requested by January 23, 2026
	\$300 balance requested by March 13, 2026
	\$400 full payment
	other amount \$
Make checks payable to	"CHS Class of 2030" Submit to Mr. Sharratt during school or mail to: City Honors School - 8 th Grade Class Advisor 186 E. North St. Buffalo, NY 14204
Class Trin to Ca	ımp Pathfinder – Payment Receipt Form
Student Name:	inpratimitaer – rayment Neceipt Form
Enclosed with payment	
	\$100 first deposit requested by January 23, 2026
	\$300 balance requested by March 13, 2026
	\$400 full payment
	other amount \$
Make checks payable to	o "CHS Class of 2030" Submit to Mr. Sharratt during school or mail to: City Honors School - 8 th Grade Class Advisor 186 E. North St. Buffalo, NY 14204