Take Our Kids to Work 2015

Every year the Upper Grand District School Board, the Wellington Catholic District School Board along with other Ontario school boards co-ordinate a Take Our Kids to Work program whereby Grade 9 students accompany their parent to work and observe them in their daily role as an employee.

The University supports this initiative and wishes to ensure that the experience for these students, who may shadow parents at University workplaces is both a safe and a productive one.

All school boards require that parents sign a waiver and the University will also require a signed Release and Indemnification Form [1] from the parent or guardian of any student who is participating in this initiative and you may make photocopies.

Application:
The signed Release and Indemnification Form is to be forwarded to Environmental Health and Safety [2], ASAP for tours and on or before Monday, November 2, 2015. Permission to bring a student into the workplace must be obtained and authorized by the Dean/Designate or Director/Designate of your workplace.

Program Outline:

- It is important that the Take Our Kids to Work program commence with a mandatory safety orientation [3] in the parent’s host department, to review pertinent health and safety awareness, workplace-specific risks and local safe work procedures.
- Ensure any required personal safety equipment (e.g., safety glasses) and written safety instructions (e.g., workplace safety rules) are provided to the student. Students must remain under supervision throughout the day.
- Under no circumstances shall students be permitted to operate motorized vehicles or farm equipment.

This year, several tours have been arranged in order to provide insights into unique facets of the Guelph campus, and to enable participation where shadowing a parent is deemed inappropriate.

- These tours are available for limited group sizes and must be registered for in advance.
- Please indicate your interest in having your son or daughter join a tour on the Release and Indemnification Form [1].
- Parents will receive confirmation of tour enrollment.
- Parents need to make arrangements to get your son or daughter to and from the tours.

2015 Tours

Tour 1: Breaking Bad in the Chemistry Lab (10 am - 11:30): Come and have a hand in the launching of a CO2 rocket! Then using some basic chemistry techniques, make silver and gold pennies and slime!
Meet at Science Complex 2111, 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Enroll early!! limited to 12 participants.

Tour 2: Campus tours morning or afternoon* (10 am - ~12 noon OR 1:30 - ~3:30):
Starting at the University Centre, this tour runs from for 1.5 - 2 hours. Stops include: Rozanski Hall, the Science Complex Atrium, the Library, MacNaughton bookstore, Athletics, Creelman dining hall and south residence. Tours start at room 332 UC and finish in the UC main level. Note: Indicate your interest in the am or pm tour.
Tour 3: Wild Ontario (10:30 am - 11:30 am): Wild Ontario is a live-animal, environmental education program and a unique experiential learning opportunity for volunteers at the University of Guelph. We travel the province to teach about biology and to inspire appreciation for our natural world. Join us for a behind the scenes tour of our facility and a nose-to-beak experience that you won’t forget! This outdoor tour begins at 10:30 am, for 1 hour. Meet in the parking lot, on the north side of Building 93, Hill’s Primary Healthcare Centre, Smith Lane. Please dress for the weather! Limited to 30 participants.

Tour 4: Ontario Veterinary College Complex tour (12:30 pm - 1:20): Beginning (and completing) outside room 1713 of the Lifetime Learning Center, OVC at 12:30 pm, this tour travels through the OVC anatomy museum and the non-clinical areas of the Large and Small Animal Clinics for about 50 minutes. Maximum 30 participants. Due to biosecurity and confidentiality concerns, visitors to OVC are not permitted to “wander around” or explore within the clinics without a guide. Please note that there is a strict no photography or video recording policy in the clinics or in areas where animal patients are present. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted on tours.

Tour 5: Talking Trees (1 pm – 2:30): What can trees “tell” you about a forest? Lots! This Arboretum tour will help you learn how to understand a forest habitat and how it relates to subjects such as ecology, zoology, evolution and landscape architecture. The tour will start at and return to the Kiosk on Arboretum Road, (past Alumni House) running from 1 pm – 2:30 pm.

Tour 6: Meeting the animals that help us all (3:00 pm – 4): The CAF houses a wide variety of animals for research and teaching including; fish, frogs, mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, cats and chickens. The tour will visit various animal holding areas and procedural spaces while talking about the unique features of the facility, the guidelines that must be followed, some of the ongoing research and the care of the animals in the facility including environmental enrichment strategies. Starting at 3:00 pm, this 1 hour tour will meet in the foyer of the Central Animal Facility, on MacGilvray Lane. Open to 25 participants only.

Tour 7: Bovey Greenhouse (3:30 pm – 4:30pm): This 1 hour tour will commence from the front foyer of the Bovey Building at 3:30 pm. Projects such as the Russian dandelion research, antibody growth for cancer cure, and ideal plants for green roof installations will be discussed. Visit the tropical green house, see the “stinky” plant (titan arum) and view a video of its recent record-setting bloom! As time allows, participants will propagate a plant to take home. Limited to 20 participants.

For reasons of safety, overcrowding or privacy of clients, certain work sites have been deemed inappropriate to host student visitors; these are listed below.

Work Sites/Activities OFF LIMITS to shadow a parent for Take Our Kids To Work Program:

1. University Construction Sites
2. Central Utilities Plant
3. Steam Tunnels
4. Hospitality Services Kitchens
5. Bulk Chemical Storage Locations (flammable and corrosive liquids, pesticides)
6. Animal and Poultry Science Abattoir
7. Biomedical Sciences Gross Anatomy
8. Human Health and Nutritional Science/Human Anatomy
9. Animal Health Laboratory (AHL), Agriculture and Food Lab (AFL) and Pathobiology Post Mortem
10. CRIFS
11. Rooms for which Biohazard Permits have been issued
12. Intermediate Level Radioisotope Laboratories and areas where Radiography Equipment is used
13. Counselling Services
14. Human testing and medical facilities (Student Health Services, Occupational Health and Wellness, Human Health and Nutritional Science/Human Anatomy)
15. Private living areas of Student Residences

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16. Patient care areas of Ontario Veterinary College Health Science Center
17. Driving Motorized Vehicles
18. Operating Machines/Equipment in Machine Shops
19. Climbing Ladders, Scalable Fixtures or operating/riding on any Lifting Device
20. Areas where Class III and Class IV Laser Devices are being used
21. Hazardous Environments (gases, welding, noise, dusts)
22. Campus Community Police and Fire Prevention
23. Other work sites identified by the University’s Director of Environmental Health and Safety

The University of Guelph, as employer, has a duty to provide and maintain safe workplaces, to provide safety information to workers and to comply with occupational safety regulations. As part of the educational benefit of the Take Our Kids to Work program, those organizing and supervising the experience for these students must promote safety awareness and the use of personal safety equipment (e.g., safety glasses, safe lab techniques, etc.).

More information and a sample orientation can be found at the EHS website [3]. Please direct questions or requests for a list of orientation topics to mcooper@uoguelph.ca [4] or phone (519) 824-4120 extension 52049.

Should you have any questions about the appropriateness of any work site with regard to this program, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Health and Safety at ehs@uoguelph.ca [2] for advice or by phone at 519-824-4120 extension 53282.

This opportunity is a worthwhile one for these high school students who may one day become our students. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and for making safety a priority for our employees, students and visitors.