



# PARENT CONSENT FORM FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING EXCURSIONS (ONE DAY - IN PROVINCE)

## EXCURSION EXPECTATIONS:

- The student will be provided with details of each excursion by the supervising teacher (date, time, location, transportation, etc.). The student is expected to share this information with his/her parent(s)/guardian.
- All excursions will be supervised by a classroom or supply teacher.
- Students should direct questions to the supervising teacher of the excursion or their guidance counsellor.
- If the parent/guardian wishes to withdraw the student from an activity, they must inform the supervising teacher in writing.

## EXPLANATION OF EXCURSIONS:

### Experiential Learning or "Reach Ahead" Activities:

All of the education excursions pertaining to the signing of this form are considered Experiential Learning activities. As the title suggests, the student could be involved in a variety of **experiences** to enhance and support classroom **learning**. These learning experiences are intended for students in Grades 10, 11, and 12, and take place outside the classroom. The overall expectation of these excursions would be for the student to develop an understanding of the skills necessary for success in school, work and in life. Experiential Learning activities may also be referred to as "Reach Ahead" activities. This means that opportunities are provided for the student to look beyond the classroom to see what career possibilities lay ahead. Sample activities include, but are not limited to, those described below:

### 1. CO-OP / OYAP and Apprenticeship Awareness Opportunities

Cooperative Education (Co-op) and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) typically involve visits to a worksite, union hall, Ontario Skills Competitions (Regional, Provincial, National), and/or skilled trade events such as Construction Day, Stratford Chef School, Jill of All Trades Day, etc. These excursions would be outside the regular Co-op/OYAP work placement. The purpose of these excursions would be to enhance the student's awareness of career-related and apprenticeship opportunities to assist in career decision making.

### 2. ZOOM Career Days / Challenge Days / Pitch Day / Apps 4 Learning

Students can Zoom in on a career possibility by attending sector-specific ZOOM days which are open for students on any Pathway (Apprenticeship, College, Community, University or the Workplace). Interactive workshops are given by local industry representatives who have the most current information on employment opportunities, educational requirements and other helpful career exploration tips. To further engage students in authentic learning experiences that focus on critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and collaboration the WCDSB partners with the *Business & Education Partnership of Waterloo* to deliver Pitch Day/Challenge Day/ Apps 4 Learning, and other experiential learning events. [www.bus-edpartnership.org](http://www.bus-edpartnership.org)

### 3. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a Ministry-approved recognition students can earn during Grades 11 and 12. It is valuable because it shows that the student has focused his/her education toward a particular employment sector. There are five requirements to earn the SHSM designation on the diploma. Three of these requirements/activities that are listed below take place outside the school and require signed permission on this form.

1. Earn industry-recognized certifications related to the employment sector.
2. Take advantage of Reach Ahead opportunities.
3. Participate in sector-related Experiential Learning activities.

VISIT THIS WEBSITE TO INDICATE YOUR INTENT TO  
BE AN SHSM STUDENT & TO FIND OUT MORE!!  
[www.HighSkills.ca](http://www.HighSkills.ca)

### 4. University and College Tours

Many students will independently explore different universities and colleges to assist in deciding on post-secondary destinations. In addition to this, the School College Work Initiative (SCWI) offers many opportunities to our students to expose them to the various courses and programs available at Conestoga College (Doon, Waterloo, Guelph, and Cambridge). We are fortunate to have many excellent post-secondary institutions in our community where local excursions may be arranged at St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier, and Conestoga College's four campuses.

### 5. Business Visitation / Workplace Excursions

Teachers may organize visits to local businesses and industries. These visits may be for the purpose of exposing the student to various careers and may also be subject-specific to enhance curriculum expectations.

FIND OUT MORE!  
<http://coop.wcdsb.ca>

This website has a thorough description of all Co-op and Experiential Learning programs and opportunities offered in the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. **Questions?** Please see your Guidance Counsellor.

PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION AND SIGN ON REVERSE SIDE. RETURN THIS FORM WITH ALL REGISTRATION FORMS.