



Grade 9 Retreat Information Letter 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited that your child is planning on attending Eden High School in the fall! Our hope is that they feel welcome and connected from the first day, eventually becoming an influential member of our school community. To help them have a great start, the SLC will host a Grade Retreat that is sure to become an instant highlight! The retreat will consist of time away in Muskoka, featuring activities and sessions that will help them build positive relationships, grow in character, and learn about themselves from a faith perspective. The retreats are a great opportunity and we hope your child will join us in September! **This letter contains vital information regarding the retreat so please read carefully.**

Date: Wednesday, September 20 to Friday, September 22, 2023

Departure and Arrival: Buses will depart from Eden High School on Wednesday at 8:45am and will arrive back at the school on Friday at 2:45pm. **Please have your child at Eden no later than 8:20am on the day of departure. Please meet at the “double staircase” entrance.**

Location: Camp Crossroads 1224 E. Bay Rd. Torrance, On. POC 1MO (705) 762-3111

Cost: \$275.00 and forms are due on Friday, June 9 by 3:00pm in the SLC Office. Forms received after this date will be placed on a waiting list. The registration fee covers accommodations, transportation, meals and program activities. It does not cover a planned stop for lunch on the way to camp. Students will pay for their own meal.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO “EDEN SLC” or you can pay via e-transfer using the email: giving.slceden@gmail.com.

Note: As we have planning costs, cancellations affect our budget, so there is a new schedule concerning non-refundable deposits and is as follows:

Cancellations on or before:

June 30 will receive a **full refund**.

September 5 will receive a **\$100.00 refund**.

Any cancellations after **September 5** will receive a **\$50.00 refund**.

If unique circumstances arise, please speak directly with John Bryan (Spiritual Life Director) at 905-646-9884 or at john.slceden@gmail.com.

Also, our Safe Place Policy dictates a specific leader/student ratio, so our volunteer availability will determine how many students we can accommodate. Therefore, retreat forms will be **“time stamped” and in the event of a lack of volunteers, we will determine student eligibility on a first come/first serve basis.** **There will be a limited number of spots so don't leave it too late!**

On another note, we hope to offer canoeing/kayaking as an activity. It's a great opportunity for students to experience the outdoors in this way. As per DSNB regulations, each student participating will be required to complete a standard swim test and results will be given to school administration. The swim test will happen onsite at Camp Crossroads. Should your child not complete the swim test, an alternate activity will be provided. A fully certified lifeguard will be on duty and every participant will be required to wear a certified PFD.

Regarding cellphones and technology, our policy is to have cabin leaders collect cellphones during the orientation at the retreat. We believe that the opportunity to “disconnect” from social media on retreats is important as it places a value on experiencing new things and engaging with people personally. Cabin leaders will wake students up at the appropriate time so phones will not be needed as alarm clocks. As for retreat photos, the SLC can post photos for students to download and phones will be returned at the end of the retreat with enough time to take pictures with friends. Please note that photos/video may be used for promotional purposes as outlined in the waiver form. **In addition, the Spiritual Life Centre Grade Retreats are independent events and not connected to the District School Board of Niagara.**

As a Spiritual Life Centre, we are excited about connecting with students and offering our program at Eden High School! We consider it a privilege to encourage and support students as they grow into who they are and who God has made them to be! We understand the challenges of high school life, particularly adjusting as a first year student, and we work hard to help them feel welcome. In addition to the grade retreats, we offer a variety of programs and you can find information about them at slceden.com. We look forward to the blessing of serving your child through the Spiritual Life Centre. **If you have any questions or concerns regarding this year’s grade retreat, including possible financial assistance, please do not hesitate to speak with me.**

On behalf of the Spiritual Life Centre,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Bryan', written in a cursive style.

John Bryan
Spiritual Life Director



Retreat Packing List 2023

Retreat Packing List

Here is what you need to bring on the retreat. Remember that you are only there for 3 days and that you are limited to **one** bag, plus your sleeping bag, so pack light! **Please ensure your sleeping bag is properly rolled. If you are not keeping your pillow with you on the bus, please ensure that it is packed into your bag. If you are using a garbage bag, please label it clearly with your name.**

- T-shirts
- Shorts
- Pants
- Sweaters
- Socks
- Underwear
- Bathing suit (please be modest)
- Clothes that can get wet
- Towel
- Sandals
- Running shoes
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Pyjamas
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss
- Soap
- Hairbrush, comb
- Deodorant
- Flashlight
- Digital camera
- Bible
- Notebook, pen
- Book to read
- Medication (if any)
- Money for a lunch stop on the way to camp!

Please leave electronics at home. Cell phones will be given to cabin leaders for the duration of the retreat.



Grade 9 Retreat (2023) Release Form

Student Name: (print): _____

Student Email: _____

Event: Spiritual Life Centre Grade 9 Retreat

Destination: Camp Crossroads 1224 E. Bay Rd. Torrance, On. P0C 1M0

Date: Wednesday, Sept 20 - Friday, September 22, 2023

Departure Time: 8:45am

Return Time: 2:45pm

SLC Staff Supervisors: John Bryan, Alicia Janzen, Meghan Plett, Ethan Braun

Health Card Number: _____

Does your child have any medical concerns? (yes/no) If yes, please explain: _____

Does your child require medication? (yes/no) If yes, please complete the medication form.

Does your child have any dietary restrictions? (yes/no) If yes, please explain: _____

I, _____ (parent/guardian name), give permission for my child _____, to attend and participate in all activities associated with the Spiritual Life Centre grade retreat from Wednesday, September 20 - Friday, September 22, 2023.

I acknowledge that my child is in good health and able to participate in retreat activities. In the event of a medical emergency and I am not available for consultation, I hereby grant permission for a member of the SLC staff, Camp Crossroads staff or an on-site adult to obtain necessary medical assistance for my child.

I understand that the information recorded here is necessary for my child's safety and well being on the retreat and that this information will be treated in a respectful and caring manner.

I, the undersigned, hereby release the Spiritual Life Centre, its staff, Eden Advisory Board members, Camp Crossroads staff, the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers from any and all actions, claims or any type of liability whatsoever in the event of any accident or misfortune which may occur to my child during the grade retreat indicated in this application, and furthermore, I the undersigned, agree to indemnify the staff from any and all damages, losses, or liability suffered by any of the staff as a result of any action or claims made by any person arising out of anything done or suffered by my child as a consequence of attending the grade retreat during the listed dates. I also give consent for my child to appear in photos/video that may appear at SLC events or be used in promotional material.

I have legal custody of the named child and have read and agree to all of the above conditions of registration.

Parent Name (Please Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Email: _____ **Parent Number:** _____

Lastly, studies show that High School students are far more successful when they are connected to a supportive adult. As an SLC Team, we meet with many students throughout the year. By checking the box below, you give consent for your child to meet with a member of the SLC during the school year. This will help us better connect with students and stay connected with you as a legal guardian.

Yes, I give consent.

No, I do not give consent to a mentoring appointment.



Grade 9 Retreat Behavioural Contract 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please read, sign and return with payment by Friday, June 9, 2023

The Spiritual Life Centre Grade Retreats are one of the many privileges that our students enjoy. It is a time for them to come together to learn and grow in a unique environment.

Before any student is allowed to attend the retreat, the following form must be read and signed by both the student and parent/legal guardian and returned with payment to the Spiritual Life Centre by the deadline.

While we anticipate that our students will exceed our expectations, should situations requiring discipline arise, parents will be notified, and if necessary, asked to pick up their child. In addition, if your son/daughter damages SLC or Camp Crossroads property, you will be liable for the cost to repair or replace the damaged item(s).

The following items are **NOT** welcome on retreats:

- * **alcohol**
- * **any tobacco products or vaping items.**
- * **illegal drugs (students requiring medication must notify an SLC member)**
- * **fireworks, firearms, lighters, weapons of any kind**
- * **electronics of any kind. Cell phones will be given to cabin leaders upon arriving at camp.**

Our hope is that our students will continue to respect and honour the volunteers who give of their time to build relationships with them, recognizing that disrespect is inappropriate. We will hold our students to the following expectations:

- * **prompt attendance at all activities**
- * **proper meal etiquette**
- * **proper bus etiquette**
- * **respecting our “lights out” policy**
- * **respect for those in leadership**
- * **respect for fellow students**
- * **recognizing that students are only allowed to enter their assigned cabin.**

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Each student is allowed to choose **two possible** cabin partners. We will do our best to accommodate all requests but cannot guarantee selections. Please indicate your choices below.

1. _____ 2. _____



Grade 9 Retreat Medication Form 2023

For safety reasons, it is the policy of the Spiritual Life Centre to collect prescription medications at the beginning of each grade retreat. We want to insure that medications are not available to others so that all students are in a safe camp environment. Medications will be kept in the camp office.

If your child is able to administer medication without assistance, they can take their medication in the camp office at the appropriate times. If your child is in need of assistance with medication, by signing this form you are granting permission to a staff member to administer your child's medication at the instructed times.

Please include the necessary information below regarding your child's medication.

Name of Student: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of Medication	Dose Required	Instructions