



Trails Youth Initiatives **Application Information Letter**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has expressed some interest in joining Trails Youth Initiatives, a four-year programme designed to challenge and equip vulnerable youth from the inner city to become contributing members of their communities. Trails helps youth realize and develop their potential through an experientially based approach which provides youth with skills, knowledge, and confidence through six programme activity areas:

- *Communication and Group Skills*: interpersonal communication skills, trust, problem solving, co-operation, leadership, conflict management, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- *Healthy Living*: making healthy life choices in the areas of sex and relationships, substance abuse, environment and working towards a balanced lifestyle.
- *Inside-Out*: examining personal values, morals, beliefs, external influential factors such as media, friends, parents, school and exploring discrimination, values, culture and community.
- *Outdoor Skills*: as a way of developing confidence, shared experience and as a tool for transferring learning. Skills learned include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating, canoeing, swimming and wilderness camping/tripping.
- *Building wings*: helping participants become independent and contributing members of community along with life skills including computer skills, resume writing, future planning and goal setting, decision making.
- *Service*: developing an understanding and responsibility for giving back to the community.

At times Trails can present some real challenges, particularly committing to a four year programme that includes two weeks every summer and one weekend a month throughout the school year. In addition there are canoe trips that can be buggy, hot and physically demanding, and challenging moments working within a peer group. One of the purposes of this application is to help determine if your child is prepared for the physical, social, emotional, and commitment demands of Trails Youth Initiatives.

Because parents/guardians often know their children best, we ask that you complete this form as accurately and as thorough as possible. The questions within this application give us great insight and help us to assess whether or not the Trails programme is an appropriate fit for your child and will assist them with positive personal growth and development. There may be questions that seem personal, or that might not apply to your child. Answer these questions as openly and honestly as possible and know that your confidentiality will be maintained. It is also important to note that answers you provide on this application may or may not influence acceptance into the programme. If we have any cause for concern, we will definitely connect with the parents/guardians and the applicant to discuss. Trails Youth Initiatives' main objective is to deliver physically and emotionally safe experiences. The more we know, the better we can serve the youth. ***Withholding pertinent information about the applicant could have serious implications for the individual, other participants and the staff. We depend on your clarity and honesty for the success and safety of our programme.***

It is important that, if you are interested in having your child join Trails, you fill out this form and return it to us as soon as possible. We look forward to receiving your application.

Trails Youth Initiatives

Newmarket Office: 15599 Warden Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4W1, (905) 836 0100 Fax (905) 898 0741

Trails Youth Initiatives is a registered charity: # 13505 0755 RR0001

**TRAILS YOUTH INITIATIVES
APPLICATION FORM**

To be filled out by applicant's parent/guardian. These questions are designed to help us understand the needs of the youth.

(Please return to Nicholas Babiuk at address/fax below as soon as possible.)

Today's Date: _____
(month/day/year)

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Age: _____ BirthDate: _____ Gender: _____
(month/day/year)

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Alternative Phone (cell) (____) _____

Email: _____

Participant's School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher: _____ School Phone: (____) _____

School Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Information (individual filling out this form)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Ph: (____) _____ Work Ph: (____) _____

Email: _____

Do you have sole custody of the applicant? Yes ___ No ___. If "No", please fill out the information below:

Name of other parent/guardian: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Ph: (____) _____ Work Ph: (____) _____

Email: _____

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Newmarket Office: 15599 Warden Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4W1
Phone (905) 836 0100 Fax (905) 898 0741
www.trails.ca
e-mail: nicholas@trails.ca

9. To your knowledge has your child ever used tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs? If yes, please elaborate.

10. Is the applicant currently, or has she/he ever been, in any type of therapy or family counseling? If so, kindly elaborate a little.

11. Are there any significant self-care issues we should be aware of? (hygiene, depression etc...)

12. Has your child ever experienced conflict with the law and/or been on any type of probation? If yes, please explain the circumstances.

13. Has he/she ever been suspended from school? If yes, please share the circumstances

14. Has your child ever displayed self-harming behaviours? If yes, please elaborate.

15. Has your child ever run away from home? If yes, briefly describe the situation.

16. Is there anything else we should know about your child?

17. Are you willing to encourage and support your child's attendance at Trails over the next for years? If yes, kindly give us an idea of how.

Application Criteria

Please fill out this form as honestly as possible. Accurate information during our intake and recruitment process greatly impacts the success of our programme.

Print Full Name of Potential Participant: _____

APPROPRIATE FOR TRAILS	INAPPROPRIATE FOR TRAILS
<input type="checkbox"/> No substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemically dependant/addicted
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a runner	<input type="checkbox"/> Runner (runs away when upset/frustrated)
<input type="checkbox"/> No criminal/YOA involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal/YOA involvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Potential and/or some behavioural issues <i>(interpersonal)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent behaviour issues <i>(violent)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes displays non-violent Aggression towards others <i>(misinterpreted leadership)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Aggression towards others <i>(violent or bullying)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Age-appropriate sexual curiosity	<input type="checkbox"/> Age-inappropriate sexual behaviour
<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes can display negative peer involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspected gang involvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Requires Remedial assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Issues with school attendance
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular school attendance	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-harming behaviour
<input type="checkbox"/> Issues with personal body image	<input type="checkbox"/> Eating disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Occasional alienation or withdrawal from peer group	<input type="checkbox"/> Diagnosed psychiatric disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Low self esteem	<input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal tendencies
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of motivation	<input type="checkbox"/> History of refusing to participate
<input type="checkbox"/> Family willing to support child's four year participation at Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe health condition
<input type="checkbox"/> Willing and able to participate in physical outdoor activities	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest in outdoor activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Displays some ability to express feelings appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/> Involvement in prostitution
<input type="checkbox"/> Willingness to participate in a co-ed environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Issues working with the opposite sex
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates ability to be part of a group	<input type="checkbox"/> Problems working with others
<input type="checkbox"/> Committed to join a four year programme	

Primary Caregiver(s) must sign a release of information for the purposes of tracking school Involvement.

Each potential participant and their families/guardians must first speak with a Trails Youth Initiatives representative before acceptance into the programme!

Return Forms to:
Nicholas Babiuk

Trails Youth Initiatives, 15599 Warden Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario , L3Y 4W1

Phone: Toll Free (416) 359 0040 then (905) 836 0100 Fax : (905) 898 0741

Email :nicholas@trails.ca Website: www.trails.ca