

POLAR BEAR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Polar Bear Habitat in Cochrane Ontario is offering a Polar Bear Enrichment Program for teachers and students all over Ontario. Students from both the elementary to post-secondary grades are able to benefit from this program. The program provides students with an opportunity to develop knowledge and awareness of the polar bear species. Furthermore, they are also exposed to a variety of basic to advanced research procedures used in the scientific field. Students are able to create their own enrichments for our bears, and witness the positive effect they are able to create, through pictures, videos and communication with the bear keepers.

Students and teachers are also given the opportunity to subscribe to our Habitat website (polarbearhabitat.ca) and access its resources. They are able to read through scientific journals, and studies that have been conducted at the Habitat. They can also stay up-to-date with monthly newsletters consisting of articles from the staff, bear keepers and some of our Board members, including some of the leading polar bear scientists around the world.

The Enrichment Program has many benefits for all parties involved. For the schools and students who have taken advantage of this opportunity, it provided an amazing new learning experience that bridged classroom theory to real-world applications. Furthermore, there is potential for this experience to be carried on in several curricular and/or extra-curricular forms and further enhance student learning. For the Polar Bear Habitat, we enjoy the opportunity to have the involvement of students in our research, and being able to teach younger generations about the importance of polar bear awareness.

The program will be at a cost of \$100, which includes a weeks' worth of direct contact with a Polar Bear Keeper, Live feed of the Polar Bears, presentations, educational information along with pictures and videos to stay with the classroom as a keepsake.

If interested in the program, please contact Dylan McCart, Conservation Coordinator, at (705) 272 2327 ext. 33 or d.mccart@polarbearhabitat.ca

