



Columbus House (Pembroke) Inc.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM – ADMISSION PACKAGE

Mission Statement

Columbus House seeks to improve the quality of life for children, youth and families in Renfrew County by providing programs which focus on well being and education. We offer these supports within an atmosphere that celebrates diversity, cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, and family involvement.

- ADMISSION PROCEDURE**
- 1. THE YOUTH MUST REVIEW THE HOUSE GUIDELINES**
 - 2. CONTACT US AT 613 732-8977 TO SCHEDULE AN INTAKE INTERVIEW ****THE YOUTH MUST CONTACT US TO REQUEST THIS MEETING AS THIS IS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM****

INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE IS INFORMATION ON OUR TEEN COMPASS (unplugged) PROGRAMS

- An Outdoor Leadership Program – for all youth in the Residential Program
- An Educational Program – for any youth in the community

LOCATION: River Road Residence For Youth – 542 River Road 613 732-8977



- ELIGIBILITY**
- . Between the ages of 16 and 21yrs (15yrs may be considered)
 - . Attending or willing to return to school (can be a combination of classes and Teen Compass Afternoon Skill Building Program)
 - . Able to live with up to 7 other youth
 - . Willing to complete volunteer work (we volunteer together as a group)

Capacity: Accommodations for 8 Youth

Length of Stay: According to the needs of each individual

Objectives of the Program: To provide shelter and support for youth who may be experiencing relationship challenges in the home.

Program Highlights:

- Provide 24-hour supervision while in residence
- Provide informal counseling & make referrals when needed
- Encourage continued education or aid in finding employment
- Provide guidance and assistance in learning independent living skills
- Provide a full life skills program such as social skills, relationship building, employment related skills, etc. with the goal of independent living

Staff: Columbus House is staffed 24 hours per day

HOUSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

House Routine: A typical weekday at Columbus House begins with a wake up call at 7am. Residents are responsible to make their own breakfast & lunch. All residents leave for school no later than 7:45am. Residents are due back at the residence by 4:30pm (unless you have a school or work related commitment) and everyone has dinner together at 5pm. After dinner you are on your own to go out or have friends in. If it is your room & laundry night you will need to do this before going out. Thursday night is chore night after dinner and every resident is responsible to clean one of the common areas on the main floor. All residents are expected home by curfew. After 3 weekends in the program, any resident can request weekends away by completing a request form and staff will confirm the plans.

**** School is the number one priority.** All residents are expected to attend all of their classes each day, or participate in an alternative plan as set out for you (ie. Teen Compass Educational Program). Residents are encouraged to achieve their high school credits to the best of their ability. Monthly school reports provide updates from teachers. These reports are also required by Ontario Works.

Work. As we are assisting residents to work toward independent living, all residents will receive support from staff to secure part-time employment whenever the resident is ready for employment.

Volunteer Work is an important part of the program, and all residents will be expected to participate during their time at Columbus House. We complete volunteer work together as a group.

Smoking is not permitted inside the residence.

Vaping & Vaping Supplies are not permitted on the property at any time

Weapons are not allowed on the property. This includes, but is not limited to, guns (of any kind), knives (of any kind), brass knuckles, and ANY item that is being used as a weapon to threaten or injure someone.

Alcohol and Drugs are not permitted on the property. Any substances will be removed and the resident(s) responsible will find their placement at risk. House medications (ie. Tylenol, etc.), firstaid kit and any medications belonging to residents will be kept in the staff office.

Foul Language and Physical Aggression is not acceptable, nor is disrespect to any other resident or staff member.

Room and Board. You may qualify for assistance through Ontario Works for this. We can assist with this process. Room & Board payment is required by the 1st of each month.

Hygiene and Appearance. All residents are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance. Basic Hygiene supplies are provided whenever needed.

House Responsibilities. All residents are expected to actively participate in the upkeep of the house. House responsibilities will be shared and posted each week.

Laundry. Each resident is responsible for their own laundry. All residents will receive assistance from staff on the use of the laundry facilities. All laundry is to be completed before 10:30pm on your assigned night.

Safekeeping. Please consult the staff about safekeeping. A lock box is also available in your room.

Cell Phones. Can be used in the residence however, there is a time and place for everything. Cell phones are not allowed at the dinner table, during a house meeting, while meeting with staff or at volunteer work activities. If having a cell phone in your room at night is effecting school (having trouble getting up and out to school on time or sleeping in class) then the phone must remain in the office overnight each night until staff see the issue resolved.

Curfew. From Sunday to Thursday, all residents over 16 years of age are required to be in the house by 10:15pm. On Friday and Saturday nights, all residents are to be in by 11:45pm. Residents under 16 must be in the house by 9:00pm on school nights, and 11pm on the weekends.

Meals. Residents prepare their own breakfast and lunch each day. All residents must attend dinner from Sunday –Thursday unless they are working or participating in a school related activity.

Visitors. Are welcome from noon-4pm and after dinner from 6pm-10:15pm during the week and from noon-11:45pm on Fridays & Saturdays. Visitors are allowed in the lounge, living room and yard areas. No visitors are allowed on the lower or second floor.

- ❖ Staff must be made aware of any appointments, commitments and/or work schedule
 - ❖ Responsibilities must be completed and checked by staff before leaving for the weekend.
 - ❖ Outside behavior – no yelling or loud music. Please be aware of common courtesies to extend to our neighbors!
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- COVID-19 Protocols – If a resident is exhibiting COVID symptoms, all residents and staff will be asked to wear a mask until the resident is tested through the VTAC system. The program must follow the guidelines for congregate living as set out by the Ministry and recommendations from the Renfrew County District Health Unit. You will be expected to follow ALL protocols when put in place at Columbus House. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal from the program as the guidelines are for the safety of all residents and staff.

*** ALL RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OUR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**



OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”
— Benjamin Franklin

Local & Out of the Area Activities/Trips

- Camping, Canoeing, Snowshoeing & Hiking
- Participate in Team & Individual Challenges



This program allows youth to immerse themselves into outdoor activities while being ‘unplugged’ from their day to day use of technology.



Teen Compass Program



Building

CONFIDENCE

A PROGRAM FOR Any Youth IN THE COMMUNITY (AGE 16YRS-20YRS)

Educational Credit Program

For youth who may be struggling in school, having difficulty completing an online course without assistance (participating in the high school SAL Program) or not attending school for various reasons and interested in attaining credits

Two Classrooms - Offering 4 Credits

- . Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday*
- . Transportation to the Program (within Pembroke)*
- . Lunch is provided*
- . Staff lead - small group setting*

***You will receive One High School Credit upon completion of each course*

Contact *Columbus House (Pembroke)* for Registration at 613 732-8977

