



GETTING KIDS ON THE LAND

Reviewing the Impact of the YFWET Grant

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Project Activities

Rivers to Ridges believes that deepening our connection to the land is crucial for healthy bodies, minds, and communities. We deliver a variety of land-based programs for youth and families in Whitehorse. The purpose of our programs is to deepen our participants' sense of connection to and care for the natural world.

Original Objective	Activities to Meet Objective
Provide specialized experiences that will expose program participants to the foundations of fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife stewardship	Local Elders and specialists came in to support a number of different experiential programs for our participants. We constructed duck nesting boxes, held a hands-on fishing workshop, studied aquatic invertebrates, tracked mammals and birds, welcomed in youth volunteers who shared knowledge and stories about fishing, hunting and conservation.
Allow participants to strengthen their connection to fish and wildlife through these experiences	Participants were able to have a number of hands-on experiences (fishing, building, tracking, crafting, etc.) and then to reflect and document their experiences using their weatherproof wildlife journals.
Bring in local fish and wildlife experts as career and character role models for participants	We brought in a number of Elders and experts who were able to share knowledge about mammals, birds, fish, habitats, respectful and ethical harvesting, traditional ecological knowledge, the importance of sustainability and conservation,
Create more opportunities to partner with local First Nations and bring traditional knowledge into our programs	We were able to bring in Elders to support our programs through stories and related activities regarding traditional ecological knowledge.

VARIATIONS

Our goals and objectives have remained the same, but our work plan was slightly modified. For a number of reasons, we were unable to schedule the amount of Elder time we had hoped for, and so some of the funds were allotted to other fish and wildlife-related programs. This is due, in part, to the importance of taking time when building relationships with Elders. We also allotted funds to a number of specialists who wound up being able to offer their services for no cost to our program. Part of those funds were utilized to provide weatherproof wildlife journals to each participant. Some funds were also reassigned to allow us to offer programs in a number of communities, and will allow us to spread out the impact of our work.

OUTCOMES & EVALUATION

The work undertaken with the support of the YFWET had a direct impact on the quality of our programs. Our participants experienced mentorship and hands-on experiences to deepen their understanding of and appreciation for fish and wildlife. They were led through a number of reflections to deepen and personalize this understanding. This exposure to local leaders and knowledge keepers (role models) and hands-on experience will create personalized connections that will encourage them to enhance and protect fish, wildlife and their habitat as they grow older.

If we were to run these programs again, we would:

- connect with Elders and knowledge keepers well in advance of program (3-4 months) to give us more time to build our relationships, and book people in
- book more extensive field trips to connect to wilder spaces in the Territory
- bring in more local knowledge keepers
- provide participant take-away items as a reminder of their experiences
- formally document more testimonials from children in the programs to be able to showcase them in reports and presentations

Communications

We shared our work with parents and guardians using social media posts and e-newsletters. Additionally, we gave a series of public presentations on our programs and their impact, and showcased the YFWET as one of our local partners. The following 'thank-you' was displayed on our website homepage, and on any promotions we sent out for YFWET-supported programs.





PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY

IN-SCHOOL
PROGRAMS

SUMMER
CAMPS

MARCH CAMPS

AFTER-SCHOOL

WINTER CAMPS

PRO-D DAYS
FOR KIDS

ADULT
INTENSIVES
COMING SOON!



CUSTOM PROGRAMS
& CONSULTATION









We have also promoted the YFWET to members of the public who intend to run their own projects that are inline with the mandate of the Trust. In any future publications about these programs, and for the promotion of the programs still to be run, we will recognize the YFWET and their support any way that we can. Following are a number of photos of our Summer Programs in action.





OUR TEAM

All programs are designed and facilitated by Erin Nicolardi and Emily Payne, as well as a carefully selected group of environmental educators and facilitators. Both Emily and Erin are trained teachers with extensive experience working with young people in the outdoors. More information on Erin and Emily can be found online at www.riverstoridges.org (About - Our Team).

*Many children were able to benefit from the programs we were able to run with your support.
Thank-you for helping to fund these important initiatives for youth to connect with fish and wildlife!*