

I.L.C. Culture/Subsistence Camp September 17rd – 20th, 2019

Overview of the goals and connection with the Culture/Subsistence Camp:

Marie Beattie and Jud Deuling, together George Bahm from First Nations Programs and Partnerships from the Department of Education, organized a yearly culture/subsistence camp. Last year was our first trip to Beaver Creek to join the Johnnys at their moose/fish camp. Our goal was to take 6-10 students. That first year we brought three students and this year we hit maximum capacity in our vehicle and capped the number at 7 students. George Bahm attends many Department of Education Camps and experiences and called this the “richest camp experience” he has been on with students. Given the activities we participated in compared to our goals, we hit all of our targets. In the words of one of our students, “This is one of the best opportunities I could ever experience in my entire life and I would choose it over anything else without a second thought.”



Goals:

- To integrate Yukon First Nation perspectives and ways of knowing and doing into the curriculum.
- To utilize the experience of a moose harvest to support relevant cross-curricular connections and integration (P.E., English, Social Studies, Science)
- To build capacity and relationship with the White River First Nation community and elders
- To experience a moose hunt with traditional practices and guidance from an Elder.
- To affirm ILC students in their Indigenous heritage
- To supplement the ILC food program with wild meat. The ILC staff and students cook a meal every week of the year for our students.



Activities Completed:

The ILC went into this camp knowing that a lot of the activities possible depended on what opportunities nature gave us. It's nice to have a plan, but it's even better to be flexible!

- opening ceremony with the Johnny Family, White River First Nation chief and elders
- harvesting a moose
- field dressing a moose in the White River First Nation Tradition
- hanging/preserving moose
- meal preparation of bumguts, chin, heart, and brisket of moose
- help with smokehouse construction
- set lake fish net
- process, hang, and smoke whitefish
- moose calling demonstration with successful answer from a student's call
- wolf and coyote howling
- duck plucking and processing
- Birch moose caller construction demonstration
- set creek fish net
- traditional stories and Residential school experience sharing with elders
- wall tent set up and take down
- firewood gathering
- language lessons – Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone
- demonstrations of willow carving, knife making, and beading



Contributions to the Protection, Enhancement or Restoration of Fish, Wildlife or their Habitat

Students learned the importance of habitat protection and sustainable harvest in discussion with David and Ruth Johnny. David measures the health of lake based upon his fish harvest in his nets. There was also a good discussion of the importance of carnivores (wolves and coyotes) in the moose numbers in Beaver Creek. A number of elders also brought up the new practice of Whitehorse hunters moving from other hunting areas to Beaver Creek once these other areas have become over-harvested. This is a big concern for Beaver Creek residents and outlined the issue of hunting pressure that other communities face. The recent forest fire near Beaver Creek also provided the opportunity to discuss forest regeneration and its effects on animal populations.

Communications

Most of the promotion for the camp was done in school through poster boards and word of mouth. We like to keep our communication in school rather than in the community. Much of our success in promotion came from students who went last year. Conversations were had between students, parents, and staff. Ruth Johnny advertised for elders to join us through Facebook. Upon finishing the camp our students each wrote a Thank You letter to the Johnnys and we have created a photo book to be shared with the Johnnys and White River First Nation. It is through these letters and photos that we recognize the Enhancement Trust mandate, as well as through our students actions after the camp. Since we have returned, we have processed the moose, made dry meat, boiled the antlers and scapula for carving, started to traditionally tan the moose hide, and kept the hooves to make scraper tools and rattles. We are also offering the HEED course in the spring to continue the outdoor education and ethics of our students. The ILC also thanks the YWEF during our Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts, and in our year end recognition of sponsors and donators in the newspaper, facebook, and newsletter.



Financial Statement

Our actual spending outpaced our projected spending. The quotes I received for the meat grinder and smoker were ridiculously low and we were only able to afford a grinder this year. Ideally, I would like to make a traditional small smokehouse with racks, but as we are situated on a city block, we will have to make do with a Bradley type electric smoker if we get funding next year. The quote received from Driving Force for the truck was also lower than the actual cost, but I received this information 6 months prior to leaving, so this may be the reason for the increase. Food and supplies is a cost that always comes higher because students have to eat and they are hungry in the bush! We will account for more of that next year too. Overall, I think we were close to our targets, but I was too conservative on much of our spending and will be better prepared for next year.

Evaluation/Summary of the 2019 Culture and Subsistence ILC Camp:

This trip continues to be a rich and meaningful experience for ILC students and staff. It met all the goals and went beyond all expectations. The students shared their experience with teachers and peers upon their return to school. The experience also provided a foundation for students to complete different curriculum requirements once back at the ILC. The moose has been processed at the school and meat was shared with elders from White River First Nation and Kwanlin Dunn, and students from the camp. The rest of the meat will feed the ILC students in our weekly hot lunch program. Because this camp is based around a moose hunt, it is difficult to say what we would change because of the nature of chance involved in hunting. We would like to continue to work with David and Ruth Johnny, but plan ahead of time to focus on fewer activities to let students go into more depth. There is so much that is good that comes from this experience that we wish we could replicate for all of our students!

