
(RE) Connecting Youth and Environment

“Our vision is to develop global citizens with a strong Northern identity by connecting the traditional teachings of Yukon First Nations to all of our students, families and communities through excellence in education.”



What Activities did you complete during your project

This year we changed the way we integrated Southern Tutchone into our classes. Our Southern Tutchone teacher partnered with each classroom teacher - spending two periods a week working with classes to learn more about traditional knowledge. This included going into the forest to learn about our relationship with the land and animals.

The students participated in Multiple Salmon Camps — learning about salmon, how to raise and release them, cut them and of course using the meat to cook traditional foods for the school. These camps were organized by the YFNED and took place both in the school and at a fish camp off site.

Teachers have also been very active taking students onto the land numerous times a week. Each classroom has chosen an area of forest that is designated as their forest classroom. Activities have included: learning about and how to use Atlatls, learning about animal tracks, drying wild game, harvesting sap, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, kick sledding, building shelters, starting fires, canoeing, camping and the HEED program.

Staff have continued to work on the forest school practitioner program. They have completed almost all modules as well as a handbook for the ESES outdoor school program. This book will be used to help guide our practice in the 2021-2022 school year.

We are also planning a food safe program and a multiple night camping trip for the Grade 7 program.



How did your activities contribute to you goals and objectives?

The objective of this proposal seeks to:

- Continue engaging students to become interested in the land and animals so they will be interested in camping, hunting and fishing throughout their lives.
- We desire to provide learning opportunities for students to participate in fishing, hunting and trapping experiences that will build a lasting and balanced relationship with the environment.

How will we accomplish this?

- 1.ESES teachers will continue training to be outdoor classroom practitioners so they will be able to lead classes with purpose and structure into the forest(see attached).
- 2.We will designate areas around the school for outdoor classrooms.
- 3.We will continue to focus on students at the K-3 grades. Taking them on the land multiple times a week. Classes traditionally taught inside will be taught outside. **This will give students a comfort and love of the outdoors that will stay with them.**
- 4.Continue to build our Forest School that will teach about fish, animals and how to care for and live on the land.
- 5.Educators will have a partnership with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the parents of Elijah Smith students will work together to instill a love of the outdoors through experiential education opportunities, thus instilling a desire and love of the outdoors.
- 6.Together we will infuse First Nation Ways of Knowing and doing into our experiences. We will bring in more elders and cultural experts to teach traditional and non traditional ways of hunting and fishing.
- 7.We will continue to provide gear for students that do not have access to outdoor gear to be on the land.
- 8.Students will learn how to: Set snares, identify tracks, drill an ice fishing hole, set up gear, catch and clean a fish. They will also learn to butcher an animal and cook various meals using the animal.





Note any variances to your goals, objectives or work plan and explain why they occurred.

The program tried to stay true to the application. We made some changes to our gear that was purchased as the restrictions we faced with COVID did not allow us to interact with elders as much as we had hoped. We were also limited with respect to having over night camps in the winter.

If you were to do the project again what would you do differently?

We would like to see more front loading of information to the students. We will encourage more outside time from all classes. We hope to support this further by putting a person in place that will help facilitate this learning for all students.

What did you do to ensure your results were shared with appropriate groups?

The enhancement trust will be recognized through an advertisement in the local newspaper. Special thanks has also been given in our Newsletter as well as at our Bison Feast.



Thank you for your Support!

Tarps, rope, beaners	\$334.33
Shovels	\$163.63
OSMO	\$125.99
Foam Padding/Mag glasses	\$62.88
Warm Gear	459.9
Fishing Gear	\$1,134.33
Bear Spray/ Holders	\$409.42
Atlatle	\$748.38
Back Packs	\$633.81
First Aid Supplies and Bear	\$1,010.63
TOTAL	5083.30