

WILD HORIZONS

Program Description

Wild Horizons is a monthly offering for kids aged 12-15. This program is designed for kids who have previous experience in nature-based skills and long to go deeper.

Together we will adventure into places wilder and more remote than ever before. Here, our students can take the skills they've learned in past nature programming to the next level, cultivating a practical experience of their value.

We will balance our focus between strengthening our naturalist abilities, learning new bushcraft skills, and becoming confident in basecamp management. As we work together, our students will experience and incorporate a nature-connected community-minded culture, grounded in relationships of respect and reciprocity.

Nature is our guide, and throughout the year we will move with the seasons, learning from the abundance of what the land has to provide at different times of year. Spending time outside in various conditions will challenge us to grow wiser, more resilient, and more adaptable.

The seasons will move us through the "wheel of development", offering subtle guidance towards the lessons that bring us into deeper connection with ourselves, each other, and the land.

Guided by curiosity and inquiry, Wild Horizons invites students to reflect and develop appreciation for their particular way of being, while developing a sense of belonging to the places we live and travel to as well as our wider communities.

Students will learn without even realizing, and will discover emerging emotional qualities, social skills, self-awareness and self-confidence that seem as natural as the changing of the seasons. Through games, storytelling, songs, and guided exploration which lead to them to deepen their learning and self-understanding.

WAY OF THE COYOTE

The 8-shields “Coyote Mentoring” approach was developed by Jon Young at the Wilderness Awareness School, formalizing the child-led, experiential schooling methods apparent in nature-based cultures. This approach cultivates our children’s curiosity and innate wisdom, guiding them into personal and collective learning experiences that reveal their gifts and support their development towards healthy maturity and wholeness.

The 8-shields model has seen abounding success across the world as an alternative education option for home school communities, and as extra-curricular programming for kids in school. Both Steph and Kes have extensive experience designing and facilitating 8-shields programs at different nature schools in Canada.

WHEEL OF THE YEAR



LOCATIONS AND THEMES

*Note: This is a general outline. Locations are subject to change due to unexpected weather and/or following the passions of our students.

Fall: Harvest and Stepping in.

Who do you bring to the group?

From Oceans to Rivers

Week 1: Gambier Island Camping Trip

Week 2: Squamish River Valley

Winter: Craft and Community.

How do we support one another in a collective?

Winter Camping

Week 3: Crafting Camp

Week 4: Cabin on local mountain

Spring: Passions and Mastery.

How do you follow what inspires you?

Rivers to Rivers

Week 5: Duffey Lake Road

Week 6: Squamish River Valley

Summer: Witness and Celebration.

How do we belong in Wild Nature?

Mountain Trips

Week 7: Manning Park

Week 8: Pemberton Mountains