

Native Language Summer Program

Introduction:

❖ The key element of the Native Language Summer camp is a beginning process to revitalize our Ojibwe Language and learn traditional values through teaching the medicine wheel and seven grandfather teachings.

❖ The Native Language Summer camp is designed to reconnect, reengage, and relearn the Ojibwa language and traditional life skills. Therefore, the participants are encouraged to participate actively throughout the Summer.

The schedule will vary, accordingly to the weather conditions for the Summer. However, for the Summer season, the program will run entirely in an outdoor settings. The summer program will give the students an opportunity to practice and use the skills they will learn throughout the Summer.

❖ The Native Language Summer Camp is equipped with qualified Native Language teachers and Elders with extensive knowledge of Traditional skills and values. The duration of the program will be approximately 1 week long and will accommodate 30 students per excursion, with 4 elders/teacher chaperoning each trip. We hope to have 3 excursions total over the summer, impacting 102 community members total. The location of the program will be at Triangular Lake. Triangular Lake is located down by Albany River, which is fairly close to our community. The travel is accessible by boat and motor and canoe. This program is **open to all ages** that wish to enhance their traditional skills.

Mission Statement

❖ By focusing on our young people and their families, to work collectively with the elders to reverse the assimilation process and ensure the Ojibwe people do not lose their language, culture and identity.

❖ "To serve, inspire, and empower our young people and families of our community to re-connect, re-engage and re-learn our traditional language, culture and heritage"

❖“To Inspire and prepare our youth and families to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by teaching them the values of our Traditional Identity, Language, Heritage and Culture”.

Guidelines to follow

- **Speak using Ojibwe language throughout the teachings**
- **Provide visual aide – write the keys words in Ojibwe**
- **Provide translation at the beginning of the camp**
- **Introduce vocabulary in Ojibwe**
- **Plan hands-on activities**
- **Do demonstrations to help with the learning**
- **Evening: sweatlodge and traditional ceremonies teaching**
- **Staff and students will be allowed to participate at their discretion with the Evening traditional teachings**
- **Traditional Games during the evening**
- **Rain day: no outdoor learning, indoor learning activities**
- **During the canoe or boat outing, all participants must wear a lifejacket at all times.**

Program Structure

Native Language

- Oral Communication
- Hands-on teachings
- Visual Demonstrations

Teaching of the Medicine Wheel

- Traditional Culture and Values
- Classroom Setting

7 Grandfather Teachings

- Healthy Living
- Self Care

Survival Skills

- Fishing and Hunting
- Safety Skills (firearms, paddling and weather)
- Maintaining of Camp
- Food Preparation and storing

Description of Learning Activities

Maintaining the Camp:

Teach the students the importance of a home

- Ensure there is enough firewood and water
- hang and air out blankets
- Kitchen area must be clean
- Clean sleeping quarters

Fish and Nets:

Net Preparation:

- lay out a portion of the net on a tarp. (portion by portion)
- remove twigs and stick
- untangle the tangled area
- put the completed net back in another tub

Repeat all steps until the net is completed.

Net Setting:

Collect other materials that will be needed.

Blue string (estimate of 25ft)

Tie the string to both ends including top and bottom of the net.

Rocks: use 2 good size rocks.

One side of the net: Tie the blue strings together and attach/tie another blue string with the rock attached to it.

The other end of the net:

Tie another rock to the bottom end of the net

Tie a floater to the top end of the net.

Daily learning activity for the students throughout the summer camp

Checking the Net:

- Morning is usually the best time to check the net.
- Start from where the floater is.
- Ensure the net is not tangled

Name and identify all fish and parts of the fish.

- pickerel (walleye)
- whitefish
- jackfish (northern pike)
- suckers

Cleaning and gutting the fish

- the different styles of cutting

Cooking: the styles of cooking the fish

- frying
- boiling
- smoking
- roasting

Making of pemican (drying of fish)

Moose Hunting

Teaching staff must have FAC.

Teach firearm safety

Canoe trip to search for tracks

Teach what to look for and the weather/wind conditions

In a successful hunt:

Teach the students to respect and offering of thanks

Name and identify body parts

Teach the student the different ways to cut the moose.

Meat

- boil
- fry
- roast
- smoke

Bones

- boil
- roast

Tanning lesson:

Save the hide and brain:

- cut off the fur and the excess fat/meat
- store (freezer)

Duck Hunting

Teaching staff must have FAC.

Teach firearm safety

Canoe trip in search for game.

Teach what to look for and the weather/wind conditions

In a successful hunt:

Teach the students to respect and offering of thanks

Name and identify body parts

- Plucking
- Singe
- Cleaning
- Prepare for cooking

Rabbit Snaring

Teach:

- **the skinning of rabbit**
- **cleaning of rabbit**
- **preparation of cooking the rabbit**
- **Drying of the skin/fur**
- **The use of the skin/fur**

Tress, Plants and Shrubs

Name and identify the trees, plants, moss and shrub

- **how the trees, plants and shrub can to used**
 - o **medicine**
 - o **making of tikinagan, paddles, etc**

Lesson one: making of cedar medicine:

- **collect cedar**
- **pull of the cedar twigs into a clean material**
- **start cutting into tiny pieces**
- **pound the cedar until it is flaky like.**

Sew a cedar bag

- **flannel or cotton material**

Put in the completed cedar into the pouch

Teach the students the other purpose of cedar

Lesson two: making of birch bark container

- **collect the material**
 - o **the bark**
 - o **roots**
 - o **red dog wood**

Demonstrate the process of preparing the material and sewing of the container

- **drawing of the template**
- **cutting the bark**
- **preparing the roots**
- **preparing of the red dog wood**

Tying and Sewing

The containers can be used for the storing of the moosemeat and fish

Lesson three: moss

Name and identify the moss and the use

Moss can be used for

- **cleaning pots and pans**

- cooling of food and meat
- baby diaper

Learning exercise:

Baby diaper:

Hike into the muskeg

Look for the 4 different types of moss

- moss with little trees
- red moss
- moss with ants/bugs
- brown/beige moss

Demonstrate the process of harvesting the moss used as baby diaper

- pull off the ground
- hang on trees to dry

Arts & Crafts and Carving

Arts & Crafts

- beading
 - o earrings
 - o barrettes
 - o necklace
 - o wristbands
 - o mitts
 - o slippers
- embroidery
 - o wall hanger
 - o regalia
 - o baby blanket
 - o handbag
- quilt making

Wood Carving

- spiralled twigs
- items like airplane, boat and animals

Teachings of the Medicine Wheel Program

Unit 1 Seasons to be aware of the different terms associated with weather conditions in each season.	Unit 2 Cooking To enhance the daily vocabulary and their meanings of specific utensils and food items when cooking.	Unit 3 Solar System To understand the scientific solar system on cause and effect in relation to the traditional native language	Unit 4 Wild edibles To understand and say the names of the wild edibles around us and their uses.	Unit 5 The Four Sacred Medicines Student will use vocabulary associated and pictures with the teachings of the four sacred plants	Unit 6 Review of the two programs - complete all assignments and crafts
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Program: Teaching of the Medicine Wheel

- Introduction of traditional vocabulary

Activities:

- Assignment work
- Crafts
- Reading
- Writing
- Sharing Circle

Seven Grandfather Teaching Program

Love To know love is to know peace	Respect To honor all of creation is to have respect	Wisdom To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom	Honesty Honesty in facing a situation is to be brave	Truth Is to know of all these things	Bravery To face the foe with integrity	Humility To know yourself as a sacred part of creation
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Programs: Seven Grandfather Teachings: Character Education
Teaching of the Medicine Wheel (1 Unit)

Activities:

- Assignment work
- Crafts
- Reading
- Writing
- Sharing Circle

Conclusion

❖ Aboriginal youth have greatly suffered at the hands of the non-Aboriginal system, a system that is culturally inappropriate for them. As a result, Aboriginal youth are today faced with disproportionately high levels of incarceration. In addition, socio-economic factors affecting many Aboriginal communities (unemployment, lack of education, alcohol and drug abuse, suicide, family violence, family insecurity, poor living conditions) are generally the precursors for careless activity.

It is important to effect changes within the schooling system to respond to the needs of Aboriginal youth, and eventually return the mechanisms of control back to Aboriginal communities, so that they may determine their own destinies.

❖ By the end of the program, all participants will have a good perspective of oneself and people around them. They will have determination to overcome the everyday challenges we face in our daily lives. We believe families are the heart and soul of our society. They provide social support and add joy and meaning to life. They help to build strong children, strong communities and a prosperous economy. Youth need support to help themselves reach their full potential.

❖ Thank You, and may our Creator continue to bless us all.