

20

23



FINAL REPORT

Go Wild

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We want to acknowledge that during our Go Wild program this summer, we were gathered on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Syilx First Nations. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, work, and play on these lands, and offer our gratitude to the First Nations for their teachings and care towards the earth.



B.C. WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The B.C. Wildlife Federation (BCWF) is B.C.'s oldest and longest lasting conservation group. Representing 43,000 members province-wide, including over a hundred hunting and angling clubs, BCWF members are on the front lines of B.C.'s wilderness. Education is a critical value for the BCWF. The BCWF aims to develop and support comprehensive educational programs, involving information that increases the British Columbians' awareness of the value of fish, wildlife, park, and outdoor recreational resources, and to stimulate respect and recognition of the place that fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation have in the integrated and wise use of the province's natural resources. By providing scientific and fact-based information through presentations, games, and activities, Go Wild prepares its youth participants to not only understand but also to share and use the information they receive with their local communities. Go Wild is part of the BCWF's long-term mission to protect, enhance, and promote the wise use of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVID LEWIS

Connecting children and teens with the wonders of the natural world and an appreciation for the fragility of our ecosystems are key to the B.C. Wildlife Federation's mission. Young people who love nature are destined to become champions for the environment and conservation. Our inspired campers will ensure that mindful management of our natural resources benefits future generations of British Columbians.

Go Wild camps are designed to spark curiosity and caring, while inspiring a deep love for nature. BCWF campers become changemakers and stewards for wildlife and habitat. Our dedicated staff ensure that campers are prepared to survive and thrive in the outdoors, build lifelong relationships, and acquire skills that will last a lifetime, from shelter- and fire-building to wilderness wayfinding and archery.

In an atmosphere of fun and friendship, our hands-on wilderness training introduces young people to the natural world, where they learn about the challenges facing B.C.'s fish, wildlife and habitat. BCWF campers are already meeting those challenges as young adults. Start your child's lifelong journey with a Go Wild youth camp.

DAVID LEWIS

President B.C. Wildlife Federation



GO WILD 2023

Summer of 2023 saw a strong return of our recently revamped Go Wild program, our leadership and conservation camp for youth aged 12-17. This program aims to transform youth into leaders in conservation, who have the knowledge, ability, and passion to continue to protect and enhance British Columbian wildlife and greenspaces.

Go Wild took the form of a 9-day overnight camp to better facilitate these goals and form deeper connections with our small group of campers. The program was split into three phases, each with a different focus: leadership and teamwork, outdoor skills, and conservation knowledge.

We were delighted to once again run Go Wild out of Silver Lake Camp located in Peachland, which provided the perfect setting for all of our programs and activities. Our 3-day backpacking trip, which was an element of our Outdoor Skills phase, took place just outside of the main camp on Silver Lake's maintained trails.



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OVERVIEW

Go Wild 2023 took place from July 19-27 at Silver Lake Camp, Peachland. This summer we had a cohort of 15 campers, aged 12 – 16. These campers spent nine days participating in team-building and leadership activities, embarked on a 3-day backpacking trip, and participated in conservation lessons and activities. Additionally, Go Wild campers were able to participate in outdoor recreational activities such as archery, canoeing, and a range day.

Additional programming was delivered by the BCWF Wetlands and Fish Habitat Restoration and Education teams. The teams facilitated two conservation workshops focused on assessing wetland and stream health.

GO WILD CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



15 REGISTERED CAMPERS



PEACHLAND, BC



8 BCWF STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



ARCHERY, OUTDOOR SKILLS,
RANGE DAY, & CONSERVATION



GO WILD SCHEDULE

Go Wild is run as an overnight camp to give us more time with campers and deliver deeper learning and more hands-on experience with various subjects. Activities were categorized by the program's three phases: Leadership and Teamwork, Outdoor Skills, and Conservation Knowledge.

Due to the small group structure of Go Wild, every program and activity was run with all campers participating together. This allowed both campers and staff to form better connections and have more in-depth discussions.

PHASE ONE: LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK



Phase one of camp focused on facilitating team bonding and developing leadership skills amongst the campers. We participated in several icebreaker games, communication activities, and teamwork challenges.

PHASE TWO: OUTDOOR SKILLS



Phase two of camp provided campers with hands-on learning for numerous outdoor skills while on our 3-day backpacking trip. It also allowed campers to implement some of the skills developed in phase one.

PHASE THREE: CONSERVATION KNOWLEDGE



The final phase of Go Wild focused predominately on conservation knowledge and provided youth with lot of hands-on learning. Campers participated in activities regarding beavers and the significance of wetlands, a fish habitat assessment, and bat species and the construction of bat boxes.

GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE ONE

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Wake Up	Wake Up
	Polar Bear Dip	Polar Bear Dip
	Morning Prep	Morning Prep
Arrival and Registration	Breakfast and Briefing	Breakfast and Briefing
	Personal Time Morning	Personal Time Morning
Indigenous Speaker Welcome	Blind Walk & Snail Trail	Tarps & Shelters
Indigenous Knowledge Lesson	Incredible Machine	Archery 1
Introductions & Quiz	Orienteering	Free time
Site Walk		
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Two Truths & A Lie	Waterfront and Canoeing*	Hiking Prep
Amazing Race Challenge	Communication game	Bear Hangs & Knots
Program Details		
Intro To Leadership: Meal	Improving Communication Lesson	Food Prep
Low Ropes Course	Communication game 2	Human Knot & Life Raft
Get To Know Your Leaders		
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
Free time	Free time	Packing
Teambuilding		
Camp fire	Night Hike	Camp Fire
Snack	Snack	Snack
Debrief	Debrief	Debrief
Bed Prep	Bed Prep	Bed Prep
Bed Time	Bed Time	Bed Time



GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE TWO

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up
Polar Bear Dip	Polar Bear Dip	Breakfast and Briefing
Morning Prep	Morning Prep	
Breakfast and Briefing	Breakfast and Briefing	Pack Up Camp
Personal Time Morning	Personal Time Morning	Hike Back to Silver Lake
Archery 2	First Aid 1	
	Leave for Wildlife Management	
Prepare to Depart for Overnight	Hike to Summit	
Lunch	Lunch	Quick bagged lunch, Unpack and clean up
Hike to Campsite	Water Purification	Travel to Summerland Range
	Leadership	Range Day (Includes Archery)
	Hike to Campsite	
	Free Time	
Set Up Camp	Outdoor Skills 3: Bushcraft Shelters, Lean-Tos	
Dinner	Dinner	Travel to Silver Lake
Advanced Tarp Shelters	Free Time	Free time
Campfire/Explore Site	Campfire Werewolf	Dinner
Snack	Snack	Campfire
Debrief	Debrief	Snack
Bed Prep	Bed Prep	Debrief
Bed Time	Bed Time	Bed Prep
		Bed Time



GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE THREE

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up
Polar Bear Dip	Polar Bear Dip	Polar Bear Dip
Morning Prep	Morning Prep	Morning Prep
Breakfast and Briefing	Breakfast and Briefing	Breakfast and Briefing
Personal Time Morning	Personal Time Morning	Personal Time Morning
Mini Games	Archery 3	Pack up
Importance of Beavers		Amazing race
Beaver Dam Analogues (BDA)	Free Time/Transition	
Beaver Relocation Activity	Fish project	Lunch
Lunch	Lunch	
BDA Dummy	Fish project	Departure and Pick-Up
Transition		
Conservation 4: Bat boxes		
Transition/Set Up		
Hunger Games	Budgeting 101	
Dinner	Dinner	
Team Basketball Game	Campfire: Team Awards and Superlatives	
Free Time		
Bats II	Snack	
	Debrief	
	Bed Prep Bed Time	
Snack		
Bed Prep		
Bed Time		



GO WILD CAMP PROGRAMS

Go Wild activities are broken down into multiple categories within our three phases of camp: leadership and teamwork, outdoor skills, and conservation knowledge. Below are some of the activities we facilitated for our campers this summer.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Teamwork & Leadership

- Low Ropes Course
- Frozen T-shirt Challenge
- Leadership Styles
- Human Knot

Range Skills

- String Bows
- Safety Orientation
- Technique Practice
- Range Day (firearm station rotations)

Games

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Hunger Games
- Amazing Race
- Electric Maze

Communication

- Blind Walk
- Tanks
- Silent Opera
- Incredible Machine

Outdoor Skills

- Orienteering
- Canoeing
- Tarp Shelters
- How to Pack a Bag
- Leave No Trace
- Wildlife Management
- Water Purification
- Camp Cooking

Conservation Knowledge

- Beavers
- Wetlands
- Fish Habitat
- Bats

LEARNING OUTCOMES

We asked campers to take a pre- and post-camp quiz to show the value of the programming we deliver. This allowed us to gauge what they knew and what they learned. This provided us with metrics that can help show the value and effectiveness of our camps. The following describes our methodology and provides the results and data collected.

METHOD

Early on the first day of camp, campers took a pre-camp quiz. This quiz consists of 18 questions, with approximately one or two questions addressing each lesson they participated in during the week. Campers took the same quiz at the end of the session to compare learning throughout the week. The scores of the pre- and post-camp quizzes were compared to show the learning that occurred throughout.

RESULTS

14 campers participated in both quizzes. The average pre-quiz score was 67%, while the average post-camp score was 90%. One camper did not participate in the post-quiz because they left early for personal reasons. Therefore, their pre-quiz data was not included in the analysis. The camp average score improved by 23%. 11/13 lessons had a positive overall percent improvement, and 2/13 had 0% improvement.

CONCLUSION

The camp was a success overall. However, some areas require reassessment. Three of the 13 lessons saw no quiz improvement between the pre- and post-quiz. This suggests that the quiz and material may need adjustments to ensure campers are getting the most out of the program and to ensure accurate progress tracking.



23%

OVERALL INCREASE IN NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE



25+%

INCREASE IN 6 CAMPERS' NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE



30+%

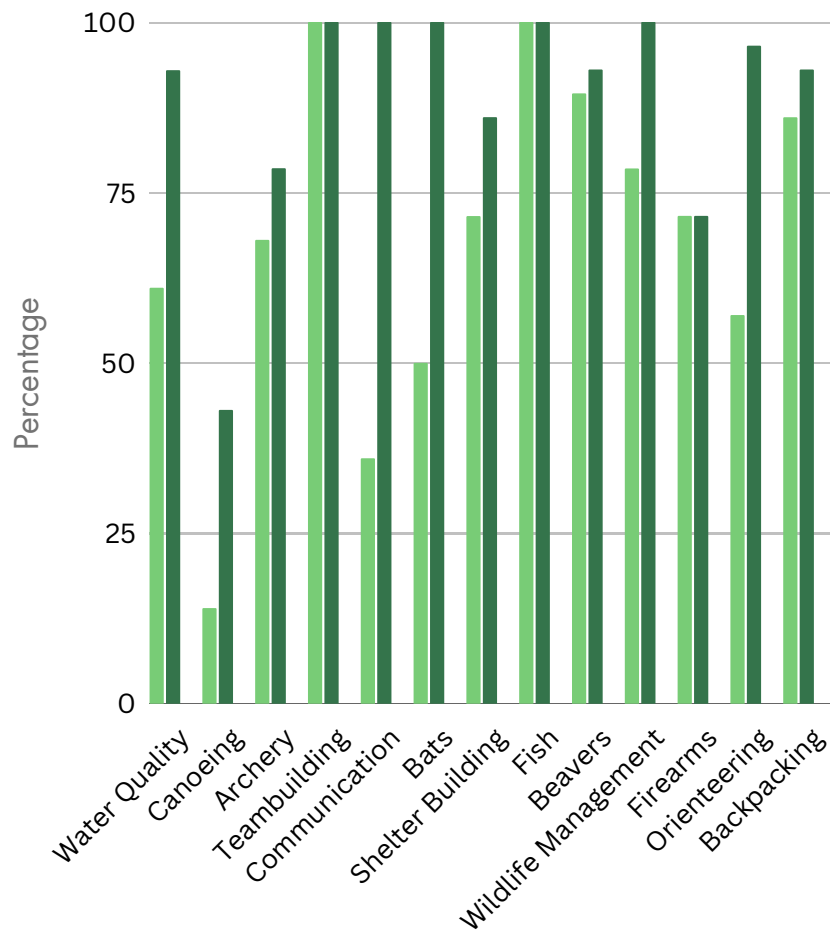
INCREASE IN 4 LESSONS PRE & POST QUIZ RESULTS

CAMPER QUIZ RESULTS

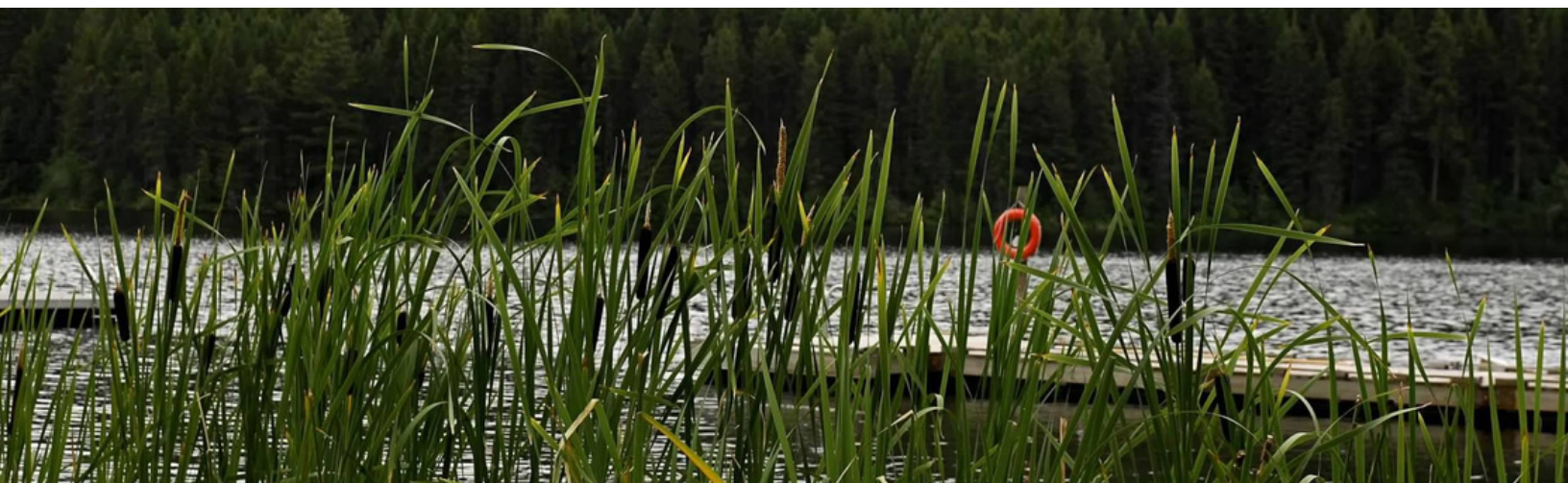
Quizzes were also analyzed by lesson. This showed that 10/13 of the lessons had a positive improvement, with three showing no improvement. It should be noted that two of the lessons that showed no improvement resulted from campers scoring 100% on their pre-quizzes. This suggests that these questions might be too simple and need to be made more challenging next year.

Overall, Go Wild effectively taught campers conservation and outdoor knowledge. Particularly effective lessons were water quality assessments, bats, and orienteering.

GO WILD CAMPER QUIZZES



Above: Average increase in nature knowledge for each lesson. Pre-camp scores are in **light green**; difference in post-camp scores is shown in **dark green**.



CAMPER QUIZ RESULTS

When looking at improvement by question, we can see significant improvement. Campers scored 100% on 3 of the pre-quiz questions and scored 100% on nine questions in the post-quiz. Five questions saw over a 50% improvement from the pre-quiz to the post-quiz.

SCORE IMPROVEMENT BY QUESTION

	TOPIC	AVG. (PRE)	AVG. (POST)	DIFFERENCE
1	Water Quality	100%	100%	0%
2	Canoeing	14%	43%	29%
3	Archery	93%	57%	-36%
4	Archery	43%	100%	57%
5	Teambuilding	100%	100%	0%
6	Communication	36%	100%	64%
7	Bats	79%	100%	21%
8	Shelter Building	71%	86%	15%
9	Fish Habitat	100%	100%	0%
10	Water Quality	21%	86%	65%
11	Beavers	93%	93%	0%
12	Beavers	86%	93%	7%
13	Wildlife Management	79%	100%	21%
14	Firearms	71%	71%	0%
15	Orienteering	79%	93%	14%
16	Backpacking	86%	93%	7%
17	Orienteering	36%	100%	64%
18	Bats	21%	100%	79%

CAMPER SURVEY

Campers were asked to complete a post-camp survey in which they ranked camp for enjoyment, activity enjoyment, and overall camp experience. 13 out of 14 total campers participated in the survey, with only one camper not participating due to leaving early due to a personal matter.

METHODS

Campers were given a pre- and post-camp survey. All data was collected using a physical survey. Responses were compiled, digitized, turned into percentages, and analyzed.

RESULTS

86% of campers "really enjoyed" or "enjoyed" the Go Wild camp. 54% of campers cited our range day as their favourite activity, and 38% of campers identified our backpacking trip as their favourite part of camp. Campers noted that they enjoyed learning about orienteering, water quality testing, and range skills including firearms and archery.

CONCLUSION

Survey results reveal high satisfaction among campers relating to their Go Wild experience. They really enjoyed the backpacking trip and range day. They also had a good time learning more about outdoor skills and wildlife habitat assessment practices. Possible future topics include more survival skills, more first aid knowledge, more free time and opportunities to swim.

CAMPER FEEDBACK

"Every activity was thought out and engaging, the meal planning was outstanding, and every counsellor was fun and approachable. You all truly created an amazing environment to be in and I will always cherish the memories made here."

GO WILD CAMPER SURVEY

54%

of campers cited our range day as their favourite part of camp.



38%

of campers cited the backpacking trip as their favourite part of camp.

84%

of campers were very satisfied with the Go Wild camp.

FAVOURITE SKILLS LEARNED



Water Quality Testing



Orienteering



Range Skills



PARENT SURVEY

Parents and guardians were asked to complete a post-camp survey in which they ranked camps for enjoyment, satisfaction, overall camp value, and general demographic information.

METHODS

Parents were given a post-camp survey. All data was collected using a digital survey on Microsoft Forms. Responses were compiled and analyzed.

RESULTS

Based in the feedback, the overall satisfaction among parents/guardians was high, with all participants reporting being 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied.' 40% of parents said they were 'likely' to recommend Go Wild, with 60% saying that they were 'very likely' to recommend us. 100% of parents felt that their campers learned valuable skills during camp. Following camp, 40% of parents/guardians stated that they would be interested in donating to BCWF to continue supporting our programming. Note that all scores are given out of 5 and percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number, when appropriate.

CONCLUSION

The parent surveys show strong satisfaction from parents with regard to program structure, content and enjoyability from parents and campers alike. The survey results reveal that the program was received very well and saw an positive responses in almost every category.

**GO WILD
PARENT SURVEY**

60%
parents/guardians stated that they were 'very satisfied' with camp.

100%
of parents/guardians believe their child learned valuable skills during camp.

100%
of parents/guardians would recommend this camp to a friend.

40%
of parents/guardians would consider donating to BCWF after camp.

PARENT FEEDBACK

"My daughter had a great time. She made friends and loved the experience. We are very grateful."

"It was an outstanding opportunity. She absolutely loved her time at Go Wild. The staff made a huge impact on her experiences. All the Go Wild staff were phenomenal."

**BCWF
YOUTH PROGRAMS**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Our programs would not be possible without the help and support of these organizations. Thank you for inspiring the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists!

