

20
22

Go Wild!
Youth for Conservation

BC WILDLIFE FEDERATION

FINAL REPORT

Go Wild

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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 CHUCK ZUCKERMAN

With climate change negatively impacting our beautiful province's ecosystems, fish, and wildlife, it is becoming increasingly apparent that we as outdoor stewards must invest in B.C.'s future. Perhaps one of our greatest and most powerful resources in protecting the province is our youth; by enabling the next generation to become passionate about conservation, we ensure the long-term management of B.C. for years to come.

B.C. Wildlife Federation (BCWF) began this investment in our youth 12 years ago, with the establishment of our first youth program, Wild Kidz. Since then, BCWF Youth Programs has grown to include seven unique programs, which aim to spark curiosity, increase knowledge about conservation, and develop a lasting relationship with the natural world for participating youth. Most importantly, our programs are designed to be a fun, positive experience for youth to become engaged in the world of the outdoors.

Go Wild is designed to transform youth into conservation leaders, and inspire campers with the knowledge and ability to mobilize within their communities, and protect, enhance, and restore B.C.'s fish, habitat and wildlife.

CHUCK ZUCKERMAN

President B.C. Wildlife Federation



GO WILD 2022

Summer of 2022 saw the launch of our newly revamped format for Go Wild, 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 support to run their own environmental projects in their communities. This year, 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 Project Management.

Go Wild ran out of the beautiful 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 their maintained trails.

Our team conducted a careful risk assessment of our camp and thoroughly reviewed the Provincial Health Authority's guidance in the months before camp. In doing so, we were able to construct an updated COVID-19 safety plan and ensure the program would have low risk of virus transmission.



GO WILD

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OVERVIEW

Go Wild 2022 took place from August 2-10 at Silver Lake Camp, Peachland. The camp aims to transform its participants into young conservation leaders, and this program had a cohort of nine campers, aged 13 – 16. These campers spent nine days participating in team-building and leadership activities, a 3-day backpacking trip, and conservation lessons and activities. Additionally, Go Wild campers were able to participate in outdoor recreational activities such as archery, canoeing, and a range day. At the end of camp, all participants were given the opportunity to apply to the Young Conservationist Scholarship Program, which involves the running of their own independent start-to-finish conservation projects to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship.

GO WILD CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



9 REGISTERED CAMPERS



PEACHLAND, BC



6 BCWF STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



ARCHERY, OUTDOOR SKILLS,
RANGE DAY, & CONSERVATION



GO WILD SCHEDULE

Our camp schedule was completely revamped to reflect the program's new format. Activities were categorized by the program's three phases:

Leadership and Teamwork, Outdoor Skills, and Conservation Project Management.

Due to the small group structure of Go Wild, all programs and activities were 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 leadership skills developed in Phase One.

PHASE THREE: CONSERVATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT



The final phase of Go Wild focused predominately on conservation projects and gave the youth an opportunity to participate in several of them. Campers worked on projects regarding fire management, bat habitat enhancements, and stream/lake health assessments.

GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE ONE

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:00	Camper Arrival & Registration	Wake Up Breakfast	Wake Up Breakfast
9:00		Tidy Up Morning Prep	Tidy Up Morning Prep
10:00	Introductions, Pre-Quiz & Site Walk	Team Building Games: Blind Walk & Snail Trail	Tarp Shelters & Bear Hangs
11:00	Team Building Challenge	Fire Building	Archery: String Bows & 11 Steps
12:00	Program Details Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00	Introduction to Leadership & Journaling	Canoeing	Hiking Prep
14:00	Icebreaker Games	Improving Oral Communication	Camping Food Prep
15:00	Low Ropes Challenge Course	Communication Games: Tanks & Minefield	Leadership Games: Human Knot & Delegation Challenge
16:00	Team Building Cardboard Sled Challenge	Logger Games	Free Choice: Waterfront or Sports
17:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
18:00	Free Time	Free Time	Packing
19:00	Camp Fire	Camp Fire	Night Hike
20:00			
21:00	Prep for Bed	Prep for Bed	Prep for Bed

GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE TWO

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:00	Wake Up Breakfast	Wake Up Breakfast	Wake Up Breakfast
9:00	Tidy Up Morning Prep	Tidy Up Morning Prep	Pack Up Camp
10:00	Archery: Safety Orientation	Depart for Day Hike Water Purification	Hike to Silver Lake
11:00	Prepare to Depart for Overnight		
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00	Hike to Camp	Leadership Activity: No Doze Partner Carries Wild Life Management	Unpack & Clean Up
14:00			Travel to Range
15:00		Return Hike	Range Day
16:00	Set Up Camp	Lean-tos & Beds	
17:00	Dinner	Dinner	
18:00	Tarp Shelters Level 2	Free Time	Travel to Silver Lake
19:00	Campfire	Campfire	Dinner
20:00			Campfire
21:00	Prep for Bed	Prep for Bed	Prep for Bed

GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE THREE

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:00	Wake Up Breakfast	Wake Up Breakfast	Wake Up Breakfast
9:00	Tidy Up Morning Prep	Tidy Up Morning Prep	Tidy Up Morning Prep
10:00	Project Planning	Archery	Amazing Race
11:00	Fire Management	Stream Assessment with BCWF Fish Habitat Restoration & Education Staff	
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00	Bat Box Construction	Water Quality Assessment & Invertebrates Activity with BCWF Fish Habitat Restoration & Education Staff	Camper Departure
14:00			
15:00	Free Time	Free Time	
16:00	Hunger Games	Business Skills: Budgeting	
17:00	Dinner	Dinner	
18:00	First Aid	Campfire: Awards & Superlatives	
19:00	BEEPS (Bat Education & Ecological Protection Society) Program		
20:00			
21:00	Prep for Bed	Night Game: Candle on the Hill	

GO WILD BREAKDOWN

Day 1:

Day one of camp started with campers arriving shortly after breakfast. Once everyone had arrived, we went over some brief introductions, became oriented with the site, and completed the pre-quiz. We then dove straight into a teambuilding activity, where campers completed a series of challenges in their two teams. Following lunch, campers were introduced to a few key concepts of leadership and were given the opportunity to journal some of their thoughts and feelings of camp so far. We then transitioned into a series of teambuilding activities, including constructing cardboard sleds, two mini games, and completed several components of the camp's low ropes challenge course. The day concluded with some free time and a group campfire.

Day 2:

Our first full day of camp was off to a great start with several communication activities, such as a blind partner walk and incredible machine challenge. We then transitioned to our fire building program, where campers learned about the fire triangle and were given the opportunity to construct their own fires. Following lunch, campers hit the water to learn about the basics of canoeing. From there, we learned about the fundamentals of good verbal communication and ways that it can benefit as a leader. We put some of these concepts into practice with an exciting game of tanks, followed by a series of logger games. The day finished off with some free time and another campfire, this time built by some of the campers.

Day 3:

Day three saw the introduction of a few outdoor skills in preparation for the backpacking trip. We began our morning with an introduction to building tarp shelters and setting up a bear hang. Campers were also introduced to the 11 steps and basic safety of archery. Following lunch, campers were given some tips to pack and prepare for our backpacking trip, as well as organize the majority of the food they would be taking. We then switched our focus back to leadership and teambuilding with games like human knot, life raft, and a delegation challenge. After dinner campers were given more time to pack and prepare for our trip the next day. We wrapped up the day with an evening hike around Silver Lake before going to bed.

Day 4:

Our morning started off with another session of archery, where campers could further build on the skills they learned the prior day. After this, campers were given a final opportunity to pack for the overnight trip. Following a quick lunch, the group departed for their overnight campsite. The journey took approximately three hours to complete. After arriving, campers set up their tents and prepared dinner. Following cleanup, campers were given an opportunity to try more complex tarp shelters such as a 'flying diamond.' The group gathered up again for a campfire before heading to bed.

Day 5:

During the overnight camp, the group remained at the same site for both nights,

GO WILD BREAKDOWN

providing campers the opportunity to explore some of the surrounding trails on a day hike. While the group was out, several different lessons were incorporated into the afternoon. Multiple outdoor skills were addressed, such as water purification, wilderness first aid carries, and bear management and safety. Campers also participated in a leadership style assessment called No Doze to better understand their own strengths and leadership qualities. The group returned to camp to learn about constructing lean-tos and camp beds. After dinner, campers were given time to further explore the lake and forest around the campsite, then finished with another campfire.

Day 6:

Day six started off bright and early, with the group packing up camp and preparing to depart. A different return route was used, taking the group approximately two hours to arrive at Silver Lake. Campers were given some time to unpack and clean up before departing for the Summerland Sportsman's Association range. Volunteers from the club instructed the campers on how to safely use a variety of rifles and handguns provided by the club members. Campers also had the opportunity to continue practicing their archery techniques. After returning to Silver Lake for a late dinner, the group had some free time before a short campfire and bed.

Day 7:

Day seven saw the beginning of our Conservation Project Management phase. The morning began with an introduction to project planning, where campers were given

several tools to help them plan their own fictitious event. They then learned about the importance of fire management, and assisted Silver Lake staff in some site maintenance to mitigate fires. Following lunch, campers participated in their second project where they learned about bats and the important role they play in our ecosystem. They constructed several bat boxes to be hung up around camp. Following some free time, campers gathered to play a spirited camp version of the Hunger Games. Campers then had the opportunity to learn some first aid basics, such as wound care, treatment for hypothermia, and basic splints. The evening concluded with a program facilitated by Bats Education & Ecological Protection Society.



GO WILD BREAKDOWN

Day 8:

Day eight began with our final archery session, where campers competed in several balloon challenges. We were then joined by two BCWF staff from the Fish Habitat Restoration & Education team. Campers were led through various methods for testing stream and lake health and practiced recording their findings. They also spent time assessing the lake's water quality and invertebrate inhabitants. Campers were then introduced to budgeting basics and given the opportunity to create their own budget. Following dinner, the group had one more campfire where awards were given to each camper.

Day 9:

Our final day of camp was bittersweet. The morning began with some free time for campers to pack up and prepare to go home. Following breakfast, the campers were split into pairs to compete in an Amazing Race game. The game included a series of challenges that had them draw on several of the skills they learned during their time at camp. This included packing an overnight backpack, setting up an a-frame tarp shelter, and achieving a collective score of 75 during several rounds of archery. There were also a number of teamwork challenges, such as a zipline cornhole challenge, a partner blind walk, and name that tune. Following lunch, campers began to depart, wrapping up our camp session.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

In order to show the value of the programming we deliver we ask campers to take a pre- and post-camp quiz. This allows us to gauge what they know and what they learned. This provides us with metrics that can help show the value and effectiveness of our camps. The following pages describe our methodology, and provides the results and data collected.

METHOD

Early on during the first day of camp, campers took a pre-camp quiz. This quiz consists of 19 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 week for a comparison of learning throughout the week. The scores of the pre- and post-camp quizzes were compared to show the learning that occurred throughout.

RESULTS

Eight campers participated in both quizzes, the average pre-quiz score was 61%, while average post-camp score was 89%. One camper did not participate in the post-quiz due to leaving early in relation to a health issue, therefore their pre-quiz data was not included in analysis. The camp average score improved by 28%. 7/12 lessons had a positive percent improvement.

CONCLUSION

We believe that overall, camp was a success, although there are areas that require reassessment. Two of the four lessons saw no quiz improvement, as campers scored 100% on both the pre and post quizzes. This suggests that the quiz and material may both need adjustments to ensure campers are getting the most out of the program, and to ensure accurate tracking of their progress.



28%

OVERALL INCREASE IN NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE



30+%

INCREASE IN 4 CAMPERS' NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE



50+%

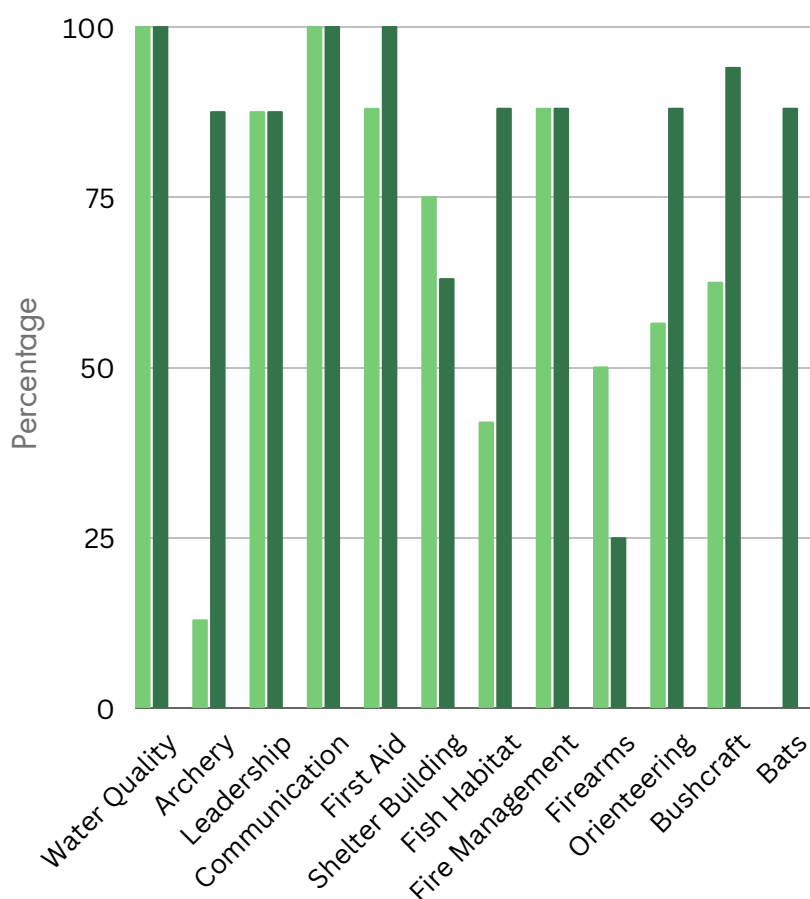
INCREASE IN 1 CAMPER'S NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE

CAMPER QUIZ RESULTS

Quizzes were also analyzed by lesson. This showed that over half of the lessons had a positive improvement, with four showing no improvement. It should be noted that two of the lessons showing no improvement were a result of campers scoring 100% on the pre-quiz. Two of our lessons saw negative percentage increase, suggesting we need to reassess the program content and delivery for these lessons.

Overall, it seems that the manner in which we delivered Go Wild was effective in teaching campers conservation and leadership knowledge. Particularly effective lessons were fish habitat assessments, archery, and bats.

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 three of the pre-quiz questions and scored 100% on nine questions in the post-quiz. Six questions saw an over a 50% improvement.

SCORE IMPROVEMENT BY QUESTION

	TOPIC	AVG. (PRE)	AVG. (POST)	DIFFERENCE
1	Water Quality	100%	100%	0%
2	Archery	13%	75%	63%
3	Archery	13%	100%	88%
4	Leadership	100%	100%	0%
5	Communication	100%	100%	0%
6	First Aid	88%	100%	13%
7	First Aid	88%	100%	13%
8	Shelter Building	75%	63%	-13%
9	Fish Habitat	50%	88%	38%
10	Fish Habitat	38%	88%	50%
11	Fish Habitat	38%	88%	50%
12	Fire Management	88%	88%	0%
13	Firearms	50%	25%	-25%
14	Orienteering	75%	88%	13%
15	Bushcraft	50%	88%	38%
16	Orienteering	38%	100%	63%
17	Leadership	75%	100%	25%
18	Bats	0%	88%	88%
19	Bushcraft	75%	100%	25%

CAMPER SURVEY

BCWF Go Wild campers were asked to complete a post-camp survey in which they ranked camps for enjoyment, activity enjoyment, and overall camp experience. 8 out of 9 total campers participated in the survey, with only 1 camper not participating due to leaving early in relation to a health issue.

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

100% of campers "really enjoyed" or "enjoyed" the Go Wild camp. 50% of campers cited the backpacking trip as their favourite part of camp, and 27% of campers identified our range day as their favourite activity. Campers noted that they enjoyed learning about wildlife conservation, archery and plant identification. When asked what to improve, campers noted more junk food and more swimming.

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 the surrounding plants and wildlife. Possible future topics include more archery, boating, more fire safety and practice, and animal identification.

PARENT FEEDBACK

Camper parents/guardians also responded positively to Go Wild.

"I appreciate how the counsellors educated and helped him learn about conservation. This was not babysitting in the woods, it was genuine hands-on learning. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen!"

GO WILD CAMPER SURVEY



100% of campers were very satisfied with the Go Wild camp

50%

of campers cited the backpacking trip as their favourite activity



27%

of campers cited range activities as their favourite part of camp

Other notable favourite activities include archery, learning about the wildlife, and plant identification .

Notable Knowledge & Skills Learned



Wildlife
Conservation &
Safety



Archery



Plant ID

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!



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