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Go Wild!  
Youth for Conservation

BC WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**FINAL REPORT**

Go Wild

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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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

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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 2024

Summer of 2024 saw the return of several past campers as well as many new faces for our leadership and conservation camp for youth aged 12-16. 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 2024 took place from July 17-25 at Silver Lake Camp, Peachland. This summer we had a cohort of 12 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 Education team. The teams facilitated two conservation workshops focused on assessing wetland and stream health.

## GO WILD CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



12 REGISTERED CAMPERS



PEACHLAND, BC



5 BCWF STAFF



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.

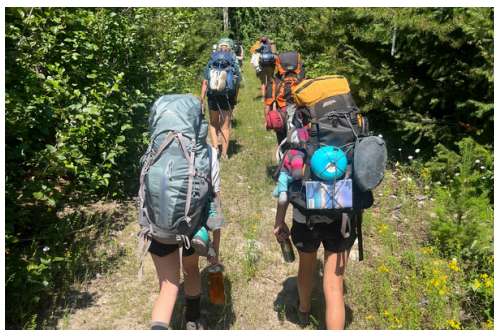
Due to the small group structure of Go Wild, every program and activity was run with all campers participating together. This allowed both campers and staff to form better connections and have more in-depth discussions.

## 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 the significance of wetlands, aquatic invertebrates and a fire management project.

# GO WILD SCHEDULE - PHASE ONE

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Wake Up	Wake Up
	Polar Bear Dip	Polar Bear Dip
	Morning Prep	Morning Prep
	Breakfast and Briefing	Breakfast and Briefing
	Personal Time	Personal Time
	Morning Reflection	Morning Reflection
	Human Knot	Tarps & Shelters
	Incredible Machine	
Arrival & Registration	Orienteering	Archery 1
	Prep Time	Prep Time
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Indigenous Knowledge Lesson	Quiet Time / Clean Up	Quiet Time / Clean Up
	Waterfront & Canoeing	Bear Hangs & Knots
		Food Prep & Leave No Trace
Change/Transition & Free Swim	How To Pack A Bag / Packing	
Site Walk	Improving Communication	
Quiz	Tanks & Minefield	Team Activity Prep
Get To Know Your Leaders	Silent Opera	
Intro To Leadership: Meal Duties	Prep Time	Prep Time
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
Low Ropes	Free time	Free Time/ Clean Up
		Minute to Win It Challenges
Camp Fire/Werewolf	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	Personal Time	Hike Back to Silver Lake
Morning Reflection	Morning Reflection	
Archery 2	Wildlife Management	
Prepare/Pack to Leave	Water Purification	
	Leadership: No Doze	
Prep Time	Prep Time	Quick bagged lunch, Unpack and clean up
Lunch	Lunch	Travel to Summerland Range
Hike to Campsite	Clean Up / Day Hike Prep	Range Day (Includes Archery)
	Day Hike	
Set Up Camp	Prep Time	Travel to Silver Lake
Dinner	Dinner	Unpack / Free time
Explore Site/ Find Frogs/ Free Time	Outdoor Skills: Lean To's	Dinner
	Camper Led Activity #2	Camper Led Activity #3
Camper Led Activity #1	Snack	Snack
Snack	Snack	Snack
Debrief	Debrief	Debrief
Bed Prep	Bed Prep	Bed Prep
Bed Time	Bed Time	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	Personal Time	Personal Time
Morning Reflection	Morning Reflection	Morning Reflection
Archery 3	Phobia	Pack up
Team Basketball Game	SL Project 1	Amazing Race
Clean Up/Swim		
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Hunger Games	SL Project 2	Departure and Pick-Up
Shower/Free Time		
	Games	
Wetlands Workshops	Logger Sports	
	Free Time	
Dinner	Dinner	
Wetlands Workshops	Campfire: Team Awards and Superlatives	
Transition Time		
Movie Night	Snack	
	Debrief	
Bed Prep	Bed Prep	
Bed Time	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
- Amazing Race
- Leadership Styles
- Human Knot

### **Range Skills**

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

### **Games**

- Electric Maze
- Minute To Win It
- Werewolf
- Camouflage
- Candle On The Hill

### **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**

- Aquatic Invertebrates
- Wetlands
- Fire Management



# 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 14 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

10 campers participated in both quizzes. The average pre-quiz score was 66%, while the average post-camp score was 86%. Two campers 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 20%. 10/14 lessons had a positive overall percent improvement, and 3/14 had 0% improvement, and 1/14 had a negative improvement score.

## 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. The negative improvement score on the quiz suggests that campers had difficulty grasping the concept, which may indicate that the question should be reworded or the concept could benefit from being taught in a different manner.



**20%**

OVERALL INCREASE IN NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE



**29+%**

INCREASE IN 2 CAMPERS' NATURE-RELATED KNOWLEDGE



**30+%**

INCREASE IN 5 LESSONS PRE & POST QUIZ RESULTS

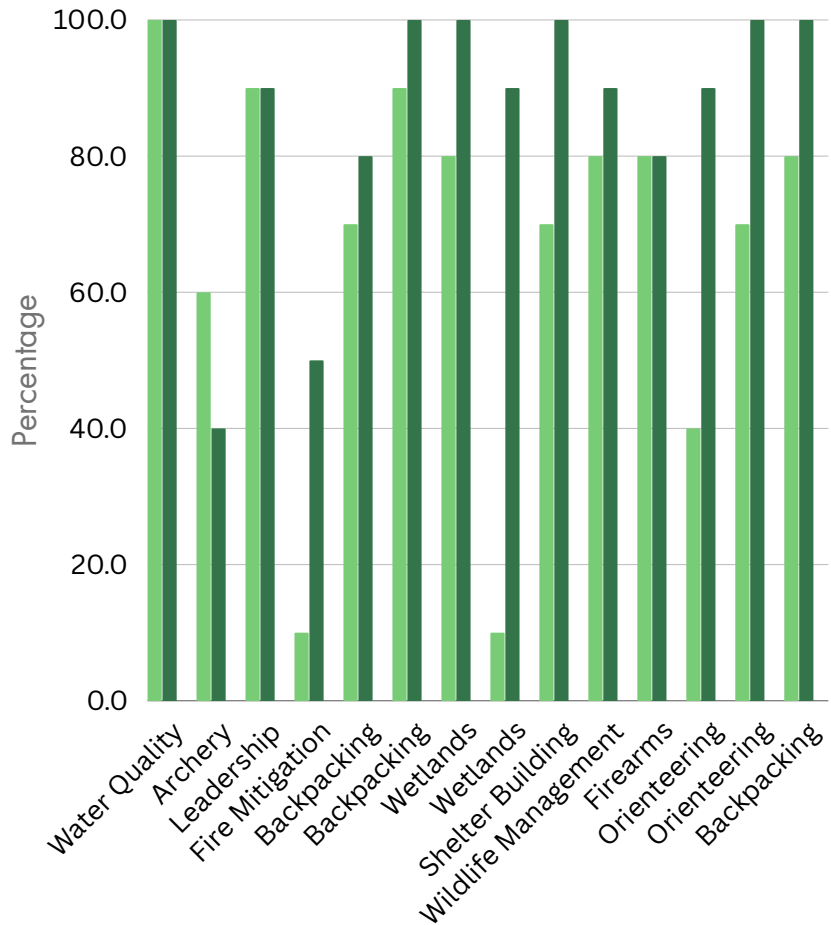


# CAMPER QUIZ RESULTS

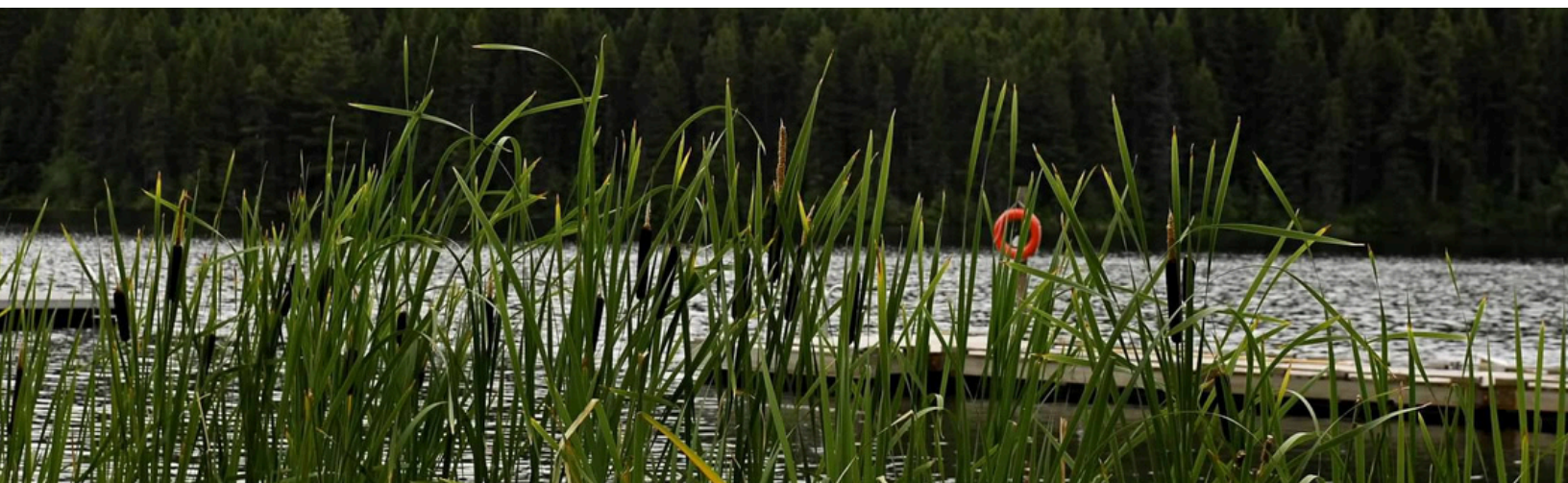
Quizzes were also analyzed by lesson. This showed that 10/14 of the lessons had a positive improvement, with three showing no improvement, and one negative score. It should be noted that three of the lessons that showed no improvement resulted from campers scoring the same score on their pre-quizzes. 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 wetlands, orienteering and fire mitigation.

## 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 over 90% on 3 of the pre-quiz questions and scored 100% on six questions in the post-quiz. Three questions saw over a 40% 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	Archery	60%	40%	-20%
3	Leadership	90%	90%	0%
4	Fire Mitigation	10%	50%	40%
5	Backpacking	70%	80%	10%
6	Backpacking	90%	100%	10%
7	Wetlands	80%	100%	20%
8	Wetlands	10%	90%	80%
9	Shelter Building	70%	100%	30%
10	Wildlife Management	70%	90%	20%
11	Firearms	80%	80%	0%
12	Orienteering	40%	90%	50%
13	Orienteering	70%	100%	30%
14	Backpacking	80%	100%	20%



# CAMPER SURVEY

Campers were asked to complete a post-camp survey in which they ranked camp for enjoyment, activity enjoyment, and overall camp experience. 10 out of 12 total campers participated in the survey, with two campers not participating due to leaving early for personal matters.

## 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

90% of campers "really enjoyed" or "enjoyed" the Go Wild camp. 50% of campers cited our range day as their favourite activity, and 30% of campers identified orienteering as their favourite part of camp. Campers noted that they enjoyed learning about wetlands, hiking 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 free time and opportunities to swim.

### GO WILD CAMPER SURVEY

**50%**  
of campers cited our range day as their favourite part of camp.



**30%**  
of campers cited orienteering as their favourite part of camp.



of campers were very satisfied with the Go Wild camp.

### FAVOURITE SKILLS LEARNED



Wetland Assessments



Backpacking



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

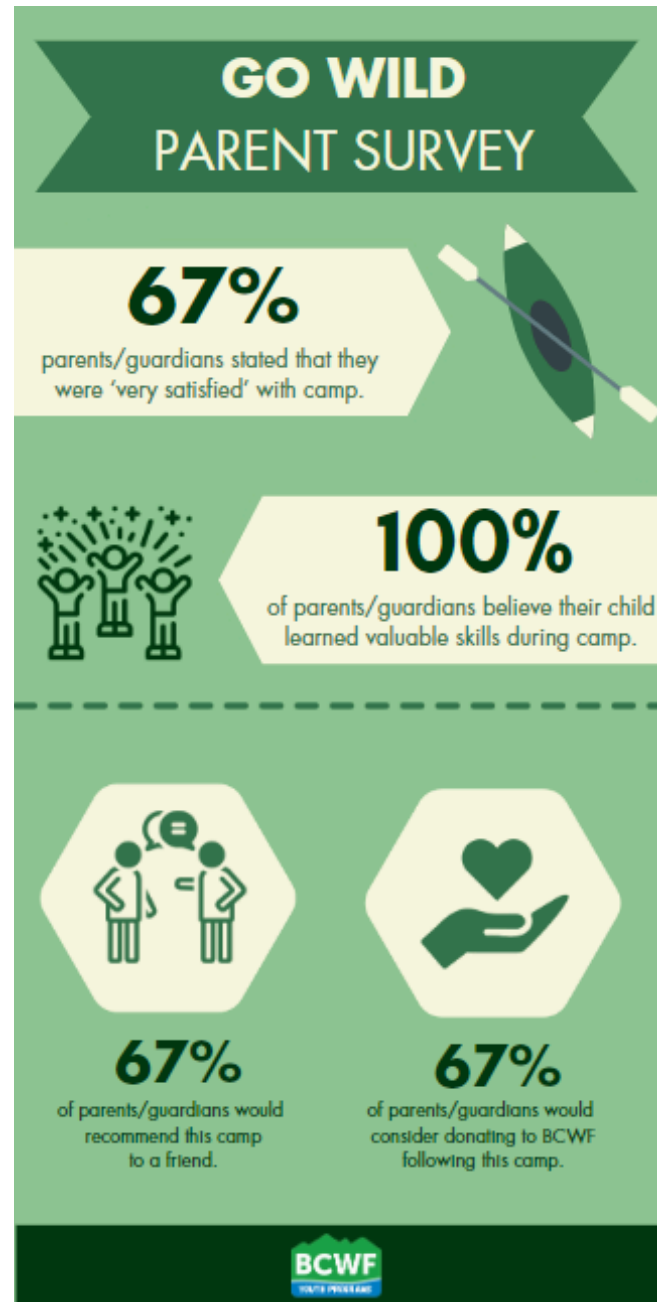
Parents were given a post-camp survey. All data was collected using a digital survey on Microsoft Forms. Responses were compiled and analyzed.

## RESULTS

Based in the feedback, the overall satisfaction among parents/guardians was high, with 67% of participants reporting being 'very satisfied.' and 'very likely' to recommend our Go Wild camp. 100% of parents felt that their campers learned valuable skills during camp. Following camp, 67% 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.





# 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!

