



2014 Camp Goals & Objectives:

This year the objectives of the regional youth camp were adjusted to place a stronger emphasis on traditional knowledge and elder-youth interaction, while also maintaining the camp's focus on ecological sciences. Planning for the camp ensured that both fields of knowledge, traditional and science, were delivered in a manner that was complimentary. This year, there was also an added objective of exposing the youth participants to regional issues by having them participate in a regional workshop on Protected Area Strategies for the final days of the camp. A new partnership with the Deh Gah Elementary & Secondary School enabled the regional youth camp to deliver three CTS course credits. Successful completion of these course credits during the camp by participating meaningfully enabled the youth participants to gain secondary educational credits for their efforts.

DFN Project Lead:



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2014 Camp Partnerships:

This year Dehcho First Nations pursued a number of key partnerships to help successfully deliver the DFN regional youth camp. The partnerships and their contributions to the project are highlighted below:

- Lois Phillips, Principal, Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School
Provided extensive in-kind support, coordinated the paddling, swimming and first aid instruction, provided school staff to support the camp program, coordinated community elders, cooks, camp attendants, and provided access to the Telemia camp.

- George Low, Program Coordinator, Dehcho AAROM
Provided extensive in-kind support (boats, AAROM community based personnel) and supplementary funding to cover the costs associated with the aquatic ecology instructor, Mr. Bruce Townsend.
- Susan Fleck, Executive Director, Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee
Provided supplementary funding and personnel to help with camp instruction.
- Department of Municipal & Community Affairs, GNWT
Provided the core, multi-year funding.
- Department of Education, Culture & Employment, GNWT
Provided supplementary funding

2014 Camp Participants:

Youth Delegates:

- Michelle Lafferty
- Adam Nadli
- William Alger
- Brandon Thom
- Goliah Makletzoff-Cazon
- Christopher Canadien
- Joshua Bertrand
- Sadeedi Gargan
- Leah Baptiste
- Rochelle Yendo
- Derrick Vandell
- Zaida Sanguéz
- Dallas Thom
- Tasha Nadli
- Cynthia Sabourin

Camp Elders:

- Sam Gargan
- Margaret Vandell
- Louie Lacorne
- Ernest Hardisty

Camp Staff:

- Dahti Tsetso, DFN
- Jim Snider, Dehguh School



DEHCHO ELDERS, JMR REGIONAL WORKSHOP



MACKENZIE RIVER CAMP, ELDER SAM GARGAN TEACHING THE YOUTH

- Bruce Townsend, Dehcho-AAROM
- Nimisha Bastedo, Dehgah School
- Megan O’Hare, Dehgah School
- Edith Squirrel, Camp Cook
- Margaret Landry, Camp Cook
- Angus Sanguéz, Dehcho-AAROM
- Steven Nadli, Dehcho-AAROM
- Joe Lacourne, Dehcho-AAROM
- Rocky Norwegian, Camp Attendant

Activities:

The 2014 Dehcho Regional Youth Camp was intended as ten day camp, including training, a canoe trip from Fort Providence to Jean Marie River along the Mackenzie River, and ending with a regional Dehcho workshop on conservation. All youth participants were required to successfully complete an Introductory Paddling Course, a Swim to Survive course, and an Emergency First Aid course (CTS certified course). These courses were delivered in Fort Providence and at the community camp, known as Telemia.



TELEMIA CAMP

A total of fifteen youth ages 13-18 participated in the 2014 camp. All youth in the Dehcho region were invited to participate. In the end, there was a regional representation of youth from the communities of Fort Providence, Wrigley, Fort Simpson, Nahanni Butte and Jean Marie River. Elders from both the communities of Fort Providence and Jean Marie River took part in the 2014 camp.

A new partnership between Dehcho First Nations and the Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School was a major enabling factor in delivering a regional youth canoe trip. The Deh Gah school had both the experience, human and otherwise, to assist DFN in the canoe trip preparation, planning and delivery. The school helped to order canoe trip equipment to outfit each of the youth participating on the trip with a tent, dry sacks, mattress pad, sleeping bag and life jacket. They also facilitated the training course at the start of the camp, and provided experienced staff to accompany the youth down the river. Additionally, the school was instrumental in providing access to the Telemia camp, and in the hire of local elders, camp cooks and camp attendants.

The Dehcho-AAROM program, in keeping with previous years, funded the costs associated with bringing up aquatic ecologist, Mr. Bruce Townsend to teach the youth about aquatic ecology and deliver CTS course, ‘ENS 1040: Living with the Environment.’

The Dehcho Land Use Planning office, in addition to providing financial support for the camp, also provided in-kind support and had their staff person, Jayson Horesay attend the camp and instruct the youth on the Dehcho Land Use Plan. Jayson and Dahti worked in collaboration to deliver the third CTS course, 'ENS 101: Introduction to Stewardship.'

The first day of the camp was delivered as planned, and the youth completed their first day paddle from Telemia to Sandy Island. However, the first day of the canoe trip was also an extreme weather day. With the high winds causing substantial waves, and mid-day fire activity in the area caused an ash shower, darken skies and smoke. The anticipated two-three hour paddle turned into a seven hour paddle day for the youth.

The following morning, weather reports provided new information on the local fire activity. The organizers were forced to make the decision to turn the canoe trip back to Telemia due to safety concerns regarding the overnight, forest fire activity that caused two new fires, on both sides of the Mackenzie River to flare up, with in a 5Km distance on either side of the river, in the area where the canoeist were heading over the next two days. Motorized boats transported the camp back to Telemia camp where the remainder of the regional youth camp was delivered.



SADEEDI GARGAN ON THE MACKENZIE RIVER BOAT TRIP TO JMR

At the end of the week, once forest fire activity had calmed down and safety was no longer a concern, it was decided to organize motorized boats to transport the youth from Telemia camp downriver to the community of Jean Marie River. Here, the youth were scheduled to participate in a two-day regional workshop on conservation and the Protected Area Strategy. This way, the youth still had the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Mackenzie River and an element of the original intention behind the canoe trip was maintained.

The youth camp concluded the camp with the two-day regional workshop. The workshop was organized by the Dehcho First Nations to give member communities the opportunity to discuss the preferred direction of the Protected Area Strategy. At the workshop, the youth had the opportunity participate in discussions and listen to their community leaders and elders. They also had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker, Mr. Miles Richardson, former President of the Haida Nation speak to workshop delegates about the inspiring story behind the establishment of the Haida Gwaii National Park.



WORKSHOP DELEGATES LISTENING TO PRESENTATION BY GUEST SPEAKER MILES RICHARDSON

Conclusions:

The DFN regional office took a unique approach to the delivery of the 2014 regional youth camp from camps delivered in previous years. The new partnerships enabled this new approach possible and was key to delivering a meaningful camp experience for youth participants in 2014.

At the conclusion of the ten day camp, the youth were asked to share their thoughts about the camp in a round table discussion and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The majority of participants cited their time spent learning from their elders as being the most meaningful aspect of the camp for them. Some highlighted learning about regional issues and politics as being important and interesting aspects of the camp for them. For one student the aquatics instruction was highlighted as being the most meaningful for her.

Overall, DFN and our participating partners felt the camp was highly successful in 2014 and provided meaningful opportunities for the youth who attended. Dehcho First Nations would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to the 2014 regional youth camp.



GROUP PHOTO OF OUR YOUTH 2014 PARTICIPANTS