

STUDY GUIDE

Emerald Youth Grants



Syncrude

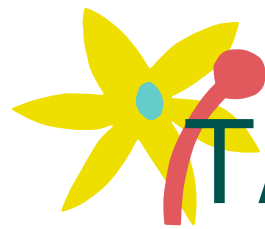


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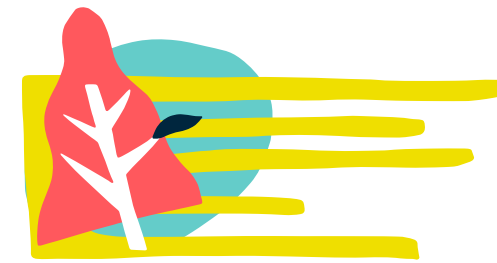
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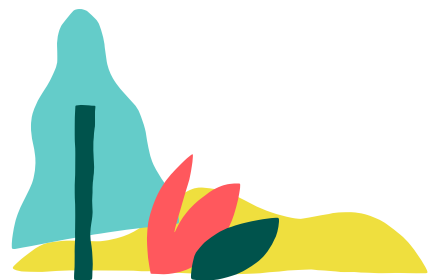
THE AEF

Who We Are.

The Alberta Emerald Foundation (AEF) has been the good-news environmental storytellers since 1991. We are a nonprofit organization that showcases and inspires our province's environmental achievements through the annual Emerald Awards. Through our Sharing Stories Communications Strategy, the incredible work of Emerald recipients is highlighted and celebrated year-round. What began as the Emerald Awards has evolved into an ongoing conversation.

The AEF empowers the next generation by providing grants to youth-led and youth-targeted environmental initiatives in our province. The Emerald Educational Engagement Grants Program funds up to 30 groups a year for their dream environmental project inspired by the Emerald Documentary Series, What On EARTH Can We Do? Podcast, and Emerald Speakers Series. After finding inspiration from this content featuring Emerald recipients, submit your pitch to us online. If it's accepted, you will receive \$750, thanks to our sponsor Syncrude Canada Ltd., to make your project a reality.

We encourage you to use this study guide as a resource to help you along in your project's journey. For more information, please visit emeraldfoundation.ca.



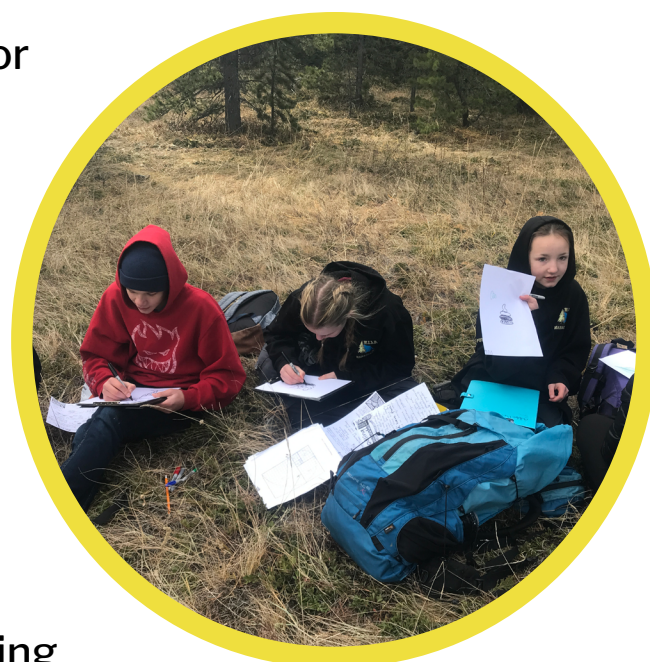
OVERVIEW

What they're all about.

Mission: to integrate the core curriculum with hands-on experiences for students to develop real-life connections, a knowledge of the local environment, and a sense of place.

Nancy Pollard runs the W.I.L.D. (Wisdom, Inquiry, Learning, Doing) Program at École Manachaban Middle School.

The program holds six different outdoor camps that aim to educate students on environmental matters as well as build up their wilderness skills. The camps range from simple “intro to camping” that teaches tent setup and safety skills to “survival camps” that teaches skills in testing water quality and building pulley systems. Using leadership and creativity, the W.I.L.D program develops youth safety awareness as the basic skill to carry forward in future outdoor pursuits.

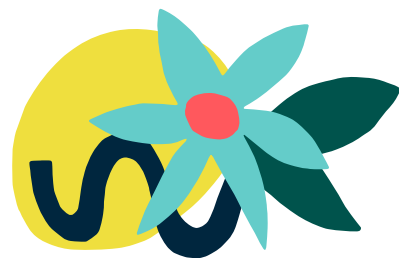


This program targets Grade 8 students that are preparing to enter high school. High school demands solid foundations in science, global matters, **ecosystems**, **geography**, human impact, and more. Through participation in W.I.L.D. camps, students are provided with hands-on, outdoor applications to these science fundamentals which **reinforces** science and math concepts taught in schools. These camps are designed to assess the students’ strength and intelligence in handling harsh weather conditions, temperatures, and dangerous wildlife. They will grow, learn, and be tested by the conditions they are faced with in order to gain a deeper respect for the environment.

Students leave this program having developed a mature **self-awareness** as part of a larger **fragile** planet, a greater appreciation of the **Indigenous** wisdom of **nature preservation**, and a sense of responsibility



to prevent threats to the natural environment. Nancy is seen as a “granddaughter” by their local **First Nations** tribe for her sensitivity and outreach. She holds a deep respect for the care of the land, its air, water, and earth.



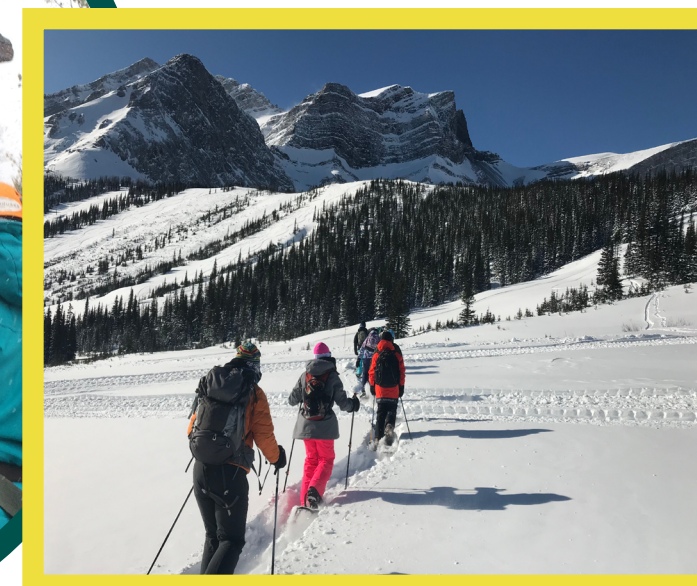
KEY TERMS

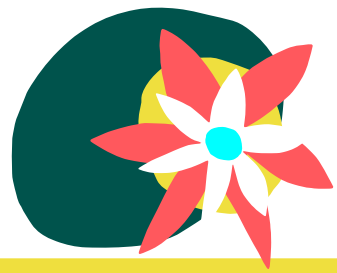
Know your lingo.

- Ecosystems:** an area where a community of plants, animals, and other organisms live and interact together.
- Geography:** the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments.
- Reinforces:** to strengthen or support something.
- Self-awareness:** the ability to focus on and understand your own actions, emotions, and thoughts.
- Fragile:** something that can be easily harmed or damaged.
- Indigenous:** originating from a particular place. Indigenous peoples hold unique languages, knowledge, and beliefs that are integral to the management of natural resources.



- Nature Preservation:** to protect the environment from harmful human activities. For example, setting aside a part of the forest that will not be used for human development.
- First Nations:** Indigenous peoples of Canada that are not Métis or Inuit. They are composed of many distinct nations and cultures.





CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

Let's talk about it.

Have you ever gone camping in the wilderness? What challenges did you face? What do you want to learn more about?

Does your school host field trips and field learning opportunities? How does it affect your education?

What is the difference between conservation and preservation?

How can you be more self-aware of your position on this planet?

What are the benefits of hands-on immersive learning?

Why is it important to learn about and understand our environment?



CONTINUING WORK

Inspiration for your EEG project.

Choose a topic in your class that could be enriched by hands-on learning. Plan and organize a field trip with your teacher surrounding your chosen topic.

Learn about wilderness skills and take a camping trip to test your knowledge. Was it difficult? Write about your experience.

Study the First Nations environmental belief systems and create an interactive lesson for your class.

Start your own nature conservation project on any topic you'd like to explore.

Start something inspired by the W.I.L.D program at your school.





RESOURCES

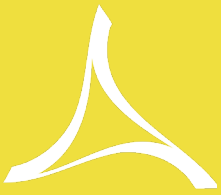
Click to discover.

- [8 Wilderness Survival Skills](#)
- [Alberta Safety Around Wildlife](#)
- [Conservation and Preservation](#)
- [How to Plan a Field Trip](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations- Honouring Earth](#)
- [Environmental Education Resources](#)
- [How Each Person Can Save the Earth](#)
- [Intro to Camping](#)



NOTES

Lined area for notes, featuring a vertical red margin line on the left and horizontal blue lines. The bottom of the page is decorated with a row of stylized trees in various colors (green, yellow, red, blue).



Emerald Youth Grants

The AEF would like to thank **Syncrude Canada Ltd.** for their sponsorship of the Emerald Youth Grants Program. As well, we'd like to thank **Hoopla Media** and **Studio Hazel** for making our content look so good.

This study guide was written and designed by AEF summer student Leslie Guo.

**Click to apply for an
Emerald Youth Grant!**

Let's get social!

