WILDE SCHOOL YUKON

EXPERIENTIAL FIELD TRIPS

Curriculum & Program Guide

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 7 | 2026-27



WILDE SCHOOL YUKON

18 Metropolit Lane, Whitehorse

www.yukonwildschool.ca

TAKE YOUR CLASSROOM

OUTSIDE



Our Experiential Field Trips (EFTs) take learning out of the classroom and into the boreal forest. Students explore, discover, ask questions and make real-world connections that last far beyond that day.

This guide will help you find the right program for your grade level and see how each experience connects to the Yukon curriculum.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We've made it easy to find the right experience for your learners.

1

FIND YOUR GRADE

Head to the Programs by Grade section to see what's available

2

EXPLORE PROGRAMS

Read program overviews, curriculum connections and learning outcomes.

3

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Choose the experience that fits your goals and your learners.

4

GET IN TOUCH

We're here to help plan a meaningful and memorable adventure

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PROGRAMS

BY GRADE

❄ | WINTER

Our Experiential Field Trips (EFTs) are organized by grade level and designed to support learning through every season.

GRADE	PROGRAMS	SEASONS
K	• Winter Wonders	❄
1	• Lil' Trackers	❄
2	• Ice Explorers	❄
3	• There's Snow Place Like Home	❄
4	• Wild Senses: Winter Edition	❄
5	• Tracking	❄
6-7	• Wilderness Survival	❄

WINTER WONDERS

KINDERGARTEN

SEASON

THE EXPERIENCE

Bundle up and join us for a day of winter exploration and discovery. Students will become winter scientists as they discover the frozen world around them and learn how plants and animals survive in the cold. Through hands-on activities, students will explore the science of snow, observing and discovering how it changes over time. Conditions permitting, students will dig into the snowpack to discover what the different layers can tell us about weather conditions and how animals use these layers to help them survive. Through active games, students will gain a deeper appreciation for how our boreal animals meet their needs in this challenging northern environment. Come and explore the wonders of winter at WILDE School!



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

SCIENCE

- Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things
- Plants and animals have observable features
- Humans interact with matter every day through familiar materials

MATH

- Objects have attributes that can be described, measured and compared

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

SCIENCE

- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world
- Make exploratory observations using their senses
- Experience and interpret the local environment

MATH

- Visualize to explore mathematical concepts
- Connect mathematical concepts to other areas and personal experiences

CURRICULUM CONTENT

SCIENCE

- Basic needs of plants and animals
- Adaptations of local plants and animals
- Properties of familiar materials
- Weather and seasonal changes
- Living things make changes to accommodate daily and seasonal cycles
- First Peoples' knowledge of seasonal changes

MATH

- Single attributes of 2D and 3D shapes

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

All WILDE School EFTs support Yukon Core Competencies and follow established safety procedures.

LEARN MORE

Page 12 | Indigenous Knowledge & Land-Based Learning
Page 13 | Core Competencies
Pages 14–16 | Safety & Risk Management

LIL' TRACKERS

GRADE 1

SEASONS

THE EXPERIENCE

Step into the boreal forest and become a forest detective! In this hands-on program, students are introduced to the art of tracking and trailing and will discover the many clues that animals leave behind. Students will learn to uncover the hidden stories that are written in nature all around them, from tracks to trails, feeding signs, scat, feathers and other clues. They will explore what these signs can teach us about the animals that call the boreal forest home, including how animals move, find food, stay safe and adapt to their environment. By the end of the program, students will see the forest in a whole new way!



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world
- Ask questions about familiar objects and events
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events
- Make and record observations

CURRICULUM CONTENT

- Names of local plants and animals
- Structural features of living things
- Behavioural adaptations of living things
- Local First Peoples knowledge of landscape, plants and animals

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

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ICE EXPLORERS

GRADE 2

SEASONS

THE EXPERIENCE

Bundle up for a hands-on winter science adventure! Students will explore the fascinating world of snow, ice, and water through investigating the water cycle, examining snowpack layers, and discovering how changing weather and snow conditions shape the snow beneath their feet. Through team challenges and a tasty hands-on activity, they'll explore physical and chemical changes and uncover the science of freezing point depression. Get ready to dig, experiment, investigate, and discover the amazing science of winter!



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

- Living things have life cycles adapted to their environment
- Materials can be changed through physical and chemical processes
- Water is essential to all living things and it cycles through the environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Ask questions about familiar objects and events
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events
- Make and record observations
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Compare observations with predictions through discussion

CURRICULUM CONTENT

- Physical ways of changing materials
- Chemical ways of changing materials
- The water cycle
- Local First Peoples' knowledge of water and its connection to their systems

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THERE'S SNOW PLACE LIKE HOME

GRADE 3

SEASONS

THE EXPERIENCE

How does snow keep animals warm? Does snow actually help plants survive the cold winter months? Students will examine these questions and learn why snow is so vital to the function of our boreal ecosystems. Using hands-on investigative science, active games and group activities, we will examine the layers of the snowpack, understand the insulating properties of snow and how temperature and moisture create different snow conditions. Our goal is to foster a new appreciation for the important role that snow plays in protecting plants and animals here in the Yukon.

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CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

- Living things are diverse, can be grouped and interact in their ecosystems
- Wind, water and ice change the shape of the land

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Identify questions about familiar objects and events that can be investigated scientifically
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Safely use appropriate tools to make observations and measurements using formal measurements and digital technology where appropriate
- Make observations about living and non living things in the local environment
- Collect simple data
- Experience and interpret the local environment



CURRICULUM CONTENT

- Biodiversity in the local environment
- Energy is needed for life

WILD SENSES: WINTER EDITION

SEASONS

GRADE 4

THE EXPERIENCE

In this immersive, hands-on program, students will explore the fascinating ways local animals adapt, migrate, or hibernate to survive winter. Through active games and sensory-based investigations, students will discover how animals use their senses to detect food, find shelter, communicate, and respond to changes in their environment. Students will investigate how animals interact with their surroundings and how their unique adaptations help them survive in the wild. Get ready to move, explore, and experience winter through the senses of Yukon wildlife!



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

- All living things sense and respond to their environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Identify questions about familiar objects and events that can be investigated scientifically
- Safely use appropriate tools to make observations and measurements
- Collect simple data and sort and classify information
- Compare results with predictions, suggesting possible reasons for findings
- Make simple inferences
- Experience and interpret the local environment

CURRICULUM CONTENT

- How humans, plants and animals sense and respond to stimuli in their environment

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TRACKING

GRADE 5

SEASONS

THE EXPERIENCE

The art of tracking and trailing is a lifelong endeavour that begins with this program, where students will learn how to identify the signs that animals leave as they travel through the forest. We will explore the forest for tracks, trails, scat, and other signs of wildlife activity. Follow our mystery trials, make a cast of an animal track and be a track detective! Using an inquiry lens, students will learn how to read and interpret the stories left by the animals who call WILDE School home.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS



BIG IDEAS

- Multicellular organisms have organ systems that enable them to survive and interact with their environment.
- How can we act as stewards of our environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Make predictions about the findings of their inquiry
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Identify First Peoples perspectives and knowledge as sources of information
- Communicate ideas, explanations, and processes in a variety of ways
- Express and reflect on personal, shared, or others' experiences of place
- Contribute to care for self, others, and community through personal or collaborative approaches

CURRICULUM CONTENT

- First peoples concepts of interconnectedness in the environment
- Everything in the environment is one/connected (e.g., sun, sky, plants, and animals) and we have a responsibility to care for them.
- First peoples knowledge of sustainable practices

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

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WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

GRADE 6

SEASONS

THE EXPERIENCE

In this active and immersive program, students will be challenged to learn important survival skills to help them in the event that they find themselves lost or stranded in the outdoors. Through active team challenges and simulations, students will learn about the survival needs of living things (including humans!) and will practice shelter building, fire skills, and emergency preparedness with the goal of developing the necessary skills for spending time outdoors safely and confidently.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

SCIENCE

- How are internal systems necessary for survival?
- What do your body systems require for survival?
- How do your body systems interact with one another?

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Healthy choices influence our physical, emotional and mental well-being

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

SCIENCE

- Make observations in familiar or unfamiliar contexts
- Identify questions to answer or problems to solve through scientific inquiry
- Make predictions about the findings of their inquiry
- Use equipment and materials safely, identifying potential risks
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Identify First Peoples perspectives and knowledge as sources of information
- Demonstrate an openness to new ideas and consideration of alternatives
- Identify possible sources of error
- Contribute to care for self, others, and community through personal or collaborative approaches
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations
- Generate and introduce new or refined ideas when problem solving
- Communicate ideas, explanations, and processes in a variety of ways
- Express and reflect on personal, shared, others' experiences of place

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Apply methods of monitoring and adjusting exertion levels in physical activity
- Develop and demonstrate safety and fair play in physical activities
- Identify and describe strategies for avoiding and/or responding to potentially unsafe situations
- Describe and assess strategies for promoting mental well-being for self and others

CURRICULUM CONTENT

SCIENCE

- Effects of balanced and unbalanced forces in daily physical activities

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Ways to monitor and adjust physical exertion levels
- Basic principles for responding to emergencies
- Strategies to protect themselves and others from harm in a variety of settings

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

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WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

GRADE 7

SEASONS

THE EXPERIENCE

In this active and immersive program, students will be challenged to learn important survival skills to help them in the event that they find themselves lost or stranded in the outdoors. Through active team challenges and simulations, students will learn about the survival needs of living things (including humans!) and will practice shelter building, fire skills, and emergency preparedness with the goal of developing the necessary skills for spending time outdoors safely and confidently.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

BIG IDEAS

SCIENCE

- Earth and its climate have changed over geological time

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Healthy choices influence our physical, emotional and mental well-being

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

SCIENCE

- Demonstrate a sustained intellectual curiosity about a scientific topic or problem of personal interest
- Make observations aimed at identifying their own questions about the natural world
- Identify a question to answer or a problem to solve through scientific inquiry
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Apply First Peoples perspectives and knowledge, other ways of knowing, and local knowledge as sources of information
- Express and reflect on a variety of experiences and perspectives of place

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Apply methods of monitoring and adjusting exertion levels in physical activity
- Develop and demonstrate safety and fair play in physical activities
- Identify and describe strategies for avoiding and/or responding to potentially unsafe situations
- Describe and assess strategies for promoting mental well-being for self and others

CURRICULUM CONTENT

SCIENCE

- Survival needs: all organisms need space, food, water, and access to resources in order to survive.
- Local First Peoples knowledge of climate change
- Oral history, change in traditional practice (e.g., the timing of harvest has been impacted by climate change), etc.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Ways to monitor and adjust physical exertion levels
- Effects of different types of physical activity on the body
- Basic principles for responding to emergencies
- Strategies to protect themselves and others from harm in a variety of settings

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & LAND-BASED LEARNING

Learning from the land. Learning in Relationship.

MEET JANET FIRTH

Indigenous Knowledge Keeper

Janet is Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation from Fort McPherson, NWT.

She reclaimed her identity in 2019 and completed her studies through the YNTEP program.

As WILDE School's Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Janet brings knowledge, perspectives, and ways of knowing that help guide our learning community.

Her guidance supports meaningful, respectful connections to the land, our cultures, traditions, and spirituality - and inspires a deeper understanding of the natural world.



INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES THROUGHOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Throughout this guide, teachers will find Yukon curriculum connections that include First Peoples' knowledge and perspectives.

WILDE School is committed to approaching these connections thoughtfully and respectfully as part of learning on and from the land.

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CORE COMPETENCIES

WILDE School Experiential Field Trips (EFTs) support the development of Yukon Core Competencies through hands-on, collaborative and place-based learning.



COMMUNICATION

The set of abilities that students use to acquire, interpret, and express ideas and information, to connect with others, to explore the world around them, and to achieve their goals.



THINKING

The knowledge, understandings, and skills that students need to think creatively and critically, solve problems, and make responsible decisions.



PERSONAL + SOCIAL

The set of abilities that students use to understand and care for themselves, to connect with others, and to contribute to their world.

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SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

Outdoor learning involves inherent risks. WILDE School uses established procedures to identify hazards, reduce risk and support safe, positive experiences for students and staff.

RISK MANAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

COLD WEATHER

- Frostbite / Frostnip
- Hypothermia
- Extreme cold conditions

TERRAIN & NATURAL FEATURES

- Cliffs & Rock Crevices
- Uneven ground
- Tree Climbing & Sticks
- Snow and ice conditions

GROUP MANAGEMENT

- Lost Student
- Behaviour & Group Dynamics
- Runners & Hiders

WILDLIFE

- Bears
- Other wildlife (e.g. moose)

HOW WE KEEP STUDENTS SAFE

- Experienced, trained staff with ongoing risk management training
- Pre-trip planning and site assessments
- Clear communication, expectations and safety briefings
- Age-appropriate activities and group supervision
- Emergency plans and first aid ready

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RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

WILDE School uses program-specific hazard and mitigation procedures to support safe outdoor experiences. Teachers play an important role in communicating student needs and supporting group safety.

HAZARD	HOW WILDE MANAGES IT
Frostbite / Frostnip	• Shorten time outside in extreme cold conditions. • Ensure students are dressed appropriately and cover exposed skin, especially face. • Regularly check in with students to see if they are cold. • Conduct routine visual assessments and teach students the signs so they can be proactive.
Cliffs & Rock Crevices	• Talk to participants about this hazard before hiking anywhere near it. • Focus discussion on how we manage our bodies when near the cliff edge (e.g., no running, playing, pushing etc.) • If you are going to hang out near the cliff to have a snack, for example, do not let participants sit right near the edge
Lost student	• Set clear boundaries. When possible, use visible natural boundaries to designate playing areas. • Perform routine head counts • Classroom teacher will identify runners, hiders, and possible triggers to program facilitator.
Bears	• Study the *How You Can Stay Safe in Bear Country* document from Environment Yukon and teach this information to your participants • https://yukon.ca/sites/default/files/env/env-stay-safe-bear-country.pdf • Carry bear spray from April 1 - Nov 30 in a readily accessible location (e.g., outside of backpack in a water bottle pouch or on a belt loop) • Discuss the predetermined group response in the event of a bear encounter • Ensure all participants are accounted for • Communicate the encounter with participants, classroom teacher and the director

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES CONT'D

HAZARD	HOW WILDE MANAGES IT
Pond / Water Safety	• Students are not permitted near or onto frozen ponds or other bodies of water without staff permission and supervision. • Ice access is only permitted following an assessment in accordance with WILDE School's approved ice safety procedures. • Students must remain within designated boundaries and under direct staff supervision while on ice. • If ice conditions are uncertain or unsafe, students must remain off the ice..
Tree Climbing	• Students are permitted to climb twice their height into a tree. • Look for hazards beneath the tree (e.g., rocks, sharp sticks) and relocate to a different tree if necessary.
Stick Use	• Stick use is encouraged; however, no stick fighting. • Students should carry a stick no longer than their height. • Students are not permitted to play with the stick in and out of a fire.
Parking Lot/ Cars	• Have a predetermined plan for pick-up and drop-off. • Ensure participants know boundaries and expectations once dropped off. • Politely encourage parents to drop and go to prevent congestion. • Do not allow students to play games immediately next to the drop-off.
Fire Pit	• Students are not permitted to run or play games near the fire pit. • Students moving around the fire should walk behind people, not in front. • Do not allow students to walk on the rocks surrounding a fire pit. • Do not allow students to continually poke the fire with a stick and wave it around. • Discuss what to do if someone's clothes or hair catch on fire. • Have a water source for extinguishing readily available.
Teambuilding / Forced Vulnerability	• Clearly explain goals and expectations. • Discuss personal boundaries. • Address conflict immediately. • Allow adequate debrief time. • Offer the option to opt out when an activity is well beyond a students ability to cope.

READY TO TAKE YOUR CLASSROOM OUTSIDE?

Bring curriculum to life through hands-on learning, exploration and connection in the Yukon outdoors.

PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIP

Not sure which experience is right for your class?
We're happy to help you choose a program that fits your grade level, curriculum goals and learners.

READY TO BOOK?

Visit our website to explore Experiential Field Trips & Register

SCAN
TO EXPLORE + BOOK

Rooted in Nature. Guided by Curiosity.

WILDE SCHOOL YUKON

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