

CHEAKAMUS CENTRE

nature is in session



Educational Programs at Cheakamus Centre

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Photograph by David Nunuk

Stay Connected

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Imagine a place of rich biodiversity where the classroom is alive and the seasonal cycles provide limitless opportunities for integrative learning in, about and for nature. This is Cheakamus Centre.

Utilizing the Centre's 165 ha (420 acre) ecological reserve, visiting and on-site educators work collaboratively to facilitate engaging learning experiences. These experiences include extensive teaching trails, forests, spawning channels, ponds, and special resource classrooms and break out spaces supported by an extensive residential learning infrastructure.

Guiding Principles

Our programs are guided by 5 principles that serve to frame the integrated educational experience.

- create an emotional connection between the learner and a specific living thing
- provide authentic and inspiring natural learning environments where context is key and the senses are engaged
- integrate culturally relevant connections specific to the region and its unique history into the learning process
- ensure experiences are facilitated by knowledgeable, caring and enthusiastic teachers, programming staff and counselors
- support and enhance the exploration of the natural world through the use of specialized tools and equipment

We offer a range of day and residential programs from September to June providing opportunities to experience and explore the distinct seasonal periods that characterize Cheakamus Centre.



www.cheakamuscentre.ca

Nature-Based Learning at Cheakamus Centre

Programs provide students and teachers the opportunity to explore and discover a wide range of natural connections in our 165 ha (420 acre) protected ecological reserve. This diverse outdoor classroom promotes an integrated learning approach where traditional disciplines come alive through hands-on learning experiences. Programs are developed and delivered collaboratively with visiting teachers and qualified on-site staff, assuring that educational standards and objectives are integrated into program design.

Program Level and Duration

Programs are typically offered to students in grades 3-7 as a three day, two night residential experience, and may be extended to a four or five day program upon request. Customized programming is also available for students at the secondary level. A variety of curriculum requirements are fulfilled across these grade levels. For detailed correlations please contact us at programs@cheakamuscentre.ca.

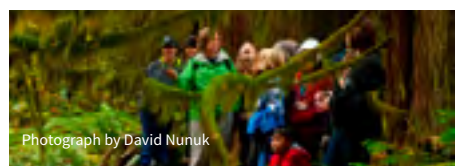
Social and Personal Development

Through residential living, students work to enhance their intra and interpersonal skills. Taking on new responsibilities, they gain confidence and a sense of independence while building new friendships and learning to get along with others.

Study Units May Include:



Aquatic Systems: Explore the life cycle of Coho and Chum salmon in the working hatchery: fertilize eggs, feed, raise and release over 100,000 fry annually.

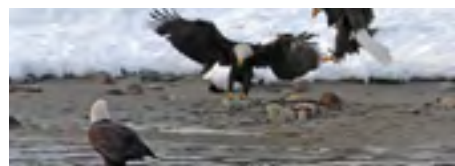


Photograph by David Nunuk

Forest Systems: Venture through our extensive trail networks to understand forest processes, animal habitats, and the human role in influencing them.



Food Systems: Discover the source of food and learn how pigs, goats, ducks, and chickens are all part of the human food web.



Eco Systems: Experience and identify the inter-connectedness of the natural world. Build personal connections to the rich biodiversity of our site.

Skw'une-was and Cultural Programs

Since 1986, the Skw'une-was program has been sharing the practices of Coast Salish people through a living experience. Students, teachers and First Nations cultural specialists work together to engage in daily life in and around our Bighouse providing a unique opportunity to learn more about the rich culture of Squamish people. Building on this rich indigenous education heritage, Cheakamus Centre now offers a range of programs that connect participants with nature while cooking over open fires, listening to local legends, and experiencing the traditional Bighouse.

Scope and Application

The cornerstones of the teachings at the Bighouse are sharing, respect and seasonality. They represent central pillars of our program philosophy and reflect the importance of care for self, others and the environment. A deeply rooted and culturally authentic respect for the natural world is fostered through traditional communal living.

The Skw'une-was program is typically offered to students in grade 3 or 4 as a two day, one night residential experience. Students participating in the Skw'une-was program will fulfill a variety of curriculum requirements which have recently been shifted to the grade 3 level. A new one day program is available for primary and secondary students focused on themes such as ethnobotany, carving, and weaving.

For more information please contact us at programs@cheakamuscentre.ca.



Indoor Spaces Support Outdoor Learning

Cheakamus Centre offers a variety of covered outdoor and indoor learning spaces to enhance field study experiences. These spaces include a salmon hatchery, working farm and classroom, and forest, aquatic and art labs.



Photograph by David Nunuk

"I learned so many things at Outdoor School it is hard to choose just one, but the main thing I learned was about the salmon. Learning how to catch them, tell if they are male or female and how to fertilize the eggs. Thank you so much for a fabulous time at Outdoor School, I will never forget it."

Cassia (student)

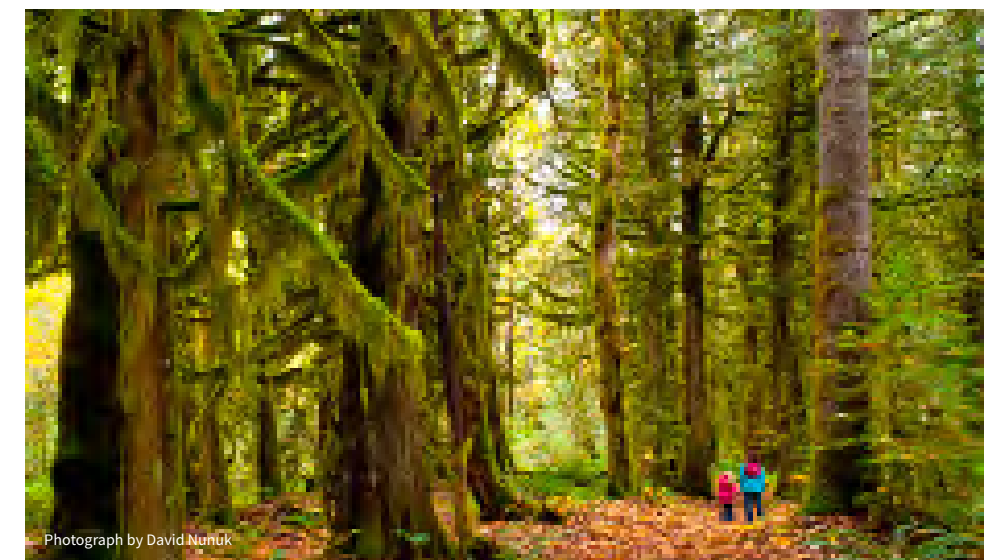


"Thank you to everyone here. We studied hard in class for this and I'm finding that even on the first day, this is the best, most educational and fun thing we have done for a long time. Thanks."

Taylor (the cougar)



Photograph by David Nunuk



Photograph by David Nunuk

Secondary and Customized Programming

Cheakamus Centre currently offers community building and service learning initiatives, leadership retreats, and integrated environmental and cultural programming for both secondary and post-secondary groups. Our staff will work with you to design and deliver unique day and overnight experiences that connect participants with the inspired natural setting. Expanding these year round offerings supports our vision as a dynamic centre of excellence for environmental learning, leadership and sustainability.



Youth Leadership

Experiential Outdoor Environmental Leadership 10 is a four-credit transferable course that provides opportunities for secondary students to develop their leadership and interpersonal skills. As leadership counselors, students will work with elementary students and guide them in such topics as wildlife habitat, fisheries biology, forest ecology, sustainable farming practices and animal husbandry. For more information, please visit www.sd44.ca/school/distributed.



Facilities

Cheakamus Centre has a variety of accommodation options that cater to comfortable year round lodging. These options include 9 log style cabins that can house up to 140 people, the Spakwus House, a dormitory style conference facility that sleeps up to 41 people, as well as a variety of on-site tenting options. Our Melody Hall, Fireside Lounge, and variety of smaller meeting spaces provide opportunities for small or large group functions.



Enjoy fresh, sustainable meals created by Chef Wade and his talented culinary team. Professionally trained first aid staff provide 24-hour supervision.

The BlueShore Financial Environmental Learning Centre

Cheakamus Centre is home to the newly constructed and sustainably designed BlueShore Financial Environmental Learning Centre. It's raised floor and forest setting elevates visitors to the magic of the forest canopy. This unique "green-built" centre boasts sweeping forest views and large reclaimed timber beams. This is the primary food service location and can also function as classroom or meeting break out space.

