



University  
of Regina



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Science



IPHRC



# Science Camp for Saskatchewan Indigenous Youth

First Nations University of Canada, Indigenous People's Health Research Centre (IPHRC), File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC), and the University of Regina will run four sets of 2 day science camps for Saskatchewan Indigenous youth, aged 12-18, during summer 2022 in the Qu'Appelle Valley region.

## Program objectives

Based on Takoza Tipi Camp (previously run by IPHRC and FHQTC), we think these camps will foster:

1. An increase in Indigenous traditional knowledge amongst Saskatchewan youth;
2. Mental and emotional well-being for youth; and,
3. Increased interest and access to postsecondary education and high-quality employment (through the hands-on camp experience and mentorship components).

## Camp Program Content

The camp will have three core focuses:

1. Traditional Indigenous Knowledge;
2. Freshwater testing, analysis, and data management to introduce youth to hands-on data collection and the issues related to data ownership, control, access, and use; and,
3. Coding to encourage youth in fields related to information science and technology.

Indigenous education experts will help shape the camp's program. Elders and Knowledge Keepers will create the Traditional Indigenous Knowledge components, which can further be edited to be reflective of specific community traditional knowledge. The camps will use a Two-eyed Seeing approach to weave Indigenous Traditional Knowledge into the western content. We want Indigenous youth to understand, feel pride, and carry on the practices that Indigenous peoples have, for generations, been using and applying scientific knowledge through, for example, their stewardship of natural resources. This knowledge and lessons of research and data governance will be the basis for the following two components:

**Day 1: Water testing.** In Saskatchewan, rural Indigenous communities have profound and historical relationships with watersheds and ecosystems. Indigenous peoples have been monitoring water for hundreds of years. The camps will continue this by using portable real-time water-quality testing kits to teach youth how to analyse the water in their local lakes and how to manage and use the results they obtain. This activity involves hands-on science that can be discussed through the lens of Indigenous Knowledge and provides an opportunity to explore questions of data ownership, access, control, and sharing.

**Day 2: Coding (writing computer programs).** Coding has emerged as an educational priority at all educational levels. In STEM fields, coding is essential for employment in high-quality jobs; a lack of coding experience is a barrier to working in STEM fields. Therefore, this element of our proposed camp is crucial for the likelihood that a typical camp participant will study and work in a STEM field.



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## What to expect, what's provided, what to bring, and other things to know

### Dates and locations for the 2023 program:

- Camp days on July 6–7 and 10–11 will be held in Regina at the māmawēyatitān centre
- Camp days on July 13–14 will be held in Prince Albert at the Prince Albert Elks Club
- Camp days on August 10-11 will be held in Fort Qu'Appelle at the Treaty Governance Centre

### Transportation:

Transportation is not included in the camp. Parents/guardians are asked to drop off and pick up camp attendees at the māmawēyatitān centre and Prince Albert Elks Club.

- **Drop off times:** the camps start at 9:00 am each day. Camp volunteers will be on site to welcome camp participants from 8:45 am until 9:00 am
- **Pick up times:** the camps end at 3:00 pm each day. Camp volunteers will be onsite to say goodbye to camp participants from 3:00pm to 3:15pm

### Provided (and free):

- Breakfast, lunch, and snacks
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Refillable water bottles

### What to bring:

- Closed toe shoes for walking to the water testing site
- Appropriate clothing for being outside in the heat (e.g., a hat and/or sunglasses)

### Safety measures:

- Please remember that some activities will be outside where we'll be sharing space with bees, wasps, mosquitoes, ticks, and horseflies.

**Thank you, we're looking forward to the camp!**