

2010 HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM TUKTOYAKTUK, NT



First Trip - Siglialuk: Tuesday, August 10 to Saturday, August 14, 2010
Second Trip – McKinley Bay: Friday, August 27 to Monday, August 30, 2010

Report completed by:

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Coordinator Summary:

As I reflect on the program itself and the methods that we used, I am already looking at ways of improving the program. I really enjoyed the program, it was nice to get to know the youth and to give them a little bit of the knowledge that I have gained over the years. The best part was definitely the fact that the program was held in a wilderness setting. The outboard motor failure was the only part of the program that I did not like.

The core objectives have all been met; however, I would like to deliver a program that is at least a week long with a tight schedule and a list of chores/duties (gathering firewood, collecting water/ice, housekeeping, etc.) for the youth involved. During the upcoming winter program, I plan to include extreme outdoor survival so that at the end of the program, I am confident that the youth are capable of surviving any experience in a winter setting.

This program was a success and also a learning experience. The next program that we deliver will be improved and just as successful.

Lila Voudrach



2010 Tuk Hunter Education Program

Program Coordinators: Lila Voudrach, RRO II - ENR
Benjamin Kershaw, RCMP

Guides/Instructors: **Siglialuk** Eddie Dillon
(First Trip) Willie Carpenter
Sam Pingo

McKinley Bay Chuck Gruben
(Second Trip) Jonas Lucas

James Pokiak
Davie Krengnektak

Youth/Students: **Siglialuk** Julia Steen
(First Trip) David Lucas
Kevin Krengnektak
Micheal Krengnektak
Theresa Cockney
Richard Voudrach

McKinley Bay Theresa Cockney
(Second Trip) David Lucas
Richard Voudrach
Lori Felix
Kierstyn Lucas



First Group of Youth - Siglialuk



Second Group of Youth – McKinley Bay

2010 Hunter Education Program Tuktoyaktuk, NT

The objective of the 2010 Tuk Hunter Education Program was to enhance the youth's outdoor survival and big game harvesting skills. The program was developed to teach the youth Bear Safety, Boat/Water Safety, Navigation, Traditional Knowledge, Career Development and Firearm Safety. In addition, the youth were made aware of the NWT Caribou Regulations (specifically I/BC/06; I/BC/07; I/BC/08).

First Trip - Siglialuk

Bear Safety:

Prior to the trip, the youth were instructed in bear safety and the importance of keeping a clean camp. This is very important and all people should take great care in keeping a clean camp.

Boat/Water Safety:

On Tuesday, August 10, 2010, the youth were transported to Eddie Dillon's camp site via Environment & Natural Resources small vessel. The youth were given a quick safety briefing prior to departure.

Eddie Dillon's and Davie Krengnektak's cabins, located about 44 miles (71 Kms) from Tuktoyaktuk (via boat), were used as the base camp for the duration of the first trip of the program.

Navigational Skills:

During the time spent at Siglialuk, the youth participated in a number of hikes as well as a short paddle. During one of the hikes, the youth were tested on their navigational skills. They did very well in map reading. In addition to the map reading, RCMP Constable Benjamin Kershaw and ENR Renewable Resource Officer Lila Voudrach set up a GPS (Global Positioning System) exercise. Each of the six youth utilized a GPS Unit to locate seven waypoints and record what they found at each waypoint. The youth did very well in the exercise and were confident in their GPS navigational skills.

Traditional Knowledge:

The youth spent several hours engaged in conversation with the local guides, Willie Carpenter, Sam Pingo and Eddie Dillon. Discussions included weather, land and water travel, subsistence harvesting, respecting wildlife and experience in wilderness travel/survival. The youth were very eager to learn. It was recommended that the youth always go to their elders for advice when traveling in areas that they are not familiar with. The youth understood that the local harvesters/elders have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to traditional navigation.



Firearm Safety:

Kershaw and Voudrach spoke with the youth about firearm safety. The youth were taught how to safely and legally store firearms and ammunition. In addition, they were taught how to safely carry and use a firearm.

Harvest:

Despite the fact that we spent a lot of time hiking and climbing pingos to search for caribou, we did not see any until the day we were departing. Unfortunately, there was no harvest. Due to weather and tides, very little time was spent in the boats. During the one evening that was spent in the boat, the tide was extremely low. As a result, the search for caribou ended prematurely. In addition to the low tide, the RCMP boat began having motor trouble.

Career Development:

The students are at an age where they are beginning to prepare for their future careers; therefore, Kershaw and Voudrach decided that they would speak to them about their educational background as well as their careers. Kershaw spoke to the youth about his career with the RCMP, while Voudrach spoke of her career as a Renewable Resource Officer II. The goal was to get the youth thinking about their education and future careers.

Return Trip:

The crew was scheduled to return back to Tuktoyaktuk on Friday August 13, 2010. The day started out so well. As everyone prepared to depart for Tuktoyaktuk, two caribou were observed. However, there was no harvest and the Environment and Natural Resources outboard motor failed. Weather and outboard motor failure prevented the crew from traveling back to Tuktoyaktuk on schedule. The following day, Saturday, August 14, Voudrach made arrangements to have James Pokiak travel out to Siglialuk to transport the youth back to Tuktoyaktuk. Thankfully, Davie Krengnektak also came out with his boat. Pokiak and Krengnektak safely transported the youth, Willie Carpenter and Sam Pingo back to Tuktoyaktuk. Dillon and Voudrach traveled back to Tuktoyaktuk with Kershaw. Although the trip back to Tuktoyaktuk with the RCMP boat was long (due to engine trouble) and tiring, everyone made it back safely.



Second Trip - McKinley Bay

At the end of the Siglialuk trip, there were still funds available for the program. Therefore, RRO Voudrach prepared for another trip with the youth. Chucky Gruben and Jonas Lucas were hired to transport the youth and Voudrach to McKinley Bay to harvest caribou. The plan was to harvest enough caribou for the youth to take home and share with their family and whomever else they chose.

On Friday, August 27, 2010, the crew loaded their gear into the boats and set off for McKinley Bay (Estimated 75 miles or 120 kms from Tuktoyaktuk via boat). Just as the crew was arriving at the camp location (69° 52'18"N 131° 06' 50"W), a caribou was observed on the beach. Already, a harvest was looking promising. The evening was spent setting camp and cooking over a camp fire.

A Successful Harvest:

Saturday, August 28, 2010, Chuck Gruben and Jonas Lucas went for a drive with a quad and harvested two caribou. The youth observed and learned as Gruben field dressed the first caribou. The youth then took a turn at the second caribou. The caribou was cut up and hung to preserve the meat.

Sunday, August 29, 2010, Gruben and Lucas harvested five more caribou. All meat was cut and hung over night.

Monday morning, August 30, 2010, everyone was woken up early to prepare for the trip back to Tuktoyaktuk.

The 2010 Canoe Harvesting Program has proven to be a success. The youth were given valuable lessons throughout the program. They have developed skills and proven that they are capable of surviving in the wilderness during the summer months. The youth were awesome and have impressed us enormously.

The youth were taught Bear Safety, Boat/Water Safety, Navigational Skills, Traditional Knowledge, Career Development and Firearm Safety. The youth were also made aware of the NWT Caribou Regulations. They were taught how to field dress an animal and how to care for the meat in the field during the summer months where freezers are inaccessible. The youth really enjoyed their time and were all very ecstatic with the idea of developing a similar program in a winter setting.



Additional Images:



Traditional Knowledge is an important component of the Take a Kid Harvesting Program.









Acknowledgements:

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Tuktoyaktuk RCMP Detachment for the support they have given to this program. I would especially like to thank Constable Benjamin Kershaw for helping me plan and prepare for the trip. I would not have been able to do this without your help.

Thank you to the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation Board of Directors, your support meant a lot to me. I am definitely looking forward to working with you again in the future.

Special thanks to Eddie Dillon and Davie Krengnektak for allowing us to use their cozy cabins. Thanks to our local guides, Eddie Dillon, Willie Carpenter and Sam Pingo for sharing your knowledge with the youth.

Thank you to the youth that participated in the program. You have impressed me and I hope to have you on another program.

Very special thanks to Jonas Lucas and Chuck Gruben for taking the youth and me on a successful harvest.

Thanks to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment for funding the program.

Last but definitely not least, thank you to Steve Moore, Wildlife Biologist, EBA. Your contribution to the program helped us out a lot.

