



CONSERVATION ACTION TEAM
STUDENT APPLICATION PACKAGE
2019

The following forms must be included in your application package:

- the **Student Application** filled out by you
- the **Parent/Guardian Permission**, signed and read by your parent or guardian
- the **Nomination of Applicant** filled out and returned in a sealed envelope.

Please send completed forms to:

C.A.T. Application
c/o Youth Programs Coordinator
Government of Yukon
Conservation Officer Services
Box 2703 (V-18)
Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2C6

or fax to 867-393-6206

Applications must be received at Yukon Department of Environment by May 13, 2019

For more info, contact:

Morris Lamrock, Youth Programs Coordinator

Ph: 867-667-3041 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 3041 • morris.lamrock@gov.yk.ca

Selection process

Your application will be reviewed by representatives of the Yukon Department of Environment. Final selections will be made on the content of your Statement of Interest and the Nomination Form. Please be aware that we often have more students apply than we can accommodate.

We'll let you know by early June if you've been accepted. If you have, we'll send you program schedules, a medical form to fill out, a list of things you need to bring, and information about camp fees.

Camp fees

These are due after you've been accepted, so don't send anything with the application. (Alternate arrangements may be made for families unable to pay the full fee).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Conservation Action Team?

The Conservation Action Team is a fun and educational summer camp program for Yukon students *who are self-motivated to participate*. The program offers outdoor adventure, learning about the environment, and hands-on conservation work. The Action Team is a mobile program, and participants travel to different parts of Yukon.

Who can be in the team?

Any Yukon boy or girl going into Grade 7-10 in **September 2019** (i.e., in Grade 6-9 this spring) may apply. You also have to be cooperative and willing and physically capable of doing strenuous outdoor activity.

What will I be doing if I join the team?

Adventure: Since team activities will be all outdoors, you'll be learning how to camp safely and comfortably. You'll also learn and use outdoor skills such as canoeing, hiking, bear awareness and fire arm safety. Each team will do a wilderness trip in a remote area of the Yukon.

Environmental education: Through fun, hands-on activities, you'll be learning about: ecology, wildlife management, plants and animals, mining, agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, trapping and First Nations views of the environment.

Conservation work: Each team may take on a service project like assisting biologists with field work, doing cleanup or helping a farmer.

How long are the camps and when are they?

Cheechako (going into Grade 7-8) 8 days
Cheechako I: **June 27 - July 4, 2019**
Cheechako II: **July 16 - 23, 2019**

Sourdough (going into Grade 9-10) 10 days
Sourdough: **August 6 - 15, 2019**

Each team will have 10 participants (with a balance of boys and girls) and three qualified instructors.

Is there a camp fee?

Participants are required to pay a fee to help cover expenses. The nominal cost is \$100.00 for Cheechako camps and \$150.00 for the Sourdough session. If you and your parents are unable to pay this amount, subsidies may be available!

Do I need lots of fancy equipment?

No. Tents, raincoats, rain pants, backpacks and other equipment are supplied. All you'll need is warm, durable clothes, a few personal items, and some sturdy footwear. A personal sleeping bag and sleeping pad are recommended though we can supply both too. We'll send you a list.

I live in one of the communities: can I be in the program?

Of course! All eligible Yukon youth are encouraged to apply, from Old Crow to Watson Lake. In fact, some spaces on the Team are reserved for students outside Whitehorse. Sessions usually start in Whitehorse. Depending on our trip route, we may be able to pick you up along the way, or if the cost to get you to Whitehorse is especially high (e.g., Old Crow) we may be able to help cover your travel costs.

Who will be leading the team?

Each team will have one experienced instructor and two summer student assistant instructors. They will have considerable outdoor experience and be fully certified in first aid and emergency response techniques. Instructors are chosen for their ability to lead a safe, fun and educational adventure program. Guest resource people will also be on hand from time-to-time to give instruction in their field of expertise.

How are team members selected?

All applications are screened by Department of Environment employees. Selection is based on a Statement of Interest and the content of a Nomination Form, and an optional personal interview. The applicant must clearly show they genuinely wish to attend (not just sent by parents or other guardian).



GENERAL INFORMATION (PRINT)		
Name	Date of birth YYYY/MM/DD	Gender <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F
Mailing address	Postal code	
Physical address (if different from above)		
Phone	Email	
School attended this year	Grade	
Aboriginal ancestry: Yukon First Nations?* <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
<small>*Optional - you do not need to answer the above question in order to apply to camp. Information provided will be used for statistical purposes and preference may also be given to First Nations candidates.</small>		
Have you participated in a CAT camp before? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (If yes, when?) _____		
Have you applied before and been unsuccessful? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT (to be read and signed by the applicant)

I understand that if I am accepted into the Conservation Action Team, I will be undertaking physical and educational challenges in the Yukon outdoors. I really want to be a part of this camp, and I agree to act **with respect** toward other team members, my instructors, the environment and myself.

The following are the main rules of the Conservation Action Team:

- 1) Instructors are responsible for program safety; their instructions are to be followed at all times.
- 2) Participants are not allowed to leave the group without permission from the instructors.
- 3) Swimming is permitted only in designated areas and only under the supervision of team leaders.
- 4) Personal flotation devices must be worn in all watercraft by individual participants.
- 5) No alcohol or non-prescription drugs allowed (including tobacco) and all prescription drugs must be reported to your Team leader.
- 6) Leave all personal electronic entertainment gizmos (i.e. videos games, cell phones, wide screen televisions) at home.

I agree to abide by the above rules, and any others that may be established by team leaders. I understand I can be sent home at my parents' expense for not cooperating fully or endangering myself or others. I will participate as much as I am able in all camp activities.

Applicant signature

Date

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

In this section, you (the student) are asked to write a short explanation of what attracts you to the Conservation Action Team, and **why you really want to be in the CAT program** (no more than 200 words).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Program preferred (check one):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Cheechako I (currently Grades 6-7) June 27 – July 4 | → | Second choice – if we are full for your choice of Cheechako camp are you able to participate in the other camp?
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |
| <input type="radio"/> Cheechako II (currently Grades 6-7) July 16 – 23 | | |
| <input type="radio"/> Sourdough (currently Grades 8 -9) August 6 – 15 | | |

How did you hear about the Conservation Action Team?

- Teacher Newspaper Radio Friend Poster Yukon.ca website
 Conservation officer Classroom presentation Other (specify) _____



Dear parent/guardian:

The Conservation Action Team summer program, run by the Yukon Department of Environment, combines outdoor adventure, environmental education and conservation related activities. Participants have fun while learning about stewardship and cooperation within a group camping experience. We will go to great lengths to help every child feel welcome and safe in our care. And it is extremely important that it is your child's choice to be in this program. Our experience has shown that if a child does not want to participate their behaviours can lessen the enjoyment for others and may even cause safety issues.

While the Yukon Department of Environment takes all necessary and reasonable precautions to prevent accidents, it is important for parents to be informed about the Conservation Action Team and understand the potential risks involved. We urge you to read the information brochure outlining the program and the **Description: Activities, Responsibilities and Potential Risks** on the reverse of this page.

PARENT PERMISSION	
Applicant name	Parent name
<p>I hereby give my consent to my son/daughter participating in the Conservation Action Team summer program run by the Yukon Department of Environment. I have read the Description: Activities, Responsibilities and Potential Risks on the reverse of this form, and by signing below, acknowledge the potential risks of the program.</p> <p>I have also listed below any medical constraints which may affect the full participation of my son/daughter in the Conservation Action Team program.</p>	
Signature of parent	Date YYYY / MM / DD
Parent email	Daytime phone number(s)

MEDICAL CONSTRAINTS

Are there any medical (mental/physical/emotional) reasons that your son/daughter might not be able to take part in all activities? Please list below. (Note: these will not necessarily prevent your child from participating in our CAT camps.) A medical form must be completed if your child is selected for the program.

DESCRIPTION: ACTIVITIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POTENTIAL RISKS

The **Conservation Action Team (CAT)** provides youth going into Grades 7-10 with an opportunity to learn about the Yukon's environment while experiencing outdoor adventure and participating in conservation-related projects.

Group leaders are responsible for the safety and educational elements of the program. CAT leaders have considerable outdoor experience and are qualified in first aid and emergency response techniques. The program will, however, involve travel through wilderness areas, remote from urban amenities and medical services. In case of serious accident, evacuation to a hospital may be delayed due to isolated conditions.

The CAT program uses land and water environments containing a number of potential hazards. Extremes of temperature and weather may be experienced. Mountain and forest travel may subject participants to possible rock falls, steep slopes and cliffs, and rough and broken terrain. The use of canoes, kayaks and small motor boats increase the chance of immersion and hypothermia. Students must use approved safety equipment and follow procedures outlined by instructors.

The program also incorporates activities related to the various uses of the environment, including hunting, trapping, fishing, mining, tourism, forestry, and agriculture. The traditional harvest and economic activities of Yukon First Nations people will be covered. Experiences related to these topics may include visits to fish camps, farms and mining operations. Instruction in the safe handling of firearms may be given. Students will only be able to use firearms under strict supervision.

Proper clothing and equipment are necessary to ensure safety and comfort. The department is providing some high quality outerwear and equipment to minimize risk. Students are responsible for proper use and maintenance of supplied equipment.

Conservation work may be one element of the Conservation Action Team program. Should this work entail the use of potentially hazardous tools, the Team participant will be fully trained in its use.

Student cooperation is necessary for a safe and enjoyable program. Failure to comply with leaders' instructions may result in injury to the student or others. Team members who exhibit negative or uncooperative behaviour that may endanger themselves or others may be sent home at the parent/guardian's expense.

Possession and/or consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco are strictly forbidden. Participants are required to disclose all physical and psychological ailments and medications prior to the commencement of program activities.

Note to applicant: This form must be filled out by an adult in your community who knows you and can tell us if you are suited to participation in the Conservation Action Team program. The person can be a teacher, First Nations official, a scout/guide leader, etc. This person must not be related to you. Please make sure they have information about the program, and a copy of your **Statement of Interest**.

Dear nominator:

The Conservation Action Team (CAT) is an outdoor summer program for students going into Grades 7-10 (or equivalent level in home education). Team members will travel to different parts of the Yukon by motorized vehicles on land and water, by canoe and on foot. Activities will combine adventure (wilderness skills, canoe and backpacking trips), environmental education (reflecting a wide range of environmental values, from subsistence to mining), and conservation work.

The **Cheechako** program (Grades 7 and 8) is eight days in length and the **Sourdough** program (Grades 9 and 10) covers ten to twelve days. Participants must be able to meet the challenges of a physically demanding wilderness experience. They must also be prepared to be away from home and urban amenities for the duration of the Team program. It is extremely important that the applicant is self motivated and **wants to be in this program**; negative attitudes and uncooperative behaviour can lessen the enjoyment and learning for others and may even present safety issues. Please consider these things while filling out this form.

For the purposes of confidentiality, please return the completed form in a separate sealed envelope. The applicant will include this with his/her completed forms.

Thanks for taking the time in support of this child and the fostering of stewardship! Please call me at 667-3041 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 3041 if you have questions. You can obtain more information at our web site: Yukon.ca/cat



Applicant's name: _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION	
Name	Title
Affiliation	
Address	
Phone	Email

EVALUATION OF APPLICANT		
How long have you known the applicant?		
In what capacity have you known this person?		
Please rank the applicant in the following areas by checking the appropriate spot:		
Ability to cooperate with others		
Low	Average	High
Leadership/stewardship		
Low	Average	High
Comfort in new situations		
Low	Average	High
Interest in outdoor activity		
Low	Average	High
Interest in wildlife and environment		
Low	Average	High
Overall suitability for this program		
Low	Average	High
Additional comments:		

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE YUKON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT BY MAY 13, 2019