



Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest Final Report

Overview

This Spring marked the 21st year of Inside Education programs at Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest. Support and commitment from the Government of Alberta the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Husky Energy, and the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) made this season, not only possible, but a success!

During the months of May and June 2018, schools from Calgary and surrounding areas visited the Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest for one-day hands-on, experiential learning programs. This season, Inside Education educators provided these programs to students in Grades 4, 6 and 7, giving students the opportunity to learn about forest ecosystems, sustainable forest management, stewardship, and so much more! Cumulatively, programs were delivered to 825 students and 135 teachers and parent volunteers for a total of **960** participants.



Program Statistics

| Program | # of classes | # of students | # of teachers/volunteers |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Elementary | 29 | 701 | 114 |
| Jr. High School | 7 | 179 | 21 |
| | 36 | 880 | 135 |

Participating Schools

This season at Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest there was a mix of both returning teachers and schools as well as some teachers that had never visited the demonstration forest before. New teachers (and their students) were, pleased with the demonstration forest and all of the experiential learning that took place. Teachers that had attended the trip before were able to convey their passion and knowledge about forest ecosystems and land use to their students, while Inside Education staff led the day-long program. Below is a list of all of the schools that participated in the 2018 Spring field season, many of which have already reserved their spot for Spring 2019!

- Ascension of Our Lord School
- Bridlewood School
- École St. Teresa of Calcutta
- Elboya School
- Heritage Christian Academy
- Nose Creek School
- Peter Lougheed School
- R.T. Alderman Middle School
- St. Mark Elementary School
- Turner Valley School



- Holy Cross Collegiate, Strathmore
- Valley View School
- Marion Carson Elementary School
- Wildwood School

Program Feedback & Evaluations

Upon the completion of each day program, teachers received a follow up email from Inside Education staff in which they were invited to evaluate their experience at Jumpingpound, starting with pre-trip details and covering all aspects of the day. Below is a summary of the feedback that was collected following the completion of the Jumpingpound program.

Program Characteristics

| | Ineffective | Somewhat Effective | Effective | Highly Effective |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Pre-trip communication | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Teacher's field program guide | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| Inside Education staff | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Program engagement | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Program curriculum connections | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Program variety | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Use of the demonstration forest as a learning space | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 |

Program Expectations and Delivery

| | Not Meeting | Meeting | Exceeding |
|--|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Linking to curriculum objectives | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Opportunity for low-cost programming | 0 | 6 | 4 |
| Exposing students to numerous values of Alberta's forest | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Providing a professionally led outdoor education | 0 | 3 | 7 |

Participant Feedback

“Absolutely a fantastic review of the Grade 6 Trees an Forests curriculum. Most students found the trip interesting and extremely positive. Many appreciated touching on the concepts in an authentic environment.”

Simon Kassem, Nose Creek School



“So great that students had time in the forest where they could just breathe and investigate the world they live in. This program provided our students with this opportunity while connecting directly to the program of studies making it a good program.”

Tanya Faulkner, Bridlewood School

“Thanks so much for arranging this program again this year. I think this is a great program and really makes the learning for the students come alive ! The program touches on so much that the students hear about in the classroom and now they can actually see it too. We missed the program so much last year, so we are glad it has returned. Our guides were also SO good with the students. They knew how to get their attention quickly and understood how to break up instruction quickly to keep them engaged ! Great day!” ~ Maura Lewis, Elboya School

Site & Seasonal Updates

Overall, this season was a success in terms of student education, new staff education, site experiences, weather, and of course fun and experiential programs! Below is a list of some of the successes in more detail as well as some of the challenges that staff faced.



Successes

- To start the season, we hosted a teacher site visit evening so that new teachers could familiarize themselves with the area.
- The use of new programming spaces, allowing for new discoveries and providing rest time to other areas of the forest.
- Kick off of the Inside Education Citizen Science survey, allowing students the opportunity to participate in an experiment and assess their own impact on the land.
- A mix of grades 4, 6, and 7 students and classes.
- An early season visit from an Alberta Agriculture and Forestry forester who spoke to students about wildfire, stewardship, and forest ecosystems.

Challenges

- Despite the addition of signs, arrows, additional directions, and a teacher site visit evening, schools still got lost on their bus ride to the meeting area. We plan to increase signage to combat this issue for next season.
- A long winter that resulted in snow sticking around well into Spring time!
- Maintaining clean and suitable facilities on a public, outdoor site.

Partnership and Support

Many thanks to the following for supporting Jumpingpound Spring 2018:

