

SPRING 2022

Student Forest Field Trips



Inside Education's forest education field sites are located throughout Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Territories and the homes of the Métis Nation on the land known today as Alberta. We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples who have lived on and traveled through these lands from time immemorial through to the present.

Overview

Working together with our *Forestry Futures Alliance* partners CAREERS: The Next Generation and Work Wild, Inside Education returned to the forest this spring for the first “normal” field trip season in many years. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, a general return to pre-pandemic learning experiences enabled Inside Education to refine student forestry field trip programs, engage students in interactive and hands-on forest education, and work at seven different forestry education field trip sites across Alberta. Students and teachers from urban, rural and Indigenous communities across Alberta all participated in programming at:

- Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Area
- Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area
- Des Crossley Demonstration Forest
- Evergreen Learning and Innovation Centre
- Gregoire Lake Provincial Park
- Huestis Demonstration Forest
- Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest

More than 4,100 students and nearly 200 teachers participated in programming from May - June 2022.

We are pleased to share the results in the pages that follow.

“The activities were great. The instruction was amazing and the students really enjoyed it!”

- Meryl Roberts Teacher, Highlands School, Edmonton



Participants and Program Impact

A total of **4,163 students** from **196 classes** at **81 unique schools** attended forest field programming at Inside Education field sites between May 2 and June 30, 2022. Participant breakdown can be seen below:

	Elementary		Junior High		Senior High	
	Classes	Students	Classes	Students	Classes	Students
Cooking Lake / Bunchberry	43	975	8	138	3	56
Des Crossley	44	973	0	0	1	18
Evergreen	12	261	4	65	1	26
Gregoire Lake	15	343	1	16	0	0
Huestis	5	102	2	39	0	0
Jumpingpound	35	730	17	360	5	61
TOTAL	155	3,400	31	602	10	161

Inside Education would also like to acknowledge the **637 teachers and adult volunteers** whose dedication and support helped make the programs a success!

Schools visited student forestry field trip sites from **34** different communities across Alberta:

- Airdrie
- Beaumont
- Bezanson
- Bonnyville
- Botha
- Calgary
- Clyde
- Cochrane
- Condor
- Crooked Creek
- Delburne
- Didsbury
- Edmonton
- Edson
- Fort Assiniboine
- Fort McMurray
- Grande Prairie
- Grovedale
- Hanna
- Innisfail
- Lacombe
- Leduc
- Red Deer
- Sexsmith
- Sherwood Park
- Spruce Grove
- Standard
- Stettler
- Sundre
- Sylvan Lake
- Three Hills
- Turner Valley
- Valhalla Centre
- Whitecourt



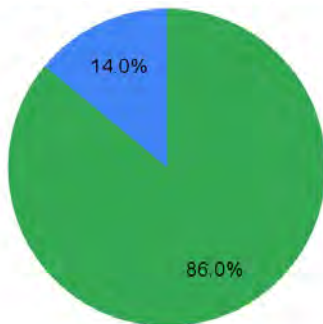
Program Feedback

After each field program, a survey is sent to participating teachers so Inside Education can evaluate the effectiveness of our student forestry field trip programming. The charts below summarize the responses of participants.

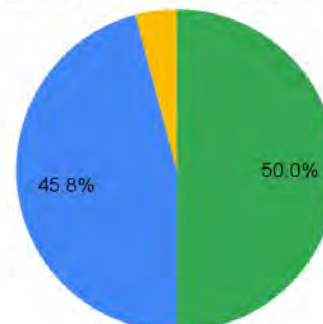
Overall, the responses indicate that our forest field programs continue to provide curriculum-linked and hands-on, engaging forest field programming for students and that the field staff and sites play a vital role in delivering effective programming for students.

Question: In your opinion, how well are we meeting the following program goals with the forest field program?

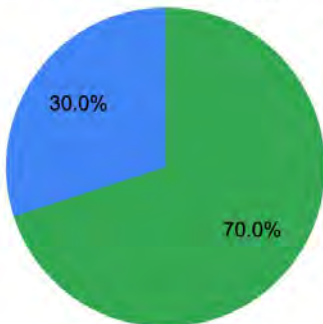
Opportunity for low-cost programming



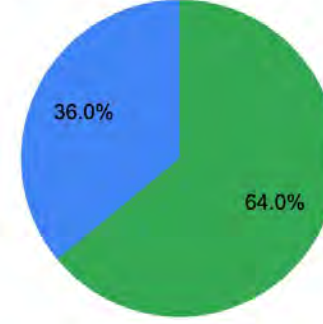
Linking to curriculum objectives



Providing a professionally led outdoor education program



Exposing students to numerous values of Alberta's forests



Average overall value rating of forest field programming:

8.9/10

“The program had great opportunities to see a natural area and discuss its relevance to Albertans.”
- Alan Tannas, Teacher, Patricia Heights School



In summary, the post-program surveys indicate that teachers continue to value the opportunity to participate in no-cost, curriculum-linked programming about forests and the environment in locally-accessible forested areas. Inside Education field programs, according to the majority of respondents, are considered professional, interesting and an engaging programs that bring curriculum objectives to life for students.

The survey responses will also be used in continuing to improve our forest field programming for future seasons. The feedback we receive from teacher participants is invaluable in the design of activities to best meet the needs of Alberta teachers and students.

Summary and Futures

Inside Education and our Forestry Futures Alliance partners have been thrilled with the opportunity to return to normalcy by offering a full forestry field trip season throughout the 2021-22 school year at our seven sites across Alberta. The demand for hands-on, place-based programming remains high, especially as teachers moved towards a reduction in screen time. The value and importance of connecting students to the environment around us was missed greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming school year, Inside Education and our Forestry Futures Alliance partners expect a full return to normal, with field trips province-wide, teacher professional development programming, forestry career-focused events, deep-dive experiential learning, and student internships/apprenticeship programs. We collectively look forward to supporting teachers and inspiring students to consider careers in the forestry sector and the stewardship of our forest resources in Alberta.

Contact

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