



# KA'A'GEE TU FIRST NATION COMPOST SUMMER CAMP

Wilfrid Laurier University students and Ecology North staff collaboratively organized a Compost Summer Camp in Ka'a'gee Tu/K'ágee Tue First Nation (Kakisa) in July 2024. The camp provided educational programming related to composting for youth in the community.



# ABOUT THE CAMP

Wilfrid Laurier University students and Ecology North staff hosted a 3-day Compost Summer Camp for Ka'a'gee Tu/K'ágee Tue First Nation (KTFN) youth in Kakisa from July 8-10, 2024.

In response to limited youth programming opportunities during summer months, this camp intended to offer structured programming for youth in the summer that was both fun and informative. The program aimed to complement the composting and food waste reduction work that Wilfrid Laurier University is doing with KTFN.

The camp saw 5 youth participants in total who attended the three days. The camp covered a wide range of activities related to compost, reducing food waste, and interacting with nature. Youth and camp leads created a “compost experiment” together, putting their food waste scraps from snacks and meals into a glass jar to monitor the decomposition process. They also played variations of “compost tag”, which taught youth how composting happens in a fun and interactive way. Other activities included flower pounding, which uses natural dyes to upcycle old textiles; flower pot painting; and an outdoor scavenger hunt.



Exploring the KTFN community greenhouse



Painting compost-themed art

# ABOUT THE CAMP

Two community feasts were also organized as part of the camp. The first community dinner on July 9th saw an attendance of 15 people and the community lunch on July 10th saw 30 people in attendance. The youth were active participants in helping to facilitate these feasts, working alongside the WLU-Ecology North camp leads in the kitchen, chopping vegetables, setting up tables, and making the stew. Importantly, two youth also brought a member of the team to different houses to invite community members to the feast.

One of the significant successes the team saw was having youth step up and take the lead in facilitating programming during the camp. For example, the team ran an outdoor scavenger hunt that asked youth not only to find the items on a list (such as foods that can be harvested on the land), but also asked the youth to give camp leaders a tour of the greenhouses, gardens, and compost pile. This type of youth-led learning promoted leadership skills while also developing a deeper understanding of one type of food production within the community.

The camp was a resounding success thanks to the collaboration between WLU and Ecology North. Mahsi Cho to the organizers and participants for three days of compost programming and fun!



Outdoor scavenger hunt



Enjoying the view of the Kakisa River

# COMPOST LEARNING & FUN



From top left to right: Flower pot painting, upcycling old textiles with natural dye, playing compost tag, preparing fruit salad and banana splits!

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?**

PLEASE EMAIL ANDREW SPRING  
ASPRING@WLU.CA