



To Swim and Speak with Salmon - Youth Advocacy Training Program

This Indigenous-led project is recruiting Indigenous youth from the Yukon, Alaska, and British Columbia, to train them in Indigenous place-based knowledge, conservation, leadership, public speaking, governance, politics, and advocacy, as well as empower them to guide community-based research methods. Through collaboration with Indigenous and First Nations Knowledge Holders, Spiritual Leaders, Salmon People, Indigenous salmon biologists, and managers, the youth will gain knowledge through stories of salmon culture and relationships.

This program will support visits throughout the Yukon, Alaska, and British Columbia, gaining place-based salmon knowledge and learning about high seas fishing, fish farming, dams, hatcheries, climate change, mining, and the devastating things that have happened to salmon historically. During subsequent phases, youth will be supported to connect with knowledge holders and political leaders to learn how to advance and advocate for salmon conservation grounded in place-based Indigenous Knowledge.

The project aims to create a cohort of Indigenous youth equipped with the knowledge and skills to address challenges facing Pacific salmon, and continued messaging of Yukon First Nations leadership and citizen concern for salmon, while prioritizing Indigenous rights and responsibilities to salmon relatives. Through this initiative, youth will be trained and empowered to lead and support Yukon First Nations to live sacred obligations to Swim and Speak with Salmon through our shared stewardship responsibilities.

Who Should Apply?

We are seeking a maximum of 15 youth who are 18-35 years old, including up to 13 who are Indigenous and a maximum of 2 who are non-Indigenous with strong long-term place-based ties to the Yukon. These youth should already have a strong skill set and motivation to start from, such as those who have leadership and communication skills or may be employed in their Nation or within the community.

What Will You Gain?

Learn about Indigenous place-based knowledge, conservation principles, leadership, research, and advocacy skills. Collaborate with Indigenous leaders and experts to understand the cultural significance and challenges facing Pacific salmon. Travel throughout the Pacific salmon's range and visit with Knowledge Holders. Become a Land Guardian to advocate for



salmon relations in the Yukon.

Instructions

Please fill out the application form below and submit when you are ready. We are also happy to be flexible with application format depending on your needs, comfort, and interests. We welcome your creativity, including art, song, or other forms of expression to share your interest in this program. Please feel free to hand write your responses and take a photo, type them separately, express your responses visually, or audio/video record your responses and email them to us.

If you are in need of support in any way to complete this application, please let us know at swimandspeakwithsalmon@gmail.com or message us on Facebook. We can meet with you to help you in typing, recording, or sending in a submission. Please also share this widely!

Requirements

- Passport or intention to acquire a passport
- 2-year commitment with 6-8 weeks of *paid* training over the course of the each year
- Participation in training from June 9-15, 2024
- Participation in week-long trip in early-mid August 2024
- Support to go to Summer Gatherings across the territory.
- Possibility of a paid trip to Ottawa in early Winter 2024

Deadline

Sunday, May 12th, 2024

* Indicates required question



The Basics and Contact Information

This section requests basic information so we can communicate with you about your application.

1. Name (First and Last) *

2. Email *

3. Phone Number *

4. Date of Birth *

Example: January 7, 2019

5. Which Indigenous/First Nation are you a member of? If you are non-Indigenous, please indicate that below. *

6. What is your gender identity? *

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary / non-conforming
- Prefer not to specify
- Other:



7. Do you have a valid Canadian passport? *

This passport must not expire before the end of 2024

- Yes
- No
- I will get one

Learning About You

Please respond in short written paragraphs in the boxes below.

OR

Respond to any or all of the questions in an audio or video format and attach the file to the response box at the bottom of the page.

If you need support in any way to complete this application, please let us know at swimandspeakwithsalmon@gmail.com. We can support in typing, recording, or sending in a submission.

8. Why are you applying for this program?

What specific aspects of the program excite you, and how do you foresee it aligning with your personal and professional goals? Share insights into why you believe participating in this program would be valuable for your growth and development.

9. What personal strength would you bring to the program?

Tell us how you have used this strength in past experiences and how you will connect it to the program's goals and objectives.



10. How do you see your role or the role of young people in salmon conservation? Consider potential strategies or actions that young people can take to contribute to salmon.

11. What has been your experience in advocacy or conservation to date?
What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them? Reflect on the impact of your actions and the lessons you learned from this experience.

12. This work can be emotionally and socially challenging. Do you feel like you are in a position to take that on or be in a position of leadership (with support)?
Reflect on your past experiences and skills that you believe prepare you for such a role.

13. If there was a story from your community that you could share with the world, what would it be, and why?
Explain why this particular story deserves broader recognition and how it embodies the values, traditions, challenges, and aspirations of your community.

14. Are there any life experiences that enable you to see the world from a unique perspective?
Share insights into how your history, cultural, or community upbringing contribute to your distinctive perspective, enrich your understanding of diverse perspectives, and inform your approach to various challenges and opportunities.

15. Are there differences in abilities that we should take into consideration in designing a learning setting that are effective and enjoyable for you?
Discuss any specific accommodations or approaches you believe would be effective in creating this safe environment for you.