

Robert Service School Grade 8-9 Klondike Experiential Education Program (KEEP)



2023-2024



Program Focus:

KEEP is a one-semester integrated studies program focusing on land- and water-based learning experiences. Using the Big Ideas of the BC Grade 8 and 9 Social Studies curriculum, KEEP uses the context of the central Yukon, its settlement and colonization to investigate cultural, social, political and environmental change, primarily through the lens of privilege and power. The experiences provide first-hand examples of historical and contemporary contacts, conflicts and collaborations in this region.

Program Description:

- 2023/2024 School year will be a pilot year for the program. We are drawing on resources from existing programs in Yukon as well as local expertise.
- Program length: Semester 1, 2023-2024 (August 18-January 15)
- Students return to their grade level class for Semester 2, starting mid-January, 2024
- Program Participants: Maximum of 16 students from Grade 8 and 9 self-selecting for KEEP out of the 38 students currently enrolled in Grades 7 and 8
- Students choosing not to enrol or are not selected will be in a parallel Grade 8 & 9 class covering the same learning requirements with different classroom teachers for each subject (for example, Grade 8 & 9 English and Social Studies with Ms Heldman or Ms Hinton).
- If spaces are available, encouraged participation of students from other schools, specifically JV Clark (Mayo), Chief Zzeh Gittlit School (Old Crow) and Eliza Van Bibber (Pelly Crossing)
- One lead-teacher for KEEP (from our current staffing), Angela Edmunds, supported by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in personnel (Elders, Heritage Officers, Culture Education Liaison Co-ordinators (CELCs) TH Farm; community specialists (Conservation Officers, Renewable Resources), and Outdoor Specialists, who will accompany the trips.
- Integrated Curriculum addressing the following BC Curriculum Subjects: (1) Social Studies, (2) English Language Arts, (3) Health and Physical Education, (4) Arts Education, (5) Applied, Design, Skills and Technology (ADST) and (6) First Nations Studies.
- Both field and classroom-based experiences (classroom time will be mainly in one designated classroom, as well as other classrooms when available).
- We're still in the process of planning Culture and Experiential experiences. We anticipate a minimum of 3 multi-day trips, which would include at least 1 paddling trip on the Yukon River.
- Skills-based training in preparation for back-country and water-based learning.
- The follow-up to the 2023-2024 KEEP is a 2024-2025 KEEP for Grade 8 and 9, but focusing on Science, Mathematics, Careers and ADST in an integrated manner. There

would be some overlap in contexts and opportunities for the two-year cycle, but the second-year KEEP would have different curriculum emphases and place more emphasis on leadership training.

Entry into the Program:

- Students and families need to determine if their child is a good 'fit' for the program.
- Students need to apply for the program, completing the necessary documentation.
- A good level of fitness will allow for a wider range of activities to be undertaken safely. Students who are unfit represent a potential hazard to themselves and their fellow students because they are at a higher risk of injury or accident.
- Willing and motivated to participate in all program activities. Full participation is mandatory.
- Behaviour compliance is vital in KEEP, and we will follow RSS's behaviour support and management policy to safeguard against unsafe behaviours toward self or others – aggressive, abusive, destructive, illegal, and refusal to comply.
- Selections to the program will be based on suitability criteria.

Submission Details:

- Submission to the office by Friday, March 24th, 2023 by 3:20 pm

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed form
- Personal letter
- Personal Reference
- Teacher Reference

KEEP PROGRAM COSTS

Mandatory Course Cost

Each student is required to pay a mandatory course fee of \$200.00. This fee helps cover the miscellaneous costs. **This fee is due during the first week of school, and payable by Cash or Cheque only,** made out to Robert Service School. You can include it in the signed documents. No e-transfer, sorry about the inconvenience.

Food Costs

Students are responsible for some of their own food on all KEEP trips. Generally speaking, these costs should not really exceed the cost of eating at home as long as the student has planned well.

KEEP Equipment List

Student Outdoor Equipment

IMPORTANT NOTES

Students are to attempt to have the following personal equipment list in their possession for their semester in KEEP. Don't feel like you have to buy everything on the list. If for any reason, you are not able to get any of the items, please ensure the teacher knows in order to provide ample opportunity to have items in place to allow for a safe and successful experience.

- Do not purchase any cotton clothing for the outdoors. "Cotton kills" due to its hypothermia inducing qualities.
- Borrow equipment on this list from friends/ family or find good quality second-hand items
- The KEEP program and TH Education has some gear that can be loaned to students for the semester if necessary. Supplies are limited so please try to borrow as much from friends/ family members as possible. Contact Ms. Edmunds in advance of the semester start date, if you can not secure any of the items listed below.
- If you are uncertain about a product you are acquiring or purchasing, contact the KEEP teacher

EQUIPMENT

√	Item	Notes/ Suggested Brands/ Models
	1 whistle on a lanyard	Fox 40 pea-less whistle is best
	1 pocket knife	Small Leatherman or Swiss Army knife (single blade is good)
	2x 100% synthetic or wool long underwear top	Any snug fitting base layer that does NOT contain cotton or silk (1 aerobic activity, 1 for camp)
	2x 100% synthetic or wool long underwear bottom	Any snug fitting base layer that does NOT contain cotton or silk (1 aerobic activity, 1 for camp)
	Synthetic pants	Nylon/ polyester blends are ideal / quick dry pants
	Multi-purpose shoes or boots	Ensure that shoes/ boots are broken in and do not give blisters; shoes will be used for cycling, hiking and camp
	Winter boots	Warm, sturdy and water resistant; (Uggs not permitted)
	Rubber boots	Insulated rubber boots are ideal; non-insulated boots require a warm insole
	3 pairs synthetic or wool blend socks	Anything that does NOT contain cotton
	synthetic or wool long sleeve shirt	Comfortable shirt for trips and outdoor activities
	1 x synthetic or wool insulating layer	Fleece jackets or sweaters are lightweight and pack well; wool is also warm when wet but heavier and less packable; NO COTTON!
	Waterproof rain pants	Rubber is more durable but less breathable and less packable; Gore-tex or similar systems are more expensive and more fragile but lighter and more breathable
	Waterproof rain jacket	Same as for waterproof rain pants; jacket must have hood
	Snow pants	Insulated snow pants or shell pants (i.e. breathable rain pants) plus an insulating layer underneath also work well for the winter
	Winter jacket	Down jacket is ideal because it can be packed on spring/ summer trips but any insulated jacket will do; hoods are important

	3 x Mitts and gloves with water-resistant shell cover	Inexpensive mitts are always warmer than expensive gloves; no cotton; shell cover that resists water is essential for both gloves and mitts (note that the shell and liner do not need to separate), 1 of these should be work gloves
	brimmed hat/baseball hat	to shield sun or rain
	2 x toques	Non-cotton variety that have good coverage (1 aerobic activity, 1 for camp)
	2 x neckwarmer	Buff or balaclava are ideal; Non-cotton wrap-style also works (1 aerobic activity, 1 for camp)
	1 sunglasses	
	Closed cell foam sleeping pad or thermarest	Inflatable Thermarest pads or brands with similar models work well; thin closed cell foam pads also work well – they are lighter, less expensive but are slightly more bulky
	Warm sleeping bag (rated at least -15°C)	Sleeping bag must be PACKABLE yet warm – synthetic, down or combination fill; mummy-style are warmest and most compact
	Headlamp	Any brand that works; include extra batteries
	1 unbreakable eating dish and cutlery + cup	Avoid metal for the winter
	2 x 1L water bottles with wide screw top lids	BPA-free Nalgene bottles are ideal; anything with a securely sealed lid will do the trick
	1 Thermos	~500mL thermos that can be packed along on day trips and extended outings with soup or a hot drink
	1 x daypack	25-30L backpack with waist belt for day outings
	1 fire kit	Firestarter, matches, lighter to help you built a fire in 5 minutes
	Camp booties or slippers	can be worn with NEOS boots at camp

School Supplies

On the first day of school, students should come prepared with the following school supplies:

- 1 x two inch binder
- Lined paper
- Pencils
- Pens
- Pencil Crayons
- Erasers
- Glue
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Dividers for binders
- Running shoes, shorts and t-shirt (for gym)

The school has some of the following supplies:

- ❑ NEOS winter overboots
- ❑ Rubber boots (not insulated)
- ❑ Basic day pack with waist strap
- ❑ Rain jacket (no rain pants though)
- ❑ Insulated fleece jacket and pants
- ❑ Helmets for different uses
- ❑ Sleeping bags, sleeping pads, sleeping bag liner, tents, tarps
- ❑ Neoprene booties, older paddling jackets
- ❑ Shovel, cross country ski equipment, snowshoes
- ❑ Paddling equipment

COMMENTS ABOUT PERSONAL EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDED FOR KEEP

We have a good selection of gear in the program but students still need to have some personal gear of their own such as clothing suitable for use in the outdoors. We would recommend that students consider acquiring the following items to make their experience more enjoyable:

- **Microfibre, fleece or wool long johns and top.** These are important items because they will help keep you warm and comfortable even when wet. They dry quickly so that if you are wet because of weather, perspiration or an unplanned spill into the water they will help ward off hypothermia. Various styles are available at local businesses such as Raven's Nook, Coast Mountain Sports, Mark's Work Wear or Sports Lodge. They may also be purchased online from Mountain Equipment Co-op.
- **Wool or synthetic socks.** Cotton socks are cold and uncomfortable once they get wet. If a student has wet feet for an extended period they risk getting frostbite, chilblains or trench foot.
- **Insulated down or synthetic vest or jacket.** These pack small in a daypack and it is useful all year long in the Yukon.
- **Quick drying pants.** Jeans and cotton sweat pants are not suitable for outdoor activities. Once wet they dry very slowly from the outside in meaning that you stay wet until they are completely dry. This greatly increases the risk of hypothermia. Synthetic pants dry within minutes, are light weight and durable and can be purchased locally or online.
- **Sun glasses.** Both snow and water reflect the sun rays and increase your eyes exposure to harmful UV rays. In winter failure to protect your eyes can lead to snow blindness where you sunburn the internal structures of the eye, which can result in permanent damage.
- A pair of **fleece or wool gloves and/or mitts.** Lightweight and warm even when wet, fleece gloves are good to have along on all the trips.
- **A headlamp** is a must for all trips. LED lights often have battery lives which exceed 40 hours, they are lightweight, work well on snow and the head lamps allow you the freedom to use both hands.
- **Rain proof jacket and pants** are required. The yellow kit from Canadian Tire works! Wood Street Centre has many rain jackets but no pants.
- **Paddling footwear.** Students need appropriate footwear which will offer protection while launching and landing their canoes. Whatever a student chooses to wear they must meet the following criteria:

- a. The student must be willing to step into the water and get them wet every time they launch or land their boat.
 - b. They **must cover the foot completely** to protect against injury from rocks or debris in the water and on shore. (sandals are not a good choice for canoe training days)
 - c. For our canoe training paddling shoes or socks with running shoes are appropriate. \$15 neoprene socks can be purchased at Raven's Nook or through MEC.
 - d. They should be comfortable so the student will be willing to wear them for several hours while paddling in both seated and kneeling positions.
 - e. A pair of **rubber boots** combined with wool/synthetic socks is often the best choice for the Yukon River trip. Students can wear sandals when we have summer-like weather, however "Crocs" are not appropriate.
- A pair of **working gloves**. These are useful while cooking, getting and cutting firewood.
 - A **pocket knife**, a single blade for a few \$\$ or a multi use knife for more \$\$\$\$.
 - A **thermos** for hot drinks.
 - A **wide mouth thermos** for soup (important for winter activities)

- If your feet get cold easily, get a pair of **Bama socks**. They pull moisture away from your feet and dry quickly at night if removed from the boots. Available at Mark's.



- If you are using your personal bike, you should have your own **bike repair kit** that should include an inner tube, patches, set of Allen keys (simple bike multi tool) and tire levers. We will carry a pump and our multi tool can fix the chain.
- **Hand and feet warmers** can make a cool day into a great day. Check for sales! To be carried in a daypack at all times.



Klondike Experiential Education Program

Application Form – 2023/ 2024

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- o Completed form
- o Personal letter (described below)
- o Reference contact information
- o Reference letters should be submitted directly by reference to KEEP teacher
- o All items submitted to the RSS office on or before **FRIDAY, March 24th, 2023 @ 3:20pm**

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Student Information:

- o Name: _____
- o Gender: Male ___ Female ___ Other _____ DOB: _____
- o Height: _____ Shoe size. _____
- o Complete address: _____
- o Home Phone Number: _____
- o Email: _____

Parent Information:

- o Parent/Guardian 1: _____
 - Daytime Phone #: _____
 - Evening Phone #: _____
 - Parent Email: _____
- o Parent/Guardian 2: _____
 - Daytime Phone #: _____
 - Evening Phone #: _____
 - Parent Email: _____

Other information

- ❖ How comfortable are you spending multiple days away from home on a scale of 1-5
(1=not very comfortable, 5=very comfortable) 1 2 3 4 5
- ❖ Do you know how to swim? yes _____ somewhat _____ no _____

PERSONAL LETTER

Please submit a minimum one-page handwritten letter of introduction. In your letter, describe your interests, involvement in organized activities, your achievements, and some details of your character. Explain why you want to participate in KEEP 8/9 and what you expect to gain from participation in the program. Additionally, provide specific examples that showcase your ability to work hard, your maturity and your leadership capabilities.

REFERENCES

Provide the name and contact information for TWO References (1) **A Personal Reference**, someone in the community who is not your parent/ guardian (i.e. coach, family friend, boss) (2) **A Teacher Reference**, someone who has taught you in the past year. Your references must be able to comment on your work ethic, respectfulness, leadership, maturity and suitability for the KEEP 8/9 program. Your references should use the reference forms supplied and submit their letters directly to the KEEP teacher.

(1) Personal Reference name: _____

Connection to applicant: _____

(2) Teacher Reference name: _____

INITIALS AND SIGNATURES

Prospective student, please initial that you have read and understand the points below:

- _____ I have informed my parent/ guardian of the \$200 fee associated with KEEP
- _____ I listen well, act safely and respect others
- _____ I want to work hard and challenge myself in KEEP

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____