



# Grade 8 Land-Based Cultural Leadership Program



## 2025-2026 Information & Application Form

### What is The Land-Based Cultural Leadership Program?

Through experiential education, students in the Land-Based Cultural Leadership Program will plan for their future by developing leadership and teamwork skills in a culturally responsive way, thereby enriching their lives and our community.



The program is a full school year program for grade eight students who enjoy being in the outdoors and want to improve their leadership and teamwork skills while working on the grade eight curriculum in a practical format. Students will not switch from subject to subject, class to class, but rather will take all classes with the same teachers in an integrated, project-based format.

### Who is it for?

The program is for grade eight students who want to spend their year learning the curriculum through classwork, hands-on, and out of school experiences. It is for students who are interested in learning through integrated projects, and in a holistic approach to learning that honours Indigenous ways of knowing. It is for young people who have shown the potential for leadership and would like to further develop it. Our program is geared towards those students who have this potential, but might not have been able to realize it yet. In order to make this program an option for all students, *most* of the equipment, transportation and food costs along with any other fees incurred will be covered by the program for each student.

### Who are the staff?

The program is led by Derek Hyland and is supported by community members, cultural leaders and knowledge keepers. Derek has over 16 years experience working with students, and a lifetime of experience in the outdoors. Staff and leaders also have been heavily involved in cultural learning opportunities over the past years, working to develop their understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing.

### How much will the program cost?

The Lloydminster Public School Division, along with Bishop Lloyd Middle School provides the teachers, facilities and most equipment. Students will not be required to pay a fee to participate in the program. There will be times when the students are expected to help with fundraisers or community service. The cost for equipment, student gear, food on trips, and travel will be minimal.



### ***Teamwork & Leadership***

This includes working on communication skills (speaking, listening, etc), developing independence and responsibility, learning how to use strengths and weaknesses, developing presentation and decision making skills, learning risk management, working and learning in teams, and learning from failures to turn them into successes.

### ***Relationship Building***

This includes developing relationships between the students as well as with the staff members who work with them. We feel that it is very important that we all like each other, most of the time, for the best learning to take place.

### ***Cultural Understanding***

This includes analyzing and learning from our responses, developing long friendships, learning how diversity comes together to make a stronger whole, and including Indigenous contexts and content teachings throughout the year.

### ***Experiential Education***

This includes learning in the best place at the best time, which will usually be out in the real world, being hands on and doing things instead of just learning about them. We will be spending as much time outdoors as possible and experiencing as many different career options as we can fit in one school year.

### ***Choice***

We feel that being able to choose and make choices is important because throughout your life you will have to make choices all the time. This means that our students are treated as young adults with lots of opportunities to make choices, make mistakes and deal with the natural consequences. The first choice you get to make it is to apply to spend your grade 8 year with us.

### ***Fun***

Life is too short not to have fun. Our goal is to have fun with all of the students in the program.

## **What is the program's philosophy?**

There are nine components of our overall vision regarding how the grade eight curriculum will be taught to the students in the Land-Based Cultural Leadership Program.

### ***Integrated Project Based Learning***

This includes doing long-term and real-life projects with all subject areas integrated. For the most part, there will not be scheduled separation of subject areas.

### ***Future Vision***

This includes working on career education, improving self-concept and self-confidence, developing a sense of hope, planning for the future (job, education, lifestyle), and valuing lifelong active living.

### ***Assessment for Learning***

This includes using student and teacher developed criteria to assess our work, student involvement in the creation of assessments, and learning from our mistakes. While marks and percentages will be included for report cards, feedback and improvement will be our main focus.

## What are some of the things we might do?

- 3 day leadership camp at Ross Lake
- Cultural Camp at Onion Lake
- Mentorship opportunities
- Outdoor Learning at Bud Miller Park
- Hide tanning
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Canoe Training
- Swimming
- Mountain Biking
- 4 day Canoe trip to Meadow Lake Provincial Park
- 3 day Winter Camp
- Learning in the community
- Snaring & processing Rabbits



This activity list is just a sample of some of the things we will be doing. We will be doing much more, especially throughout Lloydminster. Each year is dynamic and learning opportunities are dependent on the learners and community opportunities.

## What about extra-curricular activities?

Due to the nature of this program, our camps are **curricular**. It is expected that if you choose to join this classroom, that *you will need to be at all learning excursions and extended trips*. This may, at times, conflict with some extra-curricular activities.

## What will be expected of me if I am in the class?

1. You must be prepared to spend time away from home on our out-of-school camping trips and occasionally our day to day activities. The length of time for the camping trips can vary from two to four days in duration. There may be times when class time is not always between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
2. Be at school and on-time throughout the year.
3. **Be willing to engage in all outdoor activities, and improve your physical fitness.**
4. **Work to have appropriate behaviour at all times**, this includes completing all work to the best of your ability.
5. Persevere throughout the year, in activities and on trips. A person who is willing to dig in and try harder as soon as the going gets tough will strengthen the rest of the group. Our aim is to develop and encourage resilience in students.
6. Show a positive attitude, enthusiasm and cooperation at all times with all of the other class members, teachers and guests.
7. Be willing to work until the job is done, not just when you've done your share.
8. **Be prepared and dress appropriately.** This means wearing suitable clothing, waterproof clothing and footwear for the activity.
9. **Willingly participate in all outdoor activities, learning, and challenges regardless of the weather.**



## What kind of equipment will I need?

The following equipment is mandatory for all students:

- Waterproof jacket & pants
- Winter jacket, ski pants, winter boots, mitts & toque
- Sleeping bag & mat
- Backpack for daily adventures

*Necessary equipment can be supplied for students, and should not be a barrier.*

## Where does the program take place?

The Middle Years Land-Based Cultural Leadership Program is based out of Bishop Lloyd Middle School at 5524 31 Street, 780-875-6239. Students will often be learning and doing activities outside of the school throughout the city of Lloydminster and the provinces of Alberta & Saskatchewan.

## How do I apply?

1. Interested students and parents / guardians will be able to join a parent meeting on **Wednesday April 16 at 7:00 pm**. The parent meeting will be held at Bishop Lloyd Middle School.
2. Fill in the following student information and parent permission form ONLINE at the following link or QR code:

<https://bit.ly/LBCLapply2025>



3. **All applications must be received by 4:00pm on Friday May 2, 2025.**
4. Of the students that apply, a group will be chosen to participate in an overnight application camp at Vermilion Provincial Park on **Thursday May 29 - Friday May 30, 2025**. More details about the Application Camp will be provided to those students who are chosen to attend.
5. Applicants will be notified by June 6th about whether they have been accepted to the program or not.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Derek Hyland at [derek.hyland@lpsd.ca](mailto:derek.hyland@lpsd.ca). There is more information online at <https://bishoplloyd.lpsd.ca/land-based-cultural-leadership> and Instagram, [@landbased\\_bl](#)

