**Outdoor School Program Reflection**

**Grade 6**

**WHAT?** (Did I learn?)

**SO WHAT?** (Why is it important?)
**NOW WHAT?** (What action(s) can I/we take?)

Purpose

-To have students reflect on and share their learning in small groups.

-To have the students connect their learning at Cheakamus Centre to their everyday lives, and to encourage environmental stewardship (‘Acts of Green’) back in their homes, schools and local community.

Time Frame

30 minutes

Materials

Pencils (1/student)

Paper leaf cut-out (1/student)

Flow

Set the stage for a quiet reflection. Take the students to a beautiful place on the property, and have them find a solo sit spot (close enough to hear instructions, but in their own space).

**Hand out 1 leaf, and 1 pencil per student. Ask students to write their name & school (in small lettering) on the front side.**

Intro Question 1: Briefly review all the different field studies, recreation activities, community living (eating, sleeping, doing chores) etc. the group has shared together over the past few days. This is an opportunity to pause and think about what learning each of us will take from this experience here, why it’s important, and where we go from here.

Pose Question #1.

Question 1: What have I learned during the Outdoor School Program? (WHAT?)

Prompt the students to be as specific as possible. E.g. “I learned about salmon” to “What is it you learned about salmon?”

**Students write what they learned on the front side of the leaf.**

Encourage students to focus on 1 lesson or learning, that a-ha moment!

Bring students together for a sharing circle. Perhaps using a ‘talking stick’ model, and invite students to share their learning with the group.

Lead a discussion on why they think their learning is important.

Have the students go back out to their sit spot.

Intro Question 2: Thank you for sharing your learning. We have all learned and experienced so much together in this place. It seems like each one of us is taking home our own learning, that is unique to ourselves. So what’s next? It seems like our actions --positive or negative -- have an impact on the world around us. (SO WHAT?) Let’s choose to take our learning back to make a positive change at home, school or in our community. There is no such thing as a small action; every action counts. (NOW WHAT?)

Pose Question # 2

Question 2: What can I do back at home, school or in my community as an ‘Act of Green’?

Brainstorm some ideas (see below).

**Students write an ‘Act of Green’ on the backside of the leaf.**

Return to sharing circle & share with small group.

**Ask one student to share their learning & an ‘Act of Green’ to the large group at the closing ceremony.**

“Act of Green” examples/ideas

* Use reusable containers. Drink tap water in a reusable [water bottles](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/product-testing/reviews-tests/green-products/best-reusable-water-bottles) .Use reusable containers when taking food to school.
* Reduce waste. This includes reducing waste by eating all the food on their plate, only using the materials you need to do projects (and saving any leftover materials for next time), and cutting down on unnecessary packaging. To name a few.
* Plan a ‘Litterless Lunch’ for your class.
* Save water when you brush your teeth, when you wash your hands, when you take a bath (or shower), when you help do the laundry or dishes, etc. Reuse gray water to water plants is also something most kids enjoy doing.
* Continue spending time in nature! Play in the park, go for walks, ride bikes, etc.
* Start recycling. (A few simple steps are all it takes to get your kids grooved into recycling. When kids understand that recycling allows for one item to be saved so it can begin a whole “new life” as something else, they seem to get interested. Who wouldn’t?)
* Save energy. Turn off lights during the day or when they leave a room. Open your shades or blinds in the morning to let natural light in, rather than using electricity.
* Use your own two feet! Walk, bike or roll to school.
* Grow a garden at school or at home.
* Green your school ground by planting native plants.
* Participate in a shoreline or stream clean-up with your class.
* Give ‘experiences’ instead of presents to friends and families for special occasions.
* Collect rainwater to water plants.
* Wash in cold water, wash only full loads, hang clothes to dry (save energy)
* Turn off electronics when not in use.
* Buy things with less packaging