



# CAMP EAGLE NEST

## CAMP EAGLE NEST

was founded by Barbara and Clyde McNichol in 2012 to provide summer camps and year round follow-up activities to children and youth based on First Nations culture and leadership. It has succeeded in running camps where campers are safe and well supervised, genuinely welcomed by First peoples of the area, and by far the majority come home happy and wanting to come back.

## EAGLE NEST CULTURAL CAMPS

“Eagle Nest Cultural Camps” is a new enterprise that builds on the work of Camp Eagle Nest by reaching out to waterfront and wilderness land owners who would like to establish a cultural camp on their property. We are looking for like-minded leaders who find our model of cultural camps appealing and have the qualities, resources and skills to collaborate in promoting, organizing and running them. With an initial investment starting at \$15,000 collaborators receive a large teepee or lodge and other equipment on their property, and a series of planning and training sessions to enable them to host cultural camps throughout the year. They also benefit from our continually improving capacity to access funding, customers, and Indigenous knowledge, leadership and participation. Let's work together to give kids a great camping experience and make a difference for seven generations to come!



[www.campeaglenest.com](http://www.campeaglenest.com)  
[www.facebook.com/campeaglenest](https://www.facebook.com/campeaglenest)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/campcartier](https://www.facebook.com/groups/campcartier)

Summer camps for children and youth are relatively small (typically 6-8 campers per week) and feature games such as archery and balloon darts, relay races and small, fun competitions with prizes as well as typical wilderness activities such as canoeing, swimming, hiking, craft-making, story-telling, songs, skits, and open-fire cooking.



Participants experience something of Native culture and its distinctive world view. Behavioural guidelines emphasize medicine wheel teachings and the seven grandfather teachings of respect, honesty, truth, bravery, humility, love, and wisdom. Love for nature and all the plant and animal families in the area is nurtured. We do what we can to ensure campers can enjoy long, fulfilling lives living lightly on the earth.



Esteemed elders with traditional knowledge are involved. They usually assist with opening and closing ceremonies, and make themselves available to answer questions campers may have about Native culture and history and other areas of interest. They also ensure campers can come to them with questions of a personal nature, during camp and in many cases after they go home as well. Efforts are made to keep in touch with campers and elders throughout the year.

We can provide custom-designed camps, with activity and workshop options ranging from Native craft-making to four-colour and medicine wheel teachings, and other offerings from diverse associated elders and youth leaders.

Participants may sleep in teepees on mattresses made of fragrant spruce bows or similar natural soft bedding and furs as in the old way. In colder weather, a fire pit in the middle of the teepee can be used as well as an out door cook fire for all seasons. Our sites also have at least one cabin with a wood stove and/or fireplace and beds or cots.



Intergenerational groups and opportunities are encouraged in all seasons. Our camps currently have as a target at least 50% children and youth of Native ancestry. Adult family members are ordinarily welcome to come as volunteers, especially with the younger children. This option is considered important for children of families who have been affected by Canada's Indian Residential School Policy (as have almost all Native families in some way). It may also be important for non-Native families and groups who wish to improve their historical and cultural knowledge. Such family volunteers can assist with the burden of responsibility of site managers for child supervision and safety.

## TESTIMONIALS

*"Camp Eagle Nest is devoted to giving our youth positive healthy experiences in the out-of-doors that they will remember for a lifetime, along with creating understanding and instilling pride in the rich Indigenous cultures of our land. Clyde and Barbara have the knowledge and skills needed to help our youth grow and learn in an enjoyable, non-threatening way, lessons that will help lead to a healthier community and better tomorrow."*

Art Petahtegoose  
Elder and former Chief,  
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek

*"This trip was fun because I don't get to go in the wild. I'm always in the city."*

Laura Rudski-Dame  
Age 17

*"Everything was awesome. I want to keep in touch!"*

Ali  
Youth camper with NCCT

*"Since it opened in 2012, Camp Eagle Nest has raised funds to run camps in Temagami, Kawartha Lakes, Spanish River, Fox Lake, Algonquin Park, Grassy Narrows, Cartier, and Whitefish Lake. It has served dozens of youth who would not have otherwise been able to attend summer camp. It has provided a unique camping environment where First Nations youth feel comfortable and validated, and non-Indigenous youth are equally respected and able to absorb much knowledge and appreciation for Native culture and traditions."*

Patricia Fortier  
Retired Social Services Manager, Whitehorse, Yukon

*"Thank you for all your hard work in making a truly unique camping experience available for these children"*

Anne Dorland  
Director, Sudbury Manitoulin Children's Foundation