



New Learning Stewardship Program Students @ National Parks

How tall is that spruce tree? What kinds of fish live in Waskesiu Lake. How do you track a bison? Answering these and many other questions not only by seeing and hearing but by touching, smelling, and most of all by 'doing' are what Molly, Megan and Doug are up to this Spring!

These three students and another dozen of their classmates are part of a pilot learning project. It involves the Wildlife Management and Tourism classes of Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon and Parks Canada at Prince Albert National Park and Grasslands National Park. The students are making three, full-day visits to Prince Albert National Park and another to Grasslands. They are participating in a very 'hands-on' way, in a variety of wildlife management and ecosystem monitoring activities. Park interpreters are coordinating the program with delivery assistance from colleagues in the Resource Conservation section.

This program, with the working title "Students @ National Parks", goes beyond regular school visits and interpretive programs. It involves a commitment by students in the way of preparation and participation and will eventually include contributions in environmental stewardship.

The learning activities are framed as mock work assignments and students are expected to behave and perform as would responsible employees. It's also an attempt to provide alternate opportunities for students re-entering high school and coping with learning disabilities or life challenges. Career possibilities are explained and students encouraged to ask questions about preparations and pre-requisites for work in the fields of wildlife management and tourism.

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