

# CHEAKAMUS CENTRE

nature is in session



## Skw'une-was Indigenous Cultural Immersion Program

We invite you and your students to experience *Skw'une-was*, an authentic two-day indigenous cultural immersion program developed together with Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Elders. The learning journey begins with an interpretive walk along the Ch'iyákmesh (Cheakamus) River. Arriving at the Coast Salish longhouse, students are welcomed with a traditional naming ceremony and then grouped into family activities as plant gatherers, wood and cedar bark workers, wool weavers, fishers and hunters.

This award-winning program is designed to meet a range of curricular connections for students in grades 3 to 4 and is aligned with the First Peoples Principles of Learning.

### Program Highlights

- Living in and around an authentic Coast Salish longhouse with the Ch'iyákmesh people of Skwxwú7mesh Nation
- Learning Skwxwú7mesh Nation language, legends, crafts, food gathering, fishing and hunting techniques
- Experiencing a traditional naming ceremony, cooking with hot rocks, singing and drumming
- In this participation model program, school staff and chaperones enjoy a half-day training session at the longhouse prior to the program



To register, please contact:  
604.898.5422

[programs@cheakamuscentre.ca](mailto:programs@cheakamuscentre.ca)



[www.cheakamuscentre.ca](http://www.cheakamuscentre.ca)



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A short interpretive forest walk brings you to the longhouse, nestled along the Ch'iyákmesh River, a Skwxwú7mesh word meaning people of the “fish weir”. Your class is welcomed with ceremonial song and drumming and students participate in traditional daily life of the Coast Salish people.

As part of community living at the longhouse, students prepare all meals together with parent volunteer elders, using traditional techniques including cooking with hot rocks and making bannock over the fire. In the afternoon, a cultural staff engages students with legends, traditional games, singing or drumming. A guided forest night walk completes a memorable first day, before students settle into the longhouse for the night. The Skw'unc-was program is a unique experience of sharing the beauty, depth and vibrancy of Skwxwú7mesh First Nation culture in fun, interactive and engaging ways, that your students will remember forever.

## Sample Schedule

	Day One	Day Two
7:00 AM		Rise & shine, pack up gear & preparations
8:00 AM		Breakfast
8:45 AM		Cedar walk
9:15 AM	Arrival at Cheakamus Centre.	
10:15 AM	Pick up cultural program staff & drive to Bailey bridge to begin the walk-In	Snack & beverage
10:30 AM		Cultural Activity
10:45 AM	Arrival & welcome at longhouse	
11:15 AM	Snack & beverage	Lunch
11:30 AM	Ceremonies led by cultural program staff: Welcoming cleansing & orientation	
11:45 AM		
12:15 PM	Lunch preparations & Lunch: Cooking with traditional Hot Rocks	Closing & departure at 12:30 pm
1:00 PM		
1:30 PM	Family Activity time: Rotating schedule	
4:00 PM	Snack & recreation time	
4:45 PM	Story telling/legends/drumming/games with cultural program staff	
5:30 PM	Salmon feast Preparation & dinner	
7:30 PM	Evening Activity	
9:00 PM	Bed time preparations, lights out at 10 pm	



## Program Details

Program Length	Grade Level	Additional Information
2 days, 1 night	3 & 4	Minimum # of Students: 25 Maximum # of Students: 40 Please contact us for pricing

Program fee includes all meals, snacks, programming and materials. Transportation is not included. Small groups may be combined with other groups on request.

Weekend parent volunteer orientation session dates are to be determined.



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North Vancouver  
School District  
the natural place to learn