



Indigenous Campership Award – 2024 Season

Objective

This “Campership” offers Indigenous youth from diverse communities and economic backgrounds the opportunity to experience Camp Nor’wester and be part of a community of cultural sharing and exchange. Our mission is to inspire independence and knowing of oneself, grow and strengthen relational skills with both peers and adults, and awaken a passion for the outdoors in an emotionally-safe and nurturing environment so that stewardship becomes a ripple effect throughout one’s life.

Who We Are

Established in 1935, Camp Nor’wester is a non-profit summer camp for young people ages 9-16. We aim to provide an outdoor living experience unique in today’s world. Our traditional camping and outdoor curriculum includes sailing, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, mountaineering, hiking, and bike touring, which culminates in 4- to 5-day expeditions for older campers. Also adding to our rich history are long-standing traditions of singing and playing music together, all-camp events and games, building intentional relationships and interpersonal skills, and connecting with Indigenous culture.

Camp Nor’wester has been fortunate to be in relationship with the Kwakwaka’wakw community since the 1950s and we have made Indigenous education a priority in our program in the decades since. We have a Kwakwaka’waka-style Big House on property, as well as art and carvings by several Indigenous artists, which are used often in our summer programs to enhance our community’s understanding of the history of the Northwest Coast region as well as to provide a foundation for cultural education and relationships. We are also excited to be building connections with other Coast Salish and First Nations individuals and groups through many continuing channels.

Eligibility

All Indigenous youth (between the ages of 9-16) interested in this unique four-week camp experience are eligible to apply.

Award Details

This Campership covers the cost of tuition for one Session (four weeks) at Camp Nor’wester. Families are responsible for their own Camp Store purchases (including a \$150 deposit due before the session) , and transportation to and from their chosen pick-up/drop-off location (Sea-Tac, Seattle Bus location, or Anacortes marina location) on arrival and departure days. Individuals may apply for the Campership for as many years as they’d like, although preference may be given to new applicants depending on available spaces for enrollment that season.

Application Process

Please contact the camp office at (425) 670-1935 or email info@norwester.org to let us know of your interest in the award process.

Returning camper applicants may submit a camper application through their CampInTouch account between November 15 and January 2. New camper applicants may do so in January during our general Open Enrollment period after contacting the Camp Office (a CampInTouch account will be created and directions will be explained for accessing the application).

All award applicants should select “Indigenous Campership Award Applicant” as their tuition level choice on the camper application. Applications submitted after the Open Enrollment period will be considered on a case-by-case basis as space allows. Please contact us with any questions about this process.

Notification

Camper applications will be reviewed shortly after submission and applicants will be notified as soon as possible of an award being granted so the camper can be enrolled by January 31st, 2024. Any applicant not receiving an award will also be notified as soon as possible.