

BACKGROUND – August 2015

UWinnipeg Science Adventures Summer Camp

Approximately 2,000 youth from more than 60 primarily inner-city and North End schools are attending **The University of Winnipeg Science Adventures Summer Camp**, making it the largest free day camp for children in inner-city Winnipeg. The UWinnipeg Science Adventures Summer Camp is a key Community Learning initiative offered in partnership with the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre that engages youth in fun science-based activities and helps to stem summer learning loss. Over the past eight years, more than 8,000 children have attended the free day camp as a direct result of generous donations from the corporate and non-profit sectors. This year, the government of Manitoba added its support, donating \$20,000 through Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

Since its inception in 2007, UWinnipeg has worked in partnership with the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sports Achievement Centre to develop and deliver high quality programming with a focus on science, and the environment including Indigenous knowledge. High school and university students are trained to organize and deliver the camp programs, providing them with new skills and employment experience. The camp leaders are for the most part inner-city youth, and are regarded as role models by the participating children. They attend training sessions throughout their school year in courses such as First Aid and CPR, Level 1 coaching, Level 1 refereeing, conflict management and leadership development.

The camp aims to address summer learning loss and the barriers to camp and educational participation commonly facing inner-city children and youth. Participants attend for free, transportation to and from camp is provided and a nutrition program delivers two healthy snacks and lunch to every child. Additionally, each participant receives a free t-shirt, re-usable water bottle, and canvas bag.

The number of children registering and participating in the UWinnipeg summer camp keeps growing. The University of Winnipeg has developed relationships with more than 60 inner-city and North End elementary schools and UWinnipeg camp representatives visit each school to deliver classroom presentations and give each eligible student, primarily between the ages of 7-12, the opportunity to register. Teachers, principals, and school social workers are given the opportunity to identify the children who would most benefit. Registrations are received from as many as four times the number of spots available, indicating there is a strong community need for more summer programming in the inner city.

In summer 2015, for the first time, some of the Science Adventures Summer Camp activities are being held in UWinnipeg's new Health and RecPlex on campus on Spence Street. The RecPlex opened in September 2014 with a specific mandate to serve both students and the surrounding community.

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2015 Science Adventures Summer Camp Schools

<p>Winnipeg School Division:</p> <p>Cecil Rhodes Champlain Clifton David Livingstone Dufferin Faraday Greenway Isaac Brock John M.King Kent Road King Edward Lord Nelson Lord Selkirk Machray Mulvey Niki Mahkwa Norquay Pinkham Principal Sparling Ralph Brown Robertson Sargent Park Shaughnessy Park Sister McNamara Strathcona Victoria Albert Wellington Weston William Whyte Wolseley</p> <p>St.James School Division:</p> <p>Buchanan Hedges Brooklands</p>	<p>River East Transcona School Division:</p> <p>Wayoata Harold Hatcher Margaret Underhill Bernie Wolfe Radisson Regent Park Joseph Teres Westview Donwood Lord Wolseley Princess Margaret Sun Valley John Pritchard Bertrund E. Glavin Neil Campbell Hampstead Salisbury Morse Place John de Graaf Polson Prince Edward</p> <p>Seven Oaks School Division:</p> <p>Constable Edward Finney Arthur E.Wright OV Jewitt James Nlsbit Elwick Riverbend Margaret Park Forest Park Belmont Collicut RF Morrison Victory Governor Semple</p>
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