

## Take a Kid Trapping Program

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Take a Kid Trapping is a component of the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program funded by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

Built on the traditional practice of passing on skills and knowledge to the next generation, the Take a Kid Trapping Program provides an introduction to time-honored methods of trapping and harvesting wild furs and key elements of the traditional Aboriginal lifestyle.

The Program is designed for youth of all ages. It is delivered in the Northwest Territories by schools and Aboriginal Organizations with support from the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs, Environment and Natural Resources, and ITI's regional offices.

Since 2002, over 4000 youth have participated in the Take a Kid Trapping Program.

### **Trapping:**

For Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories, trapping is a way of life – one that reflects generations of culture and tradition and a proud history of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. It provides the means to ensure that these values are sustained and important social and cultural links are maintained to the land and its resources.

Trapping contributes diversity and balance to our economy in a manner that respects the social and cultural values of our people. This sector of the Traditional Economy has sustained Aboriginal populations in the NWT for thousands of years - providing food, clothing, shelter, tools and goods for trade.

### **Methods:**

The delivery of this program is carried out through ITI's regional offices. Instructors incorporate visits to trap lines and practical experience setting traps, snares and fishnets, to teach traditional life skills, conservation and best practices in the preparation of pelts for market sale.

The hands-on experience learned in this program cannot be replicated and is crucial to its success.

# fact sheet

Some of the subjects taught in the Take a Kid Trapping Program:

- Presentations on Fur and Trapping
- Conservation Education
- Emergency First Aid
- Bear Safety
- History of Trapping and the Fur Industry
- Outdoor Survival
- Setting Fish Nets
- Setting Traps
- Hunting Ethics and Safety
- NWT Trapping Regulations
- Building Campfires
- Cooking Outdoors
- Snowshoeing
- Initiatives Promoting Traditional Life Skills Education
- How to Build a Birch Bark Canoe