



GOULD LAKE OUTDOOR CENTRE

Limestone District School Board

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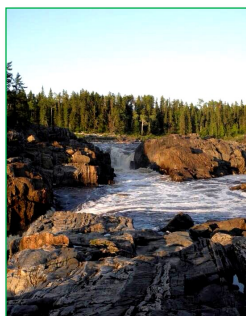
613.376.1433

www.gouldlake.ca

@gouldlake_LDSB

WILDERNESS INSTRUCTOR COURSE

For Grade 10-12 Graduates



Wilderness Instructor Course (WIC) is where it all comes together! The goal of this course is to prepare students to become potential wilderness instructors, qualified to work in the outdoor industry. The program is divided into three main components. The **first component** is a 16-day course that includes a 14-day, 320 km river expedition along the historic voyageur route on the Missinaibi and

Moose Rivers to Moosonee, on James Bay in Northern Ontario. Along the journey, students take on numerous leadership tasks, receive training and feedback, and develop their individual leadership styles. This is their first exposure to northern wilderness conditions and the physical demands of extended wilderness travel. During this expedition, students also have the opportunity to work toward their **ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 2** certification.

The **second component** provides students the opportunity to earn their **ORCKA Canadian Style Paddling Level 2** certification. Both ORCKA certifications are valuable assets for those pursuing outdoor leadership or remote wilderness tripping in the future.

The **third component** is a 16-day **Instructor-in-Training placement** with another Gould Lake program. During this placement, WIC participants gain hands-on experience by teaching lessons to younger students and further developing their trip leadership and instructional skills.

The Missinaibi River is wild, beautiful, and unspoiled—one of the last great northern rivers. Many consider it the river trip of a lifetime. The spectacular scenery of the northern Canadian Shield gradually gives way to the vast Hudson Bay Lowlands. Historic portage trails, once worn smooth by the moccasins of fur traders, are now overgrown, marking your entry into true wilderness. The scale of these rivers can only be appreciated by paddling them. Before encountering the first stretch of whitewater, participants receive instruction in safety, moving-water rescue, and sound judgment. Depending on water levels, this journey may be the portage of a lifetime—or a smooth, scenic paddle from start to finish. As you approach the James Bay tidal zone, the trees begin to thin, reaching the limits of their tolerance in this harsh northern climate. This is the *land of little sticks*—the transition zone between boreal forest and Arctic tundra. Welcome to Moosonee and Moose Factory!

Upon arrival in Moose Factory, at the mouth of the Moose River, you'll have the opportunity to visit the Cree Eco-Lodge and tour the community before boarding the Polar Bear Express in Moosonee to begin your journey home.



WIC 2026 Details

Trip: June 28– July 14

Canadian Style Paddling: July 18-19

Cost: \$1450 (taxes included)

Credits: GWL305 (1.0 credit)

GWL30C (1.0 credit, COOP)

Certifications: (for qualifying students)

ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 2

ORCKA Canadian Style Paddling Level 1

Prerequisites: ORCKA Moving Water Level 1A

ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 1



REGISTRATION STARTS DECEMBER 2025!

Applications will be accepted online at www.gouldlake.ca Please refer to our website for registration details.

Feel free to call our office should you have any questions or concerns, 613.376.1433.