



TH First Fish 2025

Information and Registration

Tr'ondek Hwech'in
FIRST FISH



**Please read the following information
Complete and submit to the
Heritage Office**

**Deadline for Registration
Friday, June 27th at 4:00 pm**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact

Sharon Vittrekwa 867 - 993 - 4812 sharon.vittrekwa@trondek.ca



What: TH First Fish
When: July 11 – 16, 2025
Where: Moosehide Village
Who: Youth and Families. All are invited
Why: To learn about traditional salmon fishing as well as local ecology, salmon life cycles, Hän language, traditional medicines, stories, and a forum on salmon and many other exciting workshops.

What is TH First Fish?

TH First Fish is hosted by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for youth, families and other First Nation Communities. It is a way for people to learn about the heritage and traditions of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as well as the importance of the river and current environmental pressures on this important part of the culture. It is an opportunity for the community to have fellowship with one another; families, youth and elders.

When is it happening?

The dates for TH First Fish are Friday July 11th – Wednesday July 16th, 2025. Youth will meet at the boat launch to depart to Moosehide on Friday July 11th at 8:30AM with all their belongings and a snack. We will be returning to town after lunch on July 16th.

Only youth who have completed their registration form in advance will be able to board the boats. Youth who have not registered for First Fish will not be permitted on the boats unless they are with a family member or guardian that is willing to supervise them.

There will be no Orientation meeting and gear check this year. Please ensure that you have the proper equipment and gear for First Fish Camp. If you have any questions or are looking for gear, please contact Sharon Vittrekwa.

Where is the First Fish Culture Camp?

The camp will take place three kilometres downriver at Moosehide Village, on the Yukon River. Boat rides will be provided for registered participants to and from the camp. Participants should be prepared to stay at Moosehide for the entire week as trips back to town will be made for emergency circumstances only.



Who is camp for?

All Dawson youth aged 12 – 17 years old are invited to attend under the care of our highly qualified staff and supervisors. Other First Nation communities are also invited.

When can families attend?

Families are welcome to attend the First Fish Camp. Youth who have not registered for the camp, or youth too young for the camp, will still be under direct supervision of the parent and/or guardian. Youth registered for camp will be under the direct care of our staff and supervisors whether their family members are present or not. We are providing workshops throughout the week that can be enjoyable for all ages.

Please note: We encourage families who will be attending First Fish to be self-reliant and contribute to the camp. For example; bringing food and arranging accommodations.

Living arrangements

There are cabins and bunks available for youth participants. There will be separate sleeping arrangements for males and females.

There will be a cook for the event. **If your child has any specific dietary requirements, please enter them on the health form (i.e. allergies, lactose intolerant).**

What activities are planned?

The main theme of this camp is handling, cleaning and smoking salmon. Due to the historically low numbers of Chinook salmon expected this year and to honour the General Assembly Resolution from 2013, this camp will be encouraging a voluntary withdrawal from harvesting Chinook salmon for one life cycle. If the Chinook salmon run seems to be strong this year, there may be potential to harvest Chinook for ceremonial purposes and this special event. Chum salmon will be used to teach the youth about proper fish handling, cutting, cleaning, and smoking. Although this uses up a lot of time, that doesn't stop us from providing tons of other activities. Some activities will include salmon life cycle talk and setting fry traps in Moosehide Creek, youth discussion on Yukon River salmon. Hän language teachings, medicinal plant walks, etc. There will be lots of activities



and programs provided for the youth. Upon departure, parents and/or guardians will be given a basic schedule of the week so they can plan when they want to drop by.

What about safety?

Safety is the number one priority of all camp participants and supervisors. To ensure this we have taken the following precautions:

1. High staff/supervisor to youth ratio
2. Staff/supervisors in sleeping areas with youth at night
3. Satellite/cell/radio phone at Moosehide for emergency use
4. A boat will be stationed at Moosehide 24 hours for the duration of the camp
5. Zero tolerance for bullying and swearing
6. At least one medical personnel on site 24 hours. Dawson Ambulance attendants are notified of the camp and will be ready for any emergency calls
7. Knowledgeable staff and supervisors who have ample experience working with youth
8. Boat safety seminar on the first day of camp for all participants, staff, and supervisors
9. Youth are required to wear life jackets in the boats and on the dock at all times

What are the expectations?

Youth participants are expected to attend and participate in all workshops, activities and talks. This includes meals, chores and curfews. We are living in a team setting; everyone is encouraged to have a positive attitude and to help out their team by following instructions. Youth are to understand that they are under the care of the staff and supervisors and must listen carefully when being given direction. As is the nature with all camps, youth are required to be flexible when it comes to the schedule. The fish are our first concern, and other workshops and activities are secondary.



Health

If youth require any medication, please ensure to make note of it on the medical form as well as personally inform a staff member and/or supervisor before departure. Label medication clearly including what it is, the dosage and frequency. We are not permitted to administer any over the counter medication to youth. In the event where medication is required that the youth does not have with them, parents will be contacted immediately and appropriate measures will be taken. Showers are an addition to First Fish camp and the youth will have scheduled shower times at the camp.

What do Youth need to bring?

***The items below are mandatory.** If youth fail to bring any of the following items, their experience at the First Fish Camp could be adversely affected (i.e. forgetting rain gear and getting soaked). Youth will have to bring their bags with **ALL** their gear to the boat landing on July 11th at 8:30AM.

**** Cell phones, iPods, radios, and all other electronics are to be used during permitted times only. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will not be liable for any damages or loss of electronics during the First Fish Camp.**

***** Parents and/or guardians, please label everything! Lost and found will go to the thrift store if left unclaimed for a week!**



List of Supplies

- ☐ **Sleeping bag and pillow**
- ☐ **Foamy or air mattress**
- ☐ **Pajamas**
- ☐ **Extra clothes** - one for handling fish and one or more for other activities, lots of extra socks and long and short sleeve shirts and pants and shorts.
- ☐ **Rain gear** - we're outside rain or shine!
- ☐ **Warm fleece jacket** or sweater - it can be cold at night!
- ☐ **Extra** pair of sturdy outdoor **shoes** – need to change if feet get wet!
- ☐ **Rubber Boots**
- ☐ **Bathing suit and towel**
- ☐ **Sunhat/baseball cap and sunglasses**
- ☐ **Bug spray and sunscreen**
- ☐ **Toiletries** - toothpaste, toothbrush, medication, etc (soap will be provided for showers)
- ☐ **Life jacket**/PFD - if you have one, if not one will be provided
- ☐ **Mess kit** – bag of unbreakable dishes with cup and cutlery
- ☐ **Water bottle** (with personal label) – need to keep hydrated
- ☐ Good **back pack** for carrying lunches for hikes and while on boat trips.



Informed Consent Agreement

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that certain risks of injury are inherent to participation in recreation and sport activities, including TH First Fish, July 11 – 16, 2025. I understand that certain activities require a minimum level of fitness and health (physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) and that each person has a different capacity for participating in these activities. I hereby warrant that child is fit to participate in the camp and understand the choice to participate brings assumptions of risks inherent to these activities.

I agree that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, their employees or volunteers shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss of property incurred to my person or that of child arising from or in any way resulting from participation in the above-mentioned camp.

I declare, having read and understood the above informed consent agreement in its entirety, and hereby give my consent to participants acknowledging all of the foregoing.

Name of Participant _____

Signature of Participant _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Witness _____



Participant Medical and Personal Information

Name of Participant _____ DOB DD/MM/YY

Participant's Yukon Health Insurance # _____

Please list any known injuries, allergies, or medical conditions we should be aware of, such as: asthma, diabetes, back pain, etc. _____

List any special dietary requirements: _____

List any required medication and dosage: _____

Parent/Guardian Name, Phone and E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge all given medical information to be accurate in its entirety.

Signature of Participant _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

How many times have you attended First Fish? _____

What is your shirt size? _____

The Tr'ondek Hwëch'in Natural Resources Department is collecting the personal information on this form for the purposes of medical emergency information for youth attending a TH Culture Camp. Any information collected on this form will be used for the aforementioned purposes only. The collection of personal information on this form is authorized by section 21 of the TH Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). Information collected on this form will be retained by the Fish and Wildlife Department or designate for a period of one month after the completion of the TH Culture Camp. Questions about the information on this form can be addressed to the Cultural Education Coordinator.



Positive Behaviour Contract

The following is behaviour participants must understand and adhere to:

Participants are expected to conduct themselves with a positive attitude
Participants are expected to follow the schedule and participate in all activities
Any and all forms of substance use (including the use of tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol) will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the trip
Respect for oneself, others and their personal property is mandatory at all times
Engaging in any deliberate activities that risk the mental, physical, or emotional well-being of oneself, or anyone else will result in removal from the trip at the expense of the participant/parent/guardian.
Any previous restrictions during Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in programming, or restrictions resulting from inappropriate behaviour during this trip will result in a ban of participation until further notice.
Participants are expected to inform chaperones of personality conflicts and issues arising before they become a problem.

The Staff will take all precautions to ensure the safety of the participants in their care. Upon misconduct such as verbal abuse, bodily harm or destruction of another's property, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff has the right to send the youth participant home.

For the overall safety of all involved in this trip, this contract may be added to prior to departure by parents, guardians, participants, and chaperones. Please take the time to consider all behaviour you feel would be inappropriate or would require disciplinary action. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss behaviour exclusive to their child and note it below.

PLEASE READ THE WHOLE INFORMATION PACKAGE BEFORE SIGNING BELOW.

The above statements are understood and agreed to by:

Participant _____ Date _____

Parent/guardian _____ Date _____

Supervisor _____ Date _____



PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE

Name of Youth: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian - Photographs and video recordings of your child may be taken at:

TH First Fish

July 11 – 16, 2025

(Name of Activity)

(Date of Activity)

Your child's image (print or video) may be recorded during this activity and the following may apply:

- ☐ This image may be used by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in print or video documents that are used in professional workshops, used on web pages or used in newsletters.
- ☐ May be used in newspapers, magazines or television.
- ☐ In some cases, the youth may be identified.

Please check one of the following and return the signed form to one of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in contacts listed on the 1st page:

- ☐ I am in an agreement with my child's image being used in the manner(s) explained above and give my authorization to do so.
- ☐ I am not in agreement with the use of my child's image and do not give my authorization to do so.

Date: _____

Printed name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____