



Students on Ice 2017 Arctic Expedition – Fact Sheet

The [Students on Ice 2017 Arctic Expedition](#) will take 120+ high school and university students from around the world on a two-week journey to explore the eastern Canadian Arctic and Western Greenland. The expedition dates are August 8 - August 23, 2017.

Guided by a team of scientists, elders, artists and visionary leaders, youth will develop a deeper connection to the land, culture and people of the Arctic as they engage in hands-on research, visit remote Arctic communities, observe wildlife, and bridge cultures and understanding with youth from around the world. Youth will learn about the impacts of climate change, the importance of ocean conservation, and other important topics, grounded in an understanding and appreciation for the people who call the Arctic home.

Visit the expedition [website](#) to learn more and explore the full itinerary [HERE](#). See below for key highlights and fun facts about the 2017 Arctic Expedition.

- Highlights of the journey include:
 - Hands-on research and cross-disciplinary learning with scientists, Inuit elders, artists, musicians, polar explorers, historians and journalists engaging students in topics covering the environment, Inuit culture and reconciliation, geo-politics, sustainability, leadership and youth engagement
 - Encounters with iconic Arctic wildlife such as polar bears, seals and whales
 - Zodiac excursions among icebergs
 - Paddling Inuit qajaqs (kayaks) in Lancaster Sound an area of the Northwest Passage rich in marine biodiversity
 - Hikes and exploration in Sirmilik National Park
 - Visits to Arctic communities and cultural activities
 - Contributing to ocean current research through Dept of Fisheries and Oceans Drift Bottle project
 - Exploring the Illulisat Ice fjord UNESCO World Heritage Site (“iceberg factory”)
 - Lots of adventure!
- The 2017 Arctic Expedition consists of 120 students and over 80 staff from around the world, including: USA, Canada, Greenland, Germany, Micronesia, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Argentina, Italy, Monaco, India, and Malaysia.
- Supported by [The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund](#), the Four Directions Project - North, a music based reconciliation project that is a collaboration between Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Students on Ice, and Dark Spark, will join this year’s expedition. Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from the north and south will engage in intercultural dialogue and change-making through songwriting and recording. For the first time, the ship will feature a recording studio. The project will support youth to create collaborative reflections on Canada’s colonial history through song.
- **80% of students** on the 2017 Arctic Expedition are **fully funded** to participate thanks to the generous support of SOI’s partners including: the Canadian Museum of Nature, Leacross Foundation, Beatrice Snyder Foundation, Parks Canada, Makivik Corporation, Kativik Regional Government, U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Adventure Canada, Climate One, Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco

Foundation and many more! See the full list of partners [here](#).



STUDENTS ON ICE

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- Of the 120 global student participants, nearly **40%** are Indigenous youth from the Canadian Arctic and Greenland.
- With the Arctic environment as a platform, students will engage in discussions and experiential learning with a global team of over 80 staff including leading scientists, Inuit elders, artists, politicians, and visionary leaders. Staff include:
 - **Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman.** Mr. Heyman worked to improve U.S.-Canadian relations as Ambassador and was actively involved in Arctic-related issues. Formerly VP of Goldman Sachs in Chicago, Mr. Heyman currently works to promote progressive causes.
 - **Nancy Karetak-Lindell, President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada.** The first female Member of Parliament for the Eastern Arctic and a key player in negotiations to establish Nunavut as a political jurisdiction in Canada.
 - **Paul Quassa, Nunavut Minister of Education.** Government House Leader and Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.
 - **Roger Bull, Senior Research Assistant, Canadian Museum of Nature.** Coordinates the Canadian Museum of Nature's Laboratory of Molecular Biodiversity where students study mysteries of the natural world by unlocking information about DNA molecules.
 - **Genevieve Cote, paddling instructor and field technician.** A trained environmental field technician, her thirst for northern adventure has led her across Russia - all the way to Svalbard and down the Yukon River.
 - **Deborah Webster, Heritage researcher and author.** Nunavut's first Inuk archaeologist. She is also the author of two books; Harvaqtuurmiut Heritage: The Heritage of the Inuit of the Lower Kazan River (Artisan Press, 1998) and Akilak's Adventure (Inhabit Media, 2016).
 - **Nelson Tagoona, Inuit beat boxer and throat singer.** He is known for his inspirational messages and unique blend of vocal percussion and traditional Inuit throat singing.
 - **Daniele Bianchi, PhD,** Assistant Professor in the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Department at the University of California Los Angeles. His research looks at the interactions between climate, ocean circulation and marine life and how marine organisms respond to changes in their environment.

Follow Students on Ice [online](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Updates will be posted throughout the journey including photos, videos and student blogs!

About the Students on Ice Foundation

Since 2000, Students on Ice (SOI) has led life-changing, educational expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Globally acclaimed as a leader in polar education and youth engagement, SOI's expeditions and outreach initiatives educate youth about the importance of the Polar Regions, support their continued growth and to inspire initiatives that contribute to global sustainability. The result is more than 2,500 alumni from 52 countries making a positive and lasting impact on communities around the world.

MEDIA: high res photos, b-roll and videos are available upon request! To arrange an interview with any of the students or staff or to request more information, please contact:

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