



STUDENTS ON ICE

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Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition – Fact Sheet

The [Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition](#) will take 130 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 July 23 – August 7, 2018.

Guided by a team of Indigenous and non Indigenous 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.

This year's educational pillars are: climate change; ocean literacy and conservation; sustainable development goals, truth and reconciliation. Youth will engage in cross-disciplinary, place-based learning across these themes and more, 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 2018 Arctic Expedition.

- Highlights of the journey include:
 - Exploring the Ilulissat Ice fjord UNESCO World Heritage Site (“iceberg factory”);
 - Encounters with iconic Arctic wildlife such as polar bears, seals and whales;
 - Paddling Inuit qajaqs (kayaks) in Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound), a proposed National Marine Conservation Area within the Northwest Passage that is rich in marine biodiversity;
 - Observe and learn about the first cross-national and Inuit led (proposed) Marine Protected Area, Pikialasorsuaq, also known as the North Water Polyna, one of the most biologically productive marine areas in the Arctic;
 - Hikes and workshops in Sirmilik National Park;
 - Visits to Arctic communities and cultural activities;
 - Citizen science research including ocean current research through Dept of Fisheries and Oceans Drift Bottle project, eDNA sampling, plastics sampling and wildlife monitoring;
 - Song writing workshops and performances with award winning Indigenous folk duo [Twin Flames](#)
 - Zodiac excursions among icebergs;
 - Lots of adventure!
- The 2018 Arctic Expedition consists of 130 students and over 80 staff from 20 countries around the world, including: Canada, Mexico, Greenland, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, China, Hong Kong, Italy, Ecuador, Germany, Norway, Monaco, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Denmark, France, Switzerland, U.S.A., and the United Kingdom.
- **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, Canada Goose, Makivik Corporation, Kativik Regional Government, U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, First Air, the official airline of the Students on Ice Foundation and many more! See the full list of partners [here](#).
- Of the 130 global student participants, nearly **40%** are Indigenous Arctic youth from Canada, Alaska and Greenland.



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- 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, elders, artists, politicians, and visionary leaders. Staff include:
 - **The Honourable Nellie Kusugak, Commissioner of Nunavut.** A retired instructor and teacher of traditional and cultural education in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut's fifth commissioner.
 - **Mira Kleist, Special Advisor on Arctic affairs for the Government of Greenland.** Represents Greenland at officials level in the Arctic Council, at the Nordic Council of Ministers' advisory committee on Arctic co-operation, and diplomacy around Greenland's extended continental shelf.
 - **Adam van Koeverden,** Four time Olympic medalist and World Champion in kayaking. Adam is an inspirational speaker; an athlete ambassador for Right to Play; a member of the Canadian Olympic Committee's Athlete Commission; involved with the David Suzuki Foundation; and a National Spokesperson for Colon Cancer Canada.
 - **Jennifer Doubt, Botany Curator, Canadian Museum of Nature.** Leads the development, preservation and sharing of the National Herbarium: a public archive of over 1 million specimens of wild plants, lichens and algae, collected since 1766. Jennifer also conducts research in bryophyte biodiversity and conservation and she serves on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.
 - **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.
 - **Chelsea June and Jaaji Okpik of the award-winning Indigenous folk duo Twin Flames.** Chelsey is an Algonquin Cree Métis Woman from Ottawa and Jaaji is an Inuk Mohawk man from Nunavik and Kahnawake. Together these artists take listeners on a musical journey across Canada and the Arctic as they echo the voices of their ancestors and depict life on the land through their music.
 - **Julie Gelfand, Canada's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.** Julie co- led the campaign for the Species at Risk Act and led many campaigns to create new national parks and marine protected areas. She also participated in one of the first traditional ecological knowledge studies in Hudson and James Bay and she recently released reports on climate change action in Canada and Canada's preparedness to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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 more than 30 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 inspire initiatives that contribute to global sustainability. The result is more than 2,700 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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