



STUDENTS ON ICE

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Arctic 2019 Fact Sheet

The [Students on Ice 2019 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, 2019.**

Led by a global team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scientists, artists, experts, educators and visionary leaders, youth will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the changing Arctic and its peoples. Following the expedition, this diverse group will work collectively and individually to create new ideas, partnerships, and initiatives addressing the many challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic and the Planet.

This year's **educational pillars** are: climate change; ocean literacy and conservation; sustainable development goals, and healthy communities.

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), Canada’s largest (proposed) National Marine Conservation Area. Tallurutiup Imanga is an area rich in biodiversity that has been an Inuit homeland since time immemorial. Tallurutiup Imanga will be the biggest protected area ever established in Canada, with an area of 109,000 square kilometres.
- Observe and learn about the first cross-national and Inuit led (proposed) Marine Protected Area, **Pikialasorsuaq**, also known as the North Water Polyna, an oceanographic feature that is the largest and most biologically productive of its kind north of the Arctic Circle, and also a focus of Canadian and Greenlandic Inuit-led efforts for protection
- Hikes and workshops in **Sirmilik National Park**. Sirmilik means “place of glaciers” and covering the northern tip of Baffin Island, is home to diverse wildlife, breathtaking scenery and historic and archaeological sites that tell the story of Thule and Inuit settlements in the region.
- Visits to Arctic communities and cultural activities;
- Citizen science research including ocean current research through the Dept of Fisheries and Oceans Drift Bottle project and wildlife monitoring;
- Song writing workshops and performances with award winning singer-songwriter Ian Tamblyn
- Zodiac excursions among icebergs



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- **The 2019 Arctic Expedition team is made up of 130 students** (100 high school, 30 post secondary) from 18 countries including Canada, U.S., Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Russia, Peru, England, Ireland, Germany, Monaco, Switzerland, Seychelles, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and China (Hong Kong).
- Students from **every Canadian province and territory**
- Students from **every circumpolar country**: Canada, U.S. (Alaska), Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, and Russia
- Of the 130 students, **66 are Indigenous** (just over 50%). These include:
 - 39 Inuit (37 from Canada, 2 from Greenland)
 - 22 First Nations
 - 2 Metis
 - 3 Indigenous outside of Canada (Sámi from Sweden & Finland)
- **90% of students are fully funded to participate** thanks to SOI's global network of partners and supporters.
- The education program will be led by a global team of Indigenous and non Indigenous scientists, artists, elders, historians and visionary leaders including:
 - **PJ Akeegok**, President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association;
 - **Cristiana Paşca Palmer**, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - **Alison LeClaire**, Senior Arctic Official and Director General of Circumpolar & Eastern European Relations for Global Affairs Canada;
 - **Pirita Näkkäläjärvi**, Sámi writer and media professional;
 - **Ian Tamblyn**, award winning singer-songwriter;
 - **Bianca Perrin**, British Antarctic Survey climate scientist;
 - **Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak**, award-winning Inuit storyteller, children's writer and author of A Promise is a Promise;
 - **Victoria Buschman**; native Alaskan and Fulbright Fellow with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna; and
 - **Geoff Green**, Order of Canada recipient and Students on Ice Founder and Expedition Leader