



# Climate Change in Coastal Maine

## Fall 2024

### **Week 1 - Orientation**

We start our journey together at Camp Wavus on Lake Damariscotta, in Mid Coast Maine. Here we will spend the first week connecting with the group and getting introduced to elements of the program. We'll grow our bonds on high and low ropes courses, get introduced to the executive functioning coach, and start our self-reflection process that will continue throughout the program.

We'll also get introduced to the main theme of the program - climate change! We'll start digging into all the various aspects of climate change as well as the projects and partner organizations that we will be engaging with through the program. In addition, we'll be getting introduced to capstone projects and the student-led expedition and will start the process of brainstorming and selecting projects.

### **Week 2 - Canoeing the St. Croix River**

After orientation, we drive north to the St. Croix River which defines the US-Canadian border. We'll spend the next five days canoeing the river with the group, developing our teamwork, communication, and camping skills. Along the way, we'll get introduced to the flora, fauna, and environment of northern Maine. It's rugged and remote out here! If we are lucky we might even see some moose! Or we'll fish in the river and try to catch dinner. At the end of the river trip, we'll take out and celebrate our journey with a big group lunch.

### **Week 3 - Introduction to Climate Change Projects**

Next, we'll transition to the Downeast Institute (DEI), the marine science field station for the University of Maine at Machias. Here we will engage with one of our first climate change projects - oyster harvesting! As carbon accumulates in the atmosphere, approximately 30% is sucked up by the oceans. The result of more carbon in the ocean is that the water is slowly becoming more acidic. This can have a big impact on shellfish and other crustaceans! DEI is doing research into how to adapt to this new reality as well as how to offset some of the impacts of ocean acidification. We'll be helping with the final oyster tumble of the year - moving oysters to larger grow bags to continue their growth cycle.

This week we'll also have time to tour DEI's facilities and learn more about their projects, to take a few hikes in the surrounding area, and to continue work on the student-led expedition and capstone projects.

#### **Week 4 - Climate Change Projects and Country Fair**

After the week at DEI, we will shift back to Camp Wavus and settle into a weekly routine for the next several weeks. Days will be spent engaging in a variety of climate change projects such as getting out on the lobster boat, rockweed surveys, and biological surveys. In the evenings we'll have time for group activities and relaxation. Students will also have time to prep for the student-led expedition and to continue work on their capstone projects.

The weekend of September 24 we'll head to Unity, ME to volunteer at the Common Ground Country Fair, which is put on by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. It's one of the largest of its kind in the country and is a celebration of rural living that emphasizes sustainable living, local economies, and organic agriculture.

#### **Weeks 5 & 6 - Climate Change Projects and Prep for Student-led Expedition**

For the next two weeks, we will continue our routine of working on climate projects, capstone projects, and the student-led expedition. We'll also have time to explore a bit of the local coastal area and enjoy the fall weather at Camp Wavus. By the end of Week 6, students will be finalizing the plans and logistics for the upcoming student-led expedition!

#### **Week 7 - Student-led Expedition**

It's here! For this week you and your group are in charge! You will determine where we go, what we do, and how we get there. You will have been planning this trip from the beginning of the program and now it's time to get out and experience it! The students are in charge of all the logistics and activities - so it will be a big exercise in organization, planning, time management, and communication. Your leaders will enjoy seeing you take the reins of the program for this week and will be supporting you from behind.

#### **Weeks 8 & 9 - Final work on Climate Change Projects and Capstone Project**

We'll celebrate the end of the student-led expedition and transition back to Camp Wavus. The next two weeks will include intensive work on climate projects capstone projects. We'll be starting our Kelp growing project across this timeline and we'll continue our volunteer work with a local farm. Students will finalize their capstone projects at the end of week 9 and will then transition to getting ready for the upcoming presentations.

#### **Week 10 - Capstone Presentations and Preparing for Transitions**

The final week brings capstone presentations and next steps! Families, partner organizations, and the community will be invited to a TedX-style conference that is a celebration of learning. Each student will present their capstone project, which they have been working on throughout the program. Once the conference is finished, we'll have a few final days to celebrate and prepare for transitions.

Over the course of this last week, each student will create a transition plan with the help of the executive functioning coach which looks back at the skills and habits learned over the course of the program and how to adapt and implement those skills in their next step - whether that is college, work, or continued exploration.

As a group, we'll also reflect on the journey we've gone through - together and individually - and the growth and learning that has occurred. We'll celebrate the end of the program and then transition back to Portland, ME for flights and onward travel.

*\*Ingenuity Year reserves the right to make changes to the program at any time. Changes may be required to provide the best possible experience, protect the safety of participants, or respond to changes in weather or climatic conditions.*