

# River raft guiding program for youth



Youth who participated in Youth On the Water last summer in Hazelton learned swift water rescue, rope ties and raft guiding skills.

*CONTRIBUTED PHOTO*

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THIS SUMMER eight lucky youth will have the opportunity to take part in a unique program which will provide river raft guide training, along with invaluable knowledge about the watershed.

The program is called Youth On the Water (YOW), developed by Chris Gee with the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition.

This is the second session for the program, which is free for the youth, taking place last summer in the Hazeltons.

“The idea is to connect young people to water in such a way that they take the opportunity to understand the value of the river beyond resource extraction,” says Gee. “It’s a great opportunity to learn tangible and transferable job skills, the notion that a person can maneuver down a river, that is a huge self esteem booster.”

Youth will learn swift water rescue and river raft guiding techniques, but guest speakers will cover educational units on specific topics such as fish species and life-cycles,

wildlife habitat, First Nations culture and other current threats to the Skeena River watershed.

Kim Ward-Robberts will facilitate the program in Terrace this summer, which runs from July 19 to 30. She says they will start out on the lake and gradually move onto an easy section of the Copper or Skeena River, with help from Hatha Callis with Skeena Valley Expeditions.

For this year's session Ward-Robberts is looking for a letter of intent from eight enthusiastic youth (four boys, four girls) ages 16 to 20.

“We want people who want to be out there,” she says.

Send letters of intent to Ward-Robberts at [kimmyward@hotmail.com](mailto:kimmyward@hotmail.com), deadline is June 30.