

# 24<sup>TH</sup> Annual NTCSA Training Conference



**NATIONAL TRIBAL  
CHILD SUPPORT  
ASSOCIATION**

*SOARING TOGETHER: ELEVATING TRIBAL FAMILIES TO NEW HEIGHTS*

# LCO'S GOODLIFE CAMP AND THE IMPACT ON YOUTH'S CULTURAL CONNECTEDNESS

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# VISION OF THE CAMP

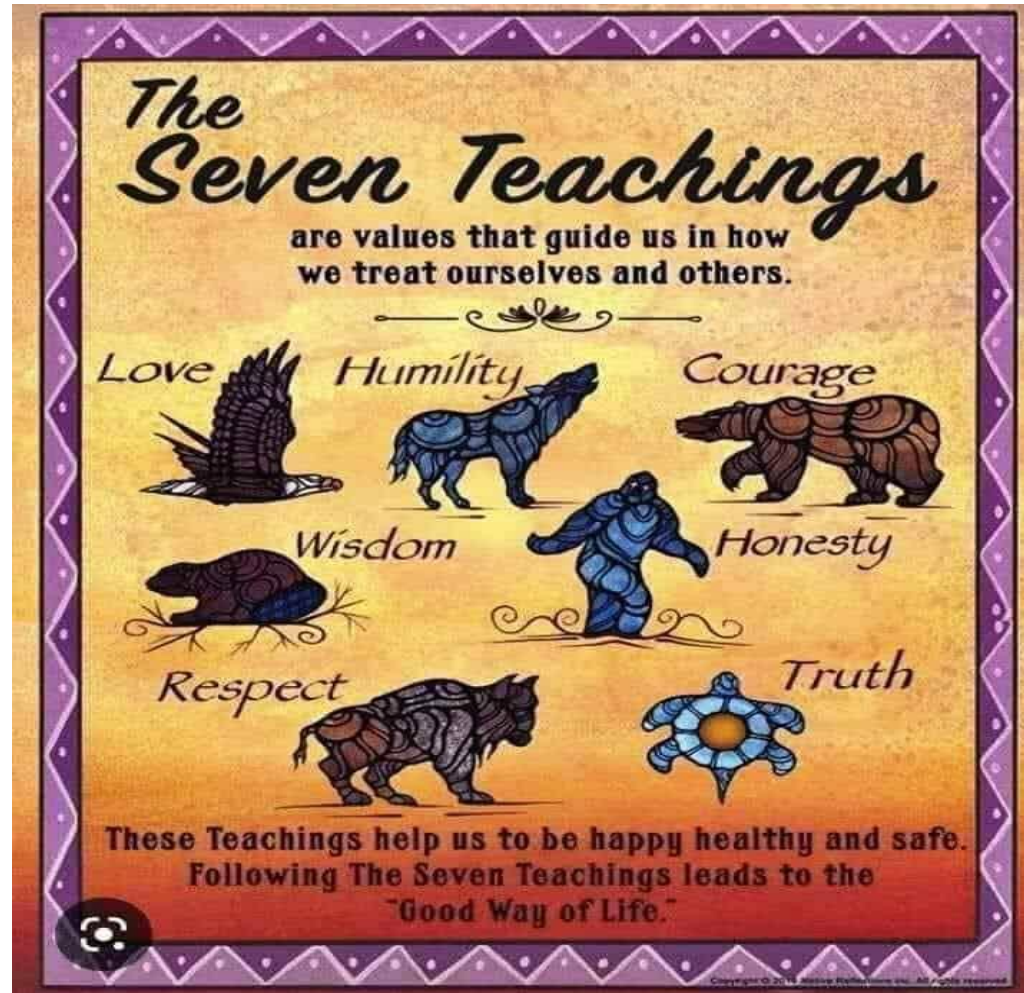


# GOOD LIFE CAMP

The camp was launched in 2022 in a first-of-its-kind effort for Lac Courte Oreilles Child Support



# The 7-Grandfather Teachings: A Path to Balance and Harmony



# Seven Grandfather Teachings

- **LOVE** The foundation of the Seven Grandfather Teachings is love. Love encompasses more than just affection for others; it's about love for oneself, for the Creator, and for the world around us.
- **RESPECT** The teachings on Respect will include the learning of treating those around you the way you want to be treated and that Respect does not allow you to be harmful to yourself or others as if you harm yourself, you are also harming yourself and the entire community.
- **BRAVERY - COURAGE** Bravery, in the context of the Seven Grandfathers, means having the courage to stand up for what is right.
- **HONESTY** -is a commitment to truthfulness in words and actions.
- **HUMILITY** - Humility is the recognition of our place within the grand tapestry of existence.
- **TRUTH** -Truth is more than simply stating facts;
- **WISDOM** -Wisdom is the culmination of the other teachings. It arises when we embrace love, respect, and uphold the values of bravery, honesty, humility, and truth in all that we do.



# LCO's Good Life Camp and the Impact on Youth's Cultural Connectedness

- *The theory of change*
- *Vison of the camp*
- *The evaluation process ;The evaluation aims to identify successes and shortcomings, measure the outcomes against the initial objectives, and offer insights for future projects.*
- *The Evaluation process also acknowledges the efforts of the project team and stakeholders.*





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## The THEORY OF CHANGE

By strengthening young people's Ojibwe cultural connection and identity

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Providing culturally relevant parenting knowledge and skills

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The next generation of Lac Courte Oreilles parents will be living the Good Life in happy, stable, economically mobile families.



# The Camp Itself



## The relationship with the camp

- Staff Provided by the Camp
  - Activity Staff
  - Lifeguards
  - Kitchen
- Staff Provided by the Program
  - Cabin counselors
  - Cultural activity leaders
  - Singers, Drummers, Dancers
  - Jr Counselors
  - Camp Director
  - Program Leadership



# Things to Consider

## Staff Training and Orientation is critical

- Written guidelines
- Safety and security for all involved
- Realistic expectations
- Flexibility

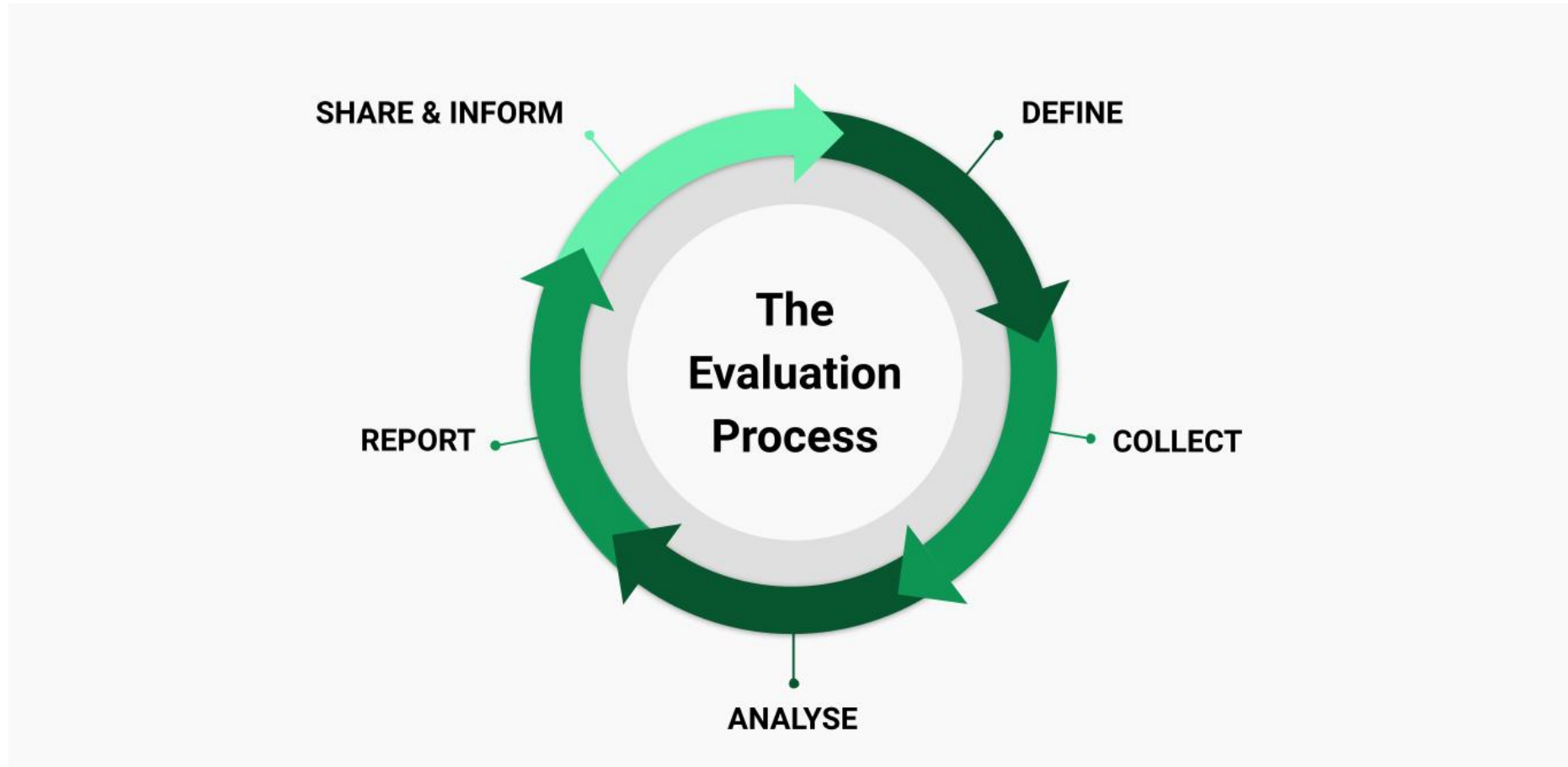
## Solid Plan and Schedule

- Variety of activities
- Back up for staff breaks
- Keep the days full





Evaluating project performance involves a systematic approach to measure, analyze, and improve project outcomes.



# Cultural Connectedness

- Primary outcome of interest for the cultural camp
- Defining cultural connectedness
  - Degree to which an individual feels connected and integrated within their culture



# Importance of Cultural Connectedness

- Cultural connectedness has been linked to several positive outcomes:
  - Strong protective factor against generational trauma and contributes to improved mental health (Gray & Cote, 2019)
  - Predictor of resilience among tribal communities (LaFromboise & colleagues, 2006)
  - Lower levels of violent activity and alcohol abuse (Pu et al., 2013; Allen et al., 2006)
  - Increased academic success (Whitbeck & colleagues, 2001)



# Evaluating Cultural Connectedness Among Youth

- Surveys measuring cultural connectedness conducted with campers
- Five survey iterations
  1. Baseline Camp Survey (Summer 2022)
  2. First Follow-up Survey (December 2022)
  3. Camp Survey (Summer 2023)
  4. Second Follow-up Survey (March 2024)
  5. Camp Survey (Summer 2024)



# Survey Administration

- Camp surveys administered by LCO staff
- First follow-up survey sent to campers via mail
- Second follow-up survey emailed to campers



# Cultural Connectedness Scale-S

- Validated scale for measuring connection to culture among Native Youth
- Developed by Angela Snowshoe (Snowshoe, 2015)
- “Indigenous quantitative methodology in action” approach (Walter & Andersen, 2013)
- Ten items
  - Three subscales: (1) identity, (2) traditions, and (3) spirituality



# Cultural Connectedness Scale-S Item Examples

- I have spent time trying to find out more about being Native, such as history, traditions, and customs. [Identity]
- I have a traditional person, Elder, or Spiritual leader who I talk to. [Traditions]
- I feel a connection to things like animals and rocks as natural beings. [Spirituality]



# Cultural Connectedness Scale Data Coding

- Higher score indicates increased cultural connectedness
- Subscales coded for a summed total score of identity, tradition, and spirituality
- Scores from each subscale were summed together for a total overall measure of cultural connectedness



# Data Analysis Plan

1. Results from the baseline camp in the summer of 2022 were compared to the follow-up results in December 2022
2. Results from camp in the summer of 2023 were compared to the subsequent follow-up results in March of 2024
3. Results from the baseline camp in the summer of 2022 were compared to the results from the camp in the summer of 2024



# Survey Results

- No initial change in cultural connectedness between the baseline camp survey and the first follow-up survey
- Increase in the spirituality subscale and the overall cultural connectedness scale in the March follow-up compared to results from the summer 2023 camp
- Increase in the identity subscale, traditions subscale, and overall cultural connectedness scale between the baseline camp in the summer of 2022 and the third camp in the summer of 2024



# Key Takeaways

- The culture camp increased cultural connectedness for youth campers
  - Especially over time between the first camp in the summer of 2022 and the third camp in the summer of 2024
- Camp engaged over 75 youth in meaningful cultural recreational activities
- Given prior research, it is hoped that increasing cultural connectedness will help build a sense of personal identity and sense of belonging to community



# References

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**Thank you**



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# Conclusion

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# Cultural Connectedness Scale-S Items

Do you agree with these sentences? Mark yes, no, or I'm not sure [Options: yes, no, I'm not sure]

1. I know my indigenous/spirit name. [Spirituality]

2. I feel a connection to things like animals and rocks as natural beings. [Spirituality]

3. I use or intend to use tobacco or asemaa for guidance. [Traditions]

4. I plan on trying to find out more about my Native culture, such as its history, traditions, and customs. [Identity]

5. I have a traditional person, Elder, or Spiritual leader who I talk to. [Traditions]

Do you agree or disagree with these sentences? Mark how much you agree or disagree. [Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, I'm not sure, Agree Strongly, or Agree]

6. I have spent time trying to find out more about being Native, such as history, traditions, and customs. [Identity]

7. I have a strong sense of belonging to my Native community or Nation. [Identity]

8. I feel a strong attachment towards my Native community or Nation. [Identity]

9. The eagle feather has a lot of meaning to me. [Spirituality]

Mark your answer to the question below: [Options: Never, Once/Twice in the Past year, Every Month, Every Week, Every Day, I'm not sure]

10. How often does someone in your family or someone you are close with use sage, sweetgrass, tobacco/asemma or cedar in any way or form? [Traditions]



	Baseline Camp Summer 2022 (n = 28)	Follow-up December 2022 (n = 28)	Camp Summer 2023 (n = 56)	Follow-up March 2024 (n = 23)	Camp Summer 2024 (n = 38)
	Average (SD)	Average (SD)	Average (SD)	Average (SD)	Average (SD)
	Range	Range	Range	Range	Range
<b>Identity Subscale</b>	13.75 (3.76) 8,20	12.21(6.98) 0,19	14.57(3.32) 7,20	15.65 (2.23) 9,19	15.63*(3.18) <sub>3</sub> 7,20
<b>Traditions Subscale</b>	6.82 (3.92) 0,15	7.71 (4.83) 0,15	8.70 (4.49) 0,15)	10.65 (3.81) 2,14	8.66*(3.99) <sub>4</sub> 1,15
<b>Spirituality Subscale</b>	8.32 (3.67) 2,15	7.36 (5.00) 0,15	9.16 (3.58) 4,15	11.60*(3.43) <sub>1</sub> 5,15	9.60 (3.04) 4,15
<b>Overall Cultural Connectedness</b>	28.89 (7.85) 15, 44	27.29 (15.25) 0,45	32.43 (8.72) 15,48	37.91* (7.22) <sub>2</sub> 23,47	33.89* (7.49) <sub>5</sub> 20,46

Notes: SD is an abbreviation for Standard Deviation; \* $p \leq 0.05$

- Indicates a statistically significant increase in the spirituality subscale in the March follow-up compared to results from the summer 2023 camp
- Indicates a statistically significant increase in the overall cultural connectedness scale in the March follow-up compared to results from the summer 2023 camp
- Indicates a statistically significant increase in the identity subscale between the baseline camp in the summer of 2022 and the camp in the summer of 2024
- Indicates a statistically significant increase in the traditions subscale between the baseline camp in the summer of 2022 and the camp in the summer of 2024
- Indicates a statistically significant increase in the overall cultural connectedness scale between the baseline camp in the summer of 2022 and the camp in the summer of 2024