

# LEARNING ON THE EDGE OF CANADA



Vancouver Island West International Program

You'll be surrounded by  
**Pristine Wilderness**

with access to  
**Unparalleled Wildlife**

Immerse yourself in  
**Indigenous Culture**

Experience an  
**Unrivaled Educational  
& Outdoor Program**

Vancouver Island West  
School District 84  
Gold River, Canada



Offering unique experiences for International Students

## Unique Indigenous Culture

In the Nootka Sound region, home of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht, you can meet direct descendants and experience the culture of a people who trace their roots back into the mists of time. They were one of the few indigenous peoples on the Pacific Coast who hunted whales. Whaling was central to their culture and spirituality, and is reflected in stories, songs, names, family lines, and numerous place names.

You can visit the site of a 4300 year old village and walk the beach where Captain Cook first met Chief Maquinna in 1778.

Some 200 years later the Mowachaht/Muchalaht joined other western Vancouver Island Indigenous people, and became known as the *Nuu-chah-nulth*, meaning "all along the mountains."



## Adventure & Challenge ...create friendships and lasting memories!

### Activities

- Wilderness Camping
- Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Winter Camping
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Caving
- Rock Climbing
- Fly Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Archery
- Surfing
- Paddle Boarding
- Sailing
- Scuba Diving
- Hiking

### Goals & Skills

- Avalanche Safety
- Wilderness First Aid
- Navigation
- Work Experience
- Risk Analysis
- Marketable Skills
- Outdoor Skills

### You'll experience

- Teamwork
- Hands On Learning
- Volunteering
- Stewardship

### You'll build

- Confidence
- Self Reliance
- Perseverance
- Character



## Nootka Sound Outdoor Program

International students have full access to participate in the popular Nootka Sound Outdoor Program (NSOP) at no additional cost. Through experiential and outdoor learning, NSOP allows students to earn credits toward graduation while engaging in wilderness adventures. This unique, certified program, offered during school and weekends, provides students the flexibility to choose activities that interest them at their comfort level.

# Homestay Program

- Live with a safe, friendly, and caring local family.
- Participate in family events and activities.
- All meals provided by the homestay family.
- Students become part of the family.
- Personality matching program to find the family that best fits.
- Transportation to and from school and activities.
- Our Homestay Coordinator helps make the transition to living away from home as easy as possible.



**“I learned about leadership  
...without NSOP  
I don't think I would  
have reached out  
and interacted  
with so many  
different kids.”**

**“The program  
really pushed  
me to better myself  
as a person...  
it really helped me open up  
and take on more  
challenges in life.”**

**“I've done so many  
amazing courses, and there  
are so many things that I never  
would have discovered.”**



## What makes our International program unique?

### **An Exceptional Outdoor Education Program**

Students choose adventures tailored to their interest and comfort level.

### **The Opportunity to Travel and Explore on the Edge of Canada**

Students discover our spectacular coastal district, learn in remote schools and communities, and immerse themselves in our unique coastal culture.

### **A Rich Culture and Heritage**

Students learn about Canada's indigenous people, and to appreciate their sense of place and history. This is where first contact with Europeans was made between Captain Cook and Chief Maquinna.

### **Living in Smaller Communities**

Communities that embrace and care for students; where the presence of international students is welcomed.



## Our Programs

Experience the quality of education found in British Columbia and respected around the world.

### **Year long Program**

For students in grades 5 to 12 (10-18 years old).  
While enrolled in our schools you will have access to the full complement of academic and elective courses, the outdoor education program, sport teams, indigenous culture and extracurricular activities through our spectacular school district.  
Flexible start dates.

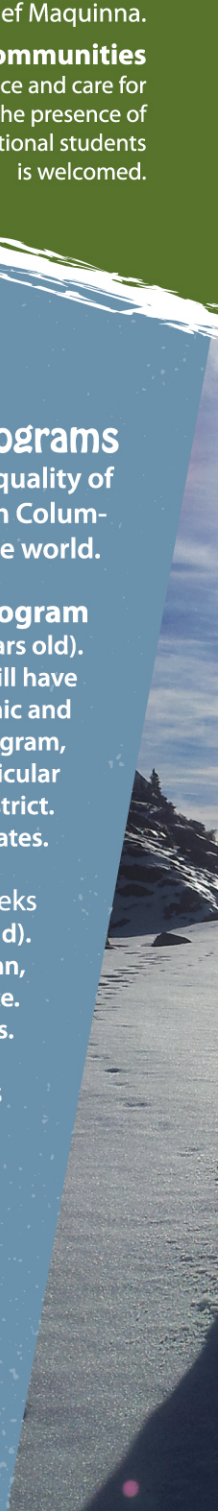
### **Short Term 1-4 weeks**

For students in grades 5-12 (10-18 years old).  
A value-added remote, rural Canadian, cultural and adventure experience.  
Flexible start dates.

### **Summer program 2-4 weeks**

For students in grades 5 to 12 (10-18 years old).  
The program focus is on English proficiency, recreational activities, Canadian culture, and outdoor adventures.

*All programs include English Second Language (ESL) training by certified British Columbia Ministry of Education teachers.*



# Vancouver Island West International Program

The Gold River community sits in the heart of Vancouver Island, BC in the territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht Indigenous peoples. Surrounded by snow capped mountains, waterfalls, pristine salmon-filled rivers, and ancient forests, this is where wilderness and wildlife abound – the land of discovery!

Arts and crafts flourish in the region allowing students to immerse themselves in Canadian culture. At the gateway to historic Nootka Sound on the edge of Canada's Pacific Coast, our international students learn, explore and live in a clean, modern and safe, coastal mountain community.

For more information contact:

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[www.goldriver.ca](http://www.goldriver.ca)

[www.getwest.ca](http://www.getwest.ca)



... on the edge of Canada's west coast

