YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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Call for Culture Camp Proposals: Summer 2027

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

Fostering Youth Knowledge, Scientific Discovery, and Cultural Heritage Preservation

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) invites interested tribal councils and communities along the Yukon River to submit a Letter of Interest to partner with us in coordinating and hosting with your community a Blended Science & Culture Camp in summer 2027.

Purpose & Background

For several years, salmon fishing restrictions along the Yukon River drainage have limited standard subsistence harvesting opportunities. In response, YRDFA remains deeply committed to keeping cultural practices while providing youth with the scientific tools needed to become informed stewards of the river.

Following three highly successful cultural camps hosted in partnership with the Native Village of Ruby, YRDFA is expanding this opportunity to additional communities along the Yukon River drainage.

YRDFA maintains dedicated, experienced staff who specialize in camp management, grant seeking, presenter coordination, and curriculum design. Through a formal contracting partnership, YRDFA will work side by side with your community to plan, fund, and deliver an enriching week of outdoor cultural education and activities.

Program Framework & Curriculum:
Our blended camp model combines Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with hands-on fisheries education. YRDFA coordinates with elders, fisheries biologists, visiting researchers, and cultural practitioners to deliver curriculum:

- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge:** Smokehouse practices, traditional fish cutting demonstrations, salmon processing, language lessons, elder storytelling, traditional arts/crafts, and cultural songs and dances.
- **Hands-on Education:** Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, water quality and temperature monitoring, salmon biology/dissections, river ecology, drone mapping, and field trips to local fish habitats.
- **Community Leadership & Stewardship:** Facilitated dialogues on fisheries management, local conservation strategies, and intergenerational knowledge exchange.

Organizational Roles & Partnership Structure

To ensure a seamless event, YRDFA and the host community work together under a collaborative contracting model:

Focus Area	YRDFA Responsibilities	Host Community Responsibilities
Planning & Logistics	Coordinates schedules, manages instructor/presenter travel, and oversees	Identifies a safe, accessible camp site and assists with local logistics.

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	curriculum development and activity schedules.	
Funding & Grants	Actively seeks grant funding, submits donation requests, and assists with budgeting.	Contracts YRDFA for services and contributes local matching resources where available.
Permitting & Safety	Prepares educational fishing permit applications (where applicable) and safety protocols.	Identifies designated local boat captains, fishermen, and camp helpers.
Community Engagement	Invites visiting researchers, agency staff, and external presenters.	Engages local Elders, culture bearers, chaperones, and youth participants.

Community Requirements

To participate in the 2027 Culture Camp initiative, host communities should have:

1. **Available Camp Location:** A safe, accessible outdoor site along the river that can support youth tents, outdoor cooking, and workshop activities.
2. **Contractual Agreement:** Capacity to enter into a partnership contract with YRDFA to dedicate staff and resource support.
3. **Local Leadership Support:** Engagement from the Tribal Council, local school district, or community entities to encourage youth and Elder attendance.

How to Apply

If your community or tribal council is interested in partnering with YRDFA to bring a Blended Science & Culture Camp to your village in Summer 2027, please submit a **Letter of Interest** outlining:

- The host organization/tribe name and proposed primary location.
- Estimated number of youth and Elder participants.
- Preferred timeframe during Summer 2027.
- Primary local point of contact.

Submission Details

- **Submission Deadline:** Date
- **Submit To:** Rachael Kangas, YRDFA Culture Camp Manager
- **Email:** rachael@yukonsalmon.org
- **Mailing Address:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, 721 Depot Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

For questions or to schedule an introductory discussion about camp design and funding models. or visit yukonsalmon.org.