

# WINTER ECOLOGY TRACKS PROGRAM



LETHBRIDGE  
POLYTECHNIC



Livingstone  
Range  
SCHOOL DIVISION



# Winter Ecology Tracking Program

As outdoor stewards and recreationalists, we must understand and respect that the outdoors is home to someone else. Who do you ask? ANIMALS! From various ungulates to ferocious predacious carnivores, you never know what you will come across in our wild ecosystems. This programming offers Livingstone Range Division students the opportunity to use their community as a classroom. By giving students practical practice in identifying different animal tracks to mitigate and prevent encounters, we help connect them to their local ecosystems. Students will get to engage in a gallery walk and presentation with a community expert which allows them to use their senses to experience various pelts, hooves, paws, scat, skulls, and bones of the animals that inhabit the Rocky Mountains and Foothills. Finally, students will use their knowledge to uncover tracks in the field while on a hike.



- **Grades:** 4-6
  - **Duration:** Full Day
  - **Dates:** Available during winter season.
  - **Where:** PEAKS Campus, or another location per discussion.
  - Materials will be provided.
- \*If you have interest or have any questions about this program, please contact [PEAKS Campus](#)**
- \*[Post Experience Survey](#):**  
Must be completed by all teachers, supervisors and students.



# Learning Outcomes

PEAKS Campus utilizes the following Alberta Education competencies as guiding principles to student education:

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| CRITICAL THINKING         | COMMUNICATION                   |
| PROBLEM SOLVING           | COLLABORATION                   |
| MANAGING INFORMATION      | CULTURAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP |
| CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION | PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELL-BEING  |

Competencies are combinations of attitudes, skills, and knowledge that students develop and apply for successful learning, living, and working. Activities at PEAKS challenge students outside of their comfort zone by putting them in unfamiliar situations that help students draw and progress what they know, how they think and what they can do.

For more specific outcomes, contact [PEAKS Campus](#).

## What to Expect

At the end of this program, students will have built their outdoor literacy and understand the following:

- A comprehensive understanding of various animal tracks, their sizes, shapes, gait (walking patterns) and other features that help us identify the animal.
- Build knowledge of local animals of the Rocky Mountains including weasels, coyotes, wolves, deer, mice, squirrels, hares, moose, elk, cougars, black bears and grizzly bears.



- Developing safe practices and responsible decisions when tracks have been identified in the wilderness.

**Activities:**

- **Team Building Games**
- **Animal Track Station**
  - Using their animal track identifying booklets, students will work through 6-8 stations in groups to identify different sets of footprints.
- **Community Expert Presentation and Gallery Walk**
  - Students will get a chance to use their senses to experience pelts, skulls, paws, hoofs, and bones of various animals that inhabit Southern Alberta. A community expert will be attending to answer questions and talk about animal behaviours, tracks and scat. Students will build an individual Track Identification Guide.
- **Animal Corridor Exploration**
- **Guided Snowshoe Hike**
  - Animal track exploration/discussion
  - Bingo scavenger hunt worksheet
  - Animal tracks hunt and analysis
- **Forest Games**