



Gjoa Haven Trip Report (August 16 - August 30, 2011)

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Purpose of the trip:

- This trip was an opportunity for Masters student, Becky Mearns to meet everyone involved in the project.
- This was an important trip to help establish a research project about caribou and community

well-being in Gjoa Haven, with the help of the Elders Qaggivik and Qiqirtaq High School.

- The main goal was to conduct a five day preliminary camp with Elders and youth, to be better prepared for land camps in future years.

Activities during this trip:

- Becky became acquainted with the Elders and youth that were to participate in the land camp. Preliminary meetings took place to plan the land camp and all camp participants were identified.
- Five elders as well as five support staff were identified to provide transportation to the camp as well as to aid in facilitating camp activities.
- The Elders in attendance were: Bob Konana, David Siksik, George Kamookak, and Donald and Martha Kogvik.
- School participants: Martha Porter, Julie Mariq, Adam Palongayak, Uma Aglukkaq, Andrew Oogak, Robert Hunter, Louie Uttaq, Esther Ann Magaknak, Amanda Pauloosie and teachers: Lorraine Puqignak and Adam Malcolm.
- Camp support staff included: Jasper Kameemalik, Eva Qirnniq, Jerry Arqviq, Luke Takkiruq, & Philip Annakatshik.
- A four day camp took place at Quurqarq River just west of Gjoa Haven. This camp location was chosen because of weather constraints. The initial plan had been to

travel to the main land but strong winds prevented crossing to the area.

- During the camp the nine students in attendance were taught skills such as setting up tents at the camp, hunting for small game such as birds, setting nets, cleaning and preparing game and fish and story telling took place each evening.
- At the end a one day workshop was conducted with the elders to discuss next years camp. Elders placed emphasis on the need to conduct a longer camp, earlier in the summer, and the camp should take place on the main land where the caribou herds of concern are located.

Next steps:

- A community researcher is to be hired in the community to assist with conducting research in Gjoa Haven throughout the year. This will include aiding in the planning of camps in the coming years. This researcher will act as a liaison between all involved in the project.
- Begin planning for the summer 2012 land camp in Gjoa Haven.



I would like to thank the community of Gjoa Haven for the warm welcome that I received. Qujannamiik to Mary Aqirriaq for providing me with a place to stay and for taking me in as a part of her family. I would also like to thank Kim Hagarty and everyone at the school and the DEA for being so helpful. Thanks also to Julia Ogina and KIA for your support, and to Simon Okpakok for helping with initial planning. Last but not least, a big thanks to all the camp participants. I look forward to returning next summer to work with everyone again.