Climate Change in Coastal Maine

Week 1 - Orientation
We start our journey together at Wavus Camps on Lake Damariscotta, in Mid Coast Maine. Here we will spend the first week connecting with the group and getting introduced to elements of the program. We'll grow our bonds on high and low ropes courses, get introduced to the executive functioning coaches, and start our self-reflection process that will continue throughout the program. We'll also get introduced to assistive technology, capstone projects, and wilderness canoeing and camping skills.

Week 2 - Canoeing the St. Croix River
After orientation, we'll shift north to the St. Croix River which defines the US-Canadian border. We'll spend this week canoeing the river with the group, developing our teamwork, communication, and camping skills. Along the way, we'll get introduced to the flora, fauna, and environment of northern Maine. It’s rugged and remote out here! If we are lucky we might even see some moose! Or we’ll fish in the river and try to catch dinner. At the end, we'll take out and celebrate our journey with a big group dinner.

Week 3 - Introduction to Climate Change and Projects
Next, we'll transition to the Downeast Institute, the marine science field station for the University of Maine at Machias. Here we will start digging into the biggest topic of the program: Climate Change. We'll get introduced to all the various aspects of climate change and what we will be looking at throughout the program, as well as the various projects and partnerships that we will be engaging with. These projects might include lobster pots, waterfowl migration identification, weather monitoring, softshell clam research, collecting data on water temperature and acidification, and several others. We'll also learn the research skills necessary to complete these projects.

Week 4 - Introduction to Farming and Agriculture
With a solid foundation established on climate change, we'll depart the Downeast Institute and shift back to Wavus Camps to begin our work with farming and agriculture. We'll learn about farm-to-plate movements and how what we eat is inextricably linked to climate and the environment. We'll pick our own food and learn how to create meals from what is locally and seasonally available. We'll also continue to work on our ongoing research and capstone projects.

Weeks 5 & 6 - Expeditions to the Common Ground Fair and Castle Island
For the next two weeks, we will be traveling across the state, first to Unity, Maine and the Common Ground Fair. This is one of the most extensive agricultural fairs in New England and has hundreds of exhibitors, activities, and organic foods. It is an annual celebration of rural living. After the fair, we'll head back to the coast and paddle out to Castle Island for an ocean kayaking trip. We'll base out of Castle Island, in Hockomock Bay, and use the week to explore the surrounding bay area and continue our climate research projects.
Week 7 - Work on Projects and Prepare for Student-led Expedition
We'll transition back to land and return to Wavus Camps. For this next week, we'll continue to work on our climate and capstone projects and have some time to relax and enjoy the camp. We'll also get the final details in order for the upcoming student expedition.

Week 8 - Student-led Expedition
This week, the students are in charge. You will determine where we go, what we do, and how we get there. The students will have been planning this trip from the beginning of the program and now it’s time to get out and experience it! The group will be in charge of all the logistics and activities - so have fun!

Week 9 - Final Work on Climate Projects and Capstone Project
Celebrating the end of the student expedition, we'll transition back to Wavus Camps for a final week of project work. We'll put the final touches on the semester’s climate projects, and each student will finalize their capstone project.

Week 10 - Capstone Presentations and Next Transitions
The final week brings capstone presentations and next steps! Families, partner organizations, and the community will be invited to a TedX style conference that is a celebration of learning. Each student will present their capstone project, which they have been working on throughout the program. Once the conference is finished, we'll have a few final days to celebrate and prepare for transitions. We'll reflect on the journey we've gone through - together and individually - and we'll reflect on the growth and learning that has occurred. Finally, we'll take stock and help prepare for the next journey - the end of the program and transition into new environments.

*Ingenuity Year reserves the right to make changes to the program at any time, and indeed has the responsibility to do so in some instances; changes may be required to provide the best possible experience, protect the safety of participants, or respond to changes in weather or climatic conditions.*