

# *Nimiigwechwendam Nibiish*

## *Tribal Youth Summer Camp*

### *(NOAA BWET Grant Supported)*

*Honoring Water, Culture, and Community Through Education*

*Collaborative between Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) & Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa (LTBB) Education Dept.*



**Bimaadiziwin Gimiingonaa Nibi**

Water Gives Life

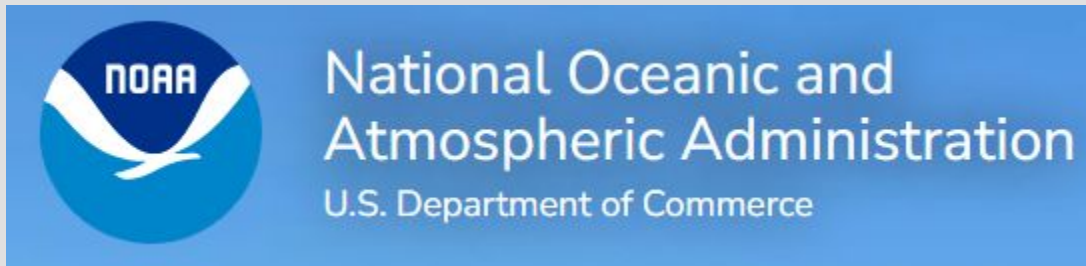


This program is supported through funding from:

**NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program for Indigenous Communities**

This support makes it possible to:

- Provide culturally grounded environmental education
- Offer hands-on field experiences
- Support youth leadership development
- Strengthen long-term partnerships in water stewardship



# Why This Camp Matters

Water connects culture,  
community,  
and responsibility.

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Through hands-on learning  
and cultural teachings,  
youth deepen their  
relationship with water and  
understand their role in  
protecting it.



# Program Purpose & Vision

## Purpose

To provide culturally grounded, place-based watershed education.

## Vision

Youth who are confident, connected, and committed to caring for water and land.



# Partnership & Tribal Leadership



This program is guided by  
LTBB leadership.

LTBB departments and cultural  
advisors shape the direction,  
teachings, and priorities of the  
camp.

This is collaborative work  
rooted in trust and  
shared goals.

# What is Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)?

Traditional Ecological Knowledge is learning built through generations of relationship with land and water.

At camp, TEK is experienced through:

- Ceremony
- Storytelling
- Observation
- Place-based learning



# Program Structure + Intentions

## Two summer sessions per year, 2025 & 2026

### Small cohort model

- 8–12 students each day
- 4-8th grade (with older grades participating/helping a couple of days - LTBB NRD YCC)
- w/family participation on occasion, making it intergenerational learning in action

### Each Day Includes:

Water Science

Anishinaabemowin

Ceremony for &  
w/nibiish/water

Reflection &  
Project Time

Local &  
Traditional foods

**25 SCHEDULE**  
*w/resources linked*



The flyer features a background of a white paper bag with string lights hanging from the top. At the top left are three logos: the Odawa Nation logo, the Odawa County logo, and the Watershed Council logo. The title 'Nimigwechwendam Nibiish SUMMER CAMP' is prominently displayed in green and white. Below the title is a green banner with the text 'EXPLORE. LEARN. PROTECT.' and a paragraph of introductory text. The flyer includes three circular inset photos: a person in a yellow shirt and cap holding a small insect, a hand holding a crayfish, and two people in waders fishing in a stream. A dark blue circular badge on the right side of the flyer reads 'FREE for Tribal Youth Grades 6 - 12'. The bottom section contains a 'REGISTER:' heading, a QR code, a website link, and a phone number.

**Nimigwechwendam Nibiish**  
**SUMMER CAMP**

**EXPLORE. LEARN. PROTECT.**

Join us for a unique summer camp experience where you'll connect with the water, land, and traditions of the Odawa people through hands-on activities and outdoor adventures!

**Dates:**  
June 17-19 & July 8-10

**Daily Schedule**  
Drop-off: 8:00-8:30 AM  
Crooked Tree Arts Center  
Pick-up: 2:00 PM  
Crooked Tree Arts Center  
Late Pick-Up: 5:30 PM  
LTBB Government Building

**FREE for Tribal Youth Grades 6 - 12**

**REGISTER:**

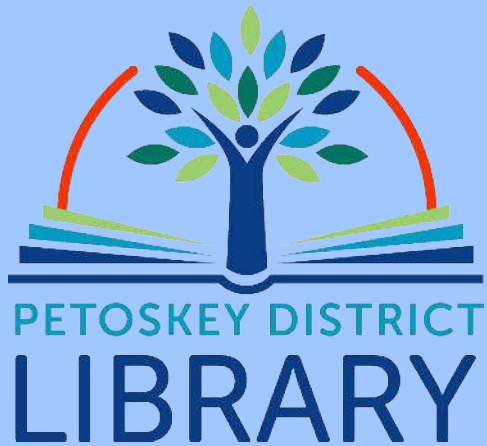
 Visit Our Website  
[watershedcouncil.org](http://watershedcouncil.org)

 Call Us  
(231) 347-1181

## Community connections & supports

~~chi miigwech to these friends~~

- ★ Crooked Tree Arts (use of classrooms)
- ★ Petoskey District Library (use of upper level of Carnegie Building)



## Importance of collaborating with

## Gijigowi Anishinaabemowin Language Department (GALD)



## Classes & School Support:

- Bay Mills Community College
- Aankwadong (one the cloud online curriculum)
- EJPS Partnership w/Aankwadong Class and Native Heritage Fund Grant
- School Visits
- Materials Request

## Online Resources:

- [Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians | Language](#)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578162254173>
- YouTube | LTBB Gijigowi Anishinaabemowin Language Department <https://www.youtube.com/@ltbbgijigowianishinaabemow9393>
- Sound Cloud | LTBB Lang Tech <https://soundcloud.com/ltbb-lang-tech>

# bimaadiziwin gimiingonaa nibi

water gives life



Jenna Kishigo gaazhitood maanda miinwaa gaamizibiged  
Created and illustrated by Jenna Kishigo  
2025

## Anishinaabemowin Plant Identification Booklet



Compiled by the  
LTBB Gijigowi Anishinaabemowin  
Language Department  
Waganakising Odawak  
2025

Black and white images sourced from book:  
Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa © 1993  
GLIFWC

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## Syllable Sounds

You are encouraged to listen and practice our "Colored Syllable Sound Chart". Follow the QR code on the next page to our YouTube channel. This is a helpful tool for all levels of language learners. Follow the rows by consonant. (ex: baa, sii, hoo, ba... ) and also the pattern by color. (ex: baa, zhiil, aho, che...).

The following table will help you understand the vowel sounds.

vowel	sounds like
a	bye
aa	father
e	bed
i	kit
ii	see
o	phone
oo	joo
ni	nasal sound



u	baa	biil	baa	ba	bi	bo
a	daa	diil	daa	da	di	do
g	gaa	giil	gaa	ga	gi	go
j	jaa	jiil	joo	je	ji	jo
k	kaa	kil	koo	ke	ki	ko
m	maa	miil	moo	me	mi	mo
n	naa	niil	naa	na	ni	no
p	pa	piil	poo	pe	pi	po
s	saa	siiil	soo	se	si	so
t	taa	tiiil	too	te	ti	to
w	waa	wiil	woo	we	wi	wo
y	yaa	yiiil	yoo	ye	yi	yo
z	zaa	ziiil	zoo	ze	zi	zo
ch	chaa	chiil	choo	che	chi	cho
sh	shaa	shiiil	shoo	she	shi	sho
zh	zhaa	zhiiil	zhoo	zhe	zhi	zho





## kizhep namewin

ki-zhep na-me-win

gizhemnido,  
gi-zhe-mni-do



semaa nininjigonaa nimiigwechwendam  
se-maa ni-min-ji-go-naa ni-mii-gwech-wen-dam

miinwaa ngoding giizis giibinaabid.

miin-waa ngo-ding gi-i-zis gi-i-bi-naa-bid

miigwech maanda anishinaabemowin  
gaamiizhiyaang.

mii-gwech maan-da a-ni-shi-naa-be-mo-win  
gaa-mii-zhi-yaang

naadamooshinaang nangwa weweni da  
anishinaabemoyaang.

naa-da-moo-shi-naang nan-gwa we-we-ni da  
a-ni-shi-naa-be-mo-yaang

miigwech kina gegoo miinwaa kina wiya.  
mii-gwech ki-na ge-goo miin-waa wi-ya

miisawi  
mii-sa-wi

Creator,

I'm offering my tobacco and giving thanks  
for the sun rising today.

Thank you for giving us this language.  
Help us to speak the language in a good way.  
Thank you for everything and everyone.  
That is all.

5



## nibi nagamowin

ni-bi n-ga-mo-win  
water song

nibi  
ni-bi

gzaageigoo  
gi-zaa-ge-igoo

giimiigwech awenemigoo  
gii-mii-gwech a-we-ne-migoo

giizhaawe nemiigoo  
gii-zhaa-we ne-mii-goo

(niiwingwing)

water  
we love you  
we thank you  
we respect you

(four times)



6



## yaawi'yaanh

"who I am"  
Self Introduction

niiin - me

ndizhinkaaz. - My name is

ndi-zhi-ni-kaaz

ndoodem. - My clan is

ndoo-dem

ndaaw. - I am

n-daaw

ndoonjibaa. - I am from

ndoon-ji-baa



3



## nikeyaa

ni-ke-ya  
direction

waabanong - east  
waa-be-nong

zhaawanong - south  
zhaa-wa-nong

epingishmuk - west  
e-ping-ish-mok

gilwediniing - north  
gii-we-di-nong



## mshkiki

msh-ki-ki  
medicine

semaa - tobacco  
se-maa

kuizhik - cedar  
ku-i-zhik

mashkodewashk - sage  
mash-ko-de-washk

wiingash - sweetgrass  
wiin-gash

pkwenezige - smudge  
pk-wa-ne-zi-ge



4



**mikzaat**  
mik-zaat  
Aspen

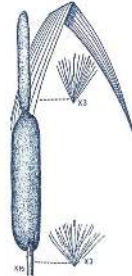


**wiigbaatik**  
wiig-baa-tik  
Basswood

7



**naaknaashk**  
naak-naa-shk  
Bulrush



**apakweshkway**  
a-pa-kwesh-kway  
Cattail

8



**gaanwazh**  
gaan-wazh  
Juniper



**dkibgoons**  
di-kib-goohns  
Mint

11



**mtigmish**  
mii-zh-mish  
Oak



**baashdaagwaan**  
baash-daag-wan  
Plantain

12

## Nibiish/Water Ceremony Each Day

“the water is sick...and people need to really fight for that water, to speak for that water, to love that water” (Josephine Mandamin-baa, Mother Earth Water Walk)

More info: <https://www.nibiwalk.org>



## Nibiish/Water Ceremony Each Day



*This song was written by Doreen Day at the request of her grandson. She attended a conference about the water in which the internationally known speaker, Dr. Masaru Emoto said, the very least we should do every day, is to speak to the water:*

*Ne-be Gee Zah- gay- e- goo  
Gee Me-gwetch -wayn ne- me — goo  
Gee Zah Wayn ne- me- goo*

*Water, we love you.  
We thank you.  
We respect you.*

## Nibiish/Water Ceremony Each Day



~Critical thinking opportunities ~ thinking about this area before the creation of the city of Petoskey, how did these waters naturally flow before industrialization?

~What happened to to the water's natural flow when the road was built? When these houses were built?

## Nibiish/Water Ceremony Each Day



Each morning begins at the water.

Students reflect, give thanks, and ground themselves before learning begins.

Water is not just the topic. It is the starting point.

- ~Practicing protocols and prayers.
- ~Practicing introductions in Anishinaabemowin.
- ~Practicing important words around medicines and ceremony.

## Building Students Bundles for Ceremony/Cultural Events

promoting and instilling the cultural lifeway of bring feast bags to every event, ceremony, camp, and social gathering in an effort to reduce waste. Feast bags usually contain:

- Mug
- Plate
- Bowl
- Cutlery
- Cloth napkins or wash rag
- Copper cup for water ceremony

Copper is sacred to Anishinaabe people, it holds the power to cleanse our waters and connects us to nibi/water.


*Miskwaabik - copper connects us to our ancestors and our future relatives. We've been working with copper since time immemorial and strive to keep it part of our lifeways.*




**Mshkímdewhs zhitóodaa!**  
Let's make a feast bag!

**Aaniish pii:**  
Tuesday, October 11th  
5:30 - 8 p.m.

**Aapiish:**  
LTBB Government Complex  
Commons Area

**Aanii dash:**  
**Naadamowaadaa Mshkakimikwe.** Let's help Mother Earth.  
**Biisag. Aanjidoonan. Shkwaanegan.**  
Reduce. Reuse. Recycle 

This will also be a potluck dinner, please bring a dish to pass.  
**Families are encouraged to participate!!**  
The KAP Teacher Trainees will be presenting language and instruction on how to make your own feast bag .  
*Some materials and supplies will be provided or bring your own.*

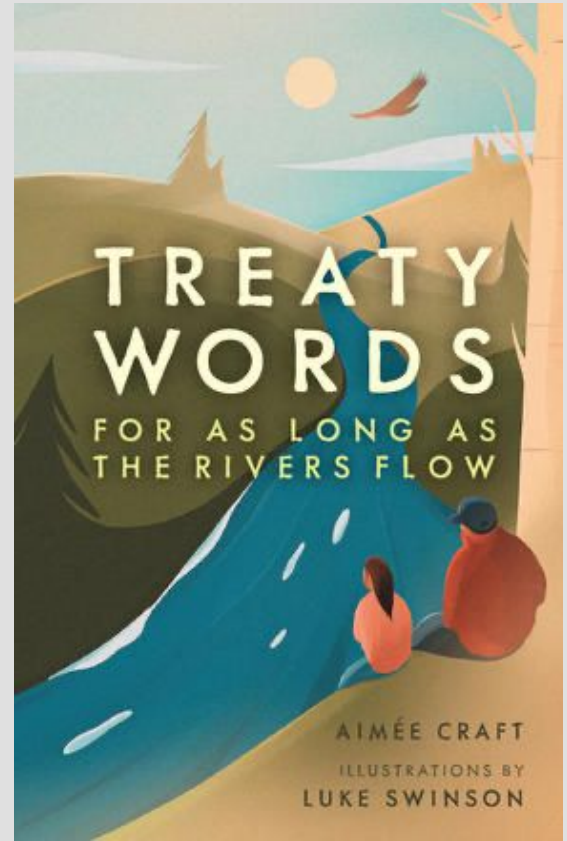
**Biidoon gdankaazwinan**  
*Bring your utensils.*  
(naagan/plate, booskinaagan/bowl, mnikwaajigan/cup, emikwaan/spoon, mookmaan/knife, bdakijigan/fork, gzíidonegan/hs/napkin.) 

**Paper products WILL NOT be provided.**

**Kina Bizhaak!!!** Everybody come!  
For more information, call the LTBB Language Department at (231)242-1457

In collaboration with the LTBB Niigaandiwin (Education) Department.

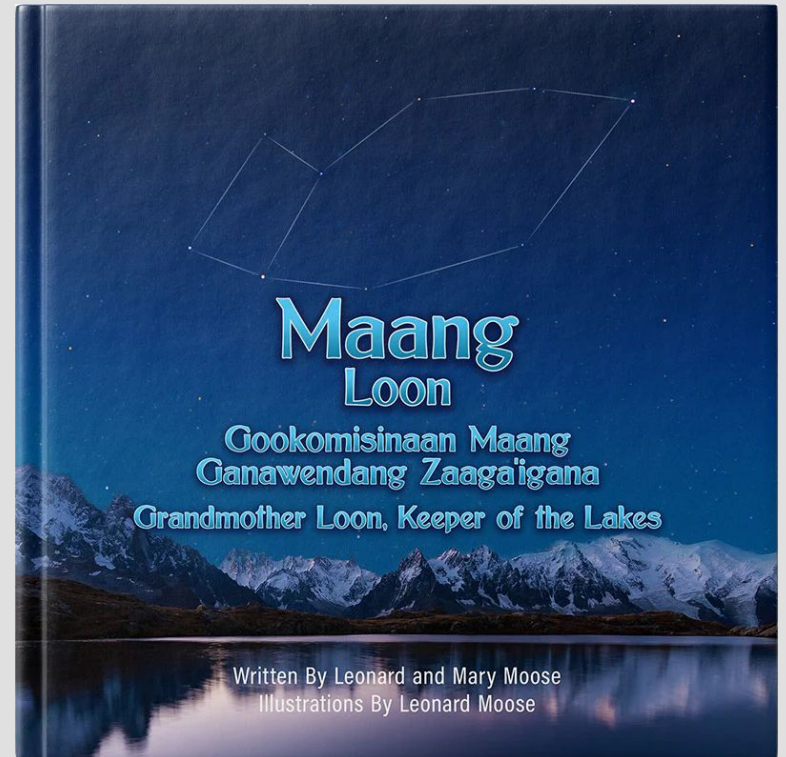
Home library editions as gifts for participating



## Home library editions as gifts for participating

Anishinaabe educator elder couple know for sharing traditional stories in Anishinaabemowin & English. Part of a series of books about Anishinaabek celestial knowledge.

- \*clan teachings
- \*star teachings
- \*water protection & care



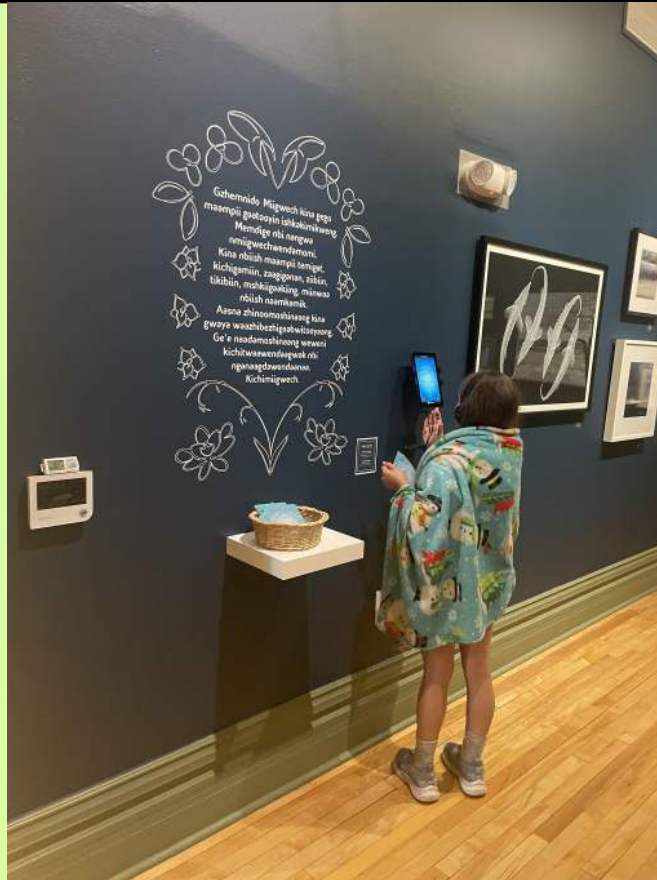
**Tribal food sovereignty in action -- Partnering with Zibimijwang Farm & Mshko'Ode Farm to supply our snacks and meals**



## The “A” in STEAM education

Visiting Crooked Tree’s exhibit: *Immersed* all about water.

The exhibit included local Odawa artists who also work for LTBB’s Language Dept.  
-- Sarah Schilling and Jenna Kishigo!



**IMMERSED**

50 EGGS

Thank you to our in-kind sponsors who have partnered with us to provide our free public programming this summer.

Woodward Original

Logos include: 50 EGGS, LOCAL WATERWAYS SOCIETY, Trout Library, Watershed Council, MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED, MICHIGAN WATER BOARD, WATER IS LIFE Festival, and Woodward Original.

Photos show a large audience in a theater and a smaller group in a classroom-like setting.

## The “A” in STEAM Education...

### Brining in art processes~ Creating cyanotype prints

~Students connecting to the camp theme in their creations.

~thinking about weather and how it influences practical matters and art process (e.g. - it was rainy & cloudy the day we planned this activity).  
-another unplanned schedule change happened and we had the time and right weather to make the prints.



# Water Cycle and Watersheds

Students saw how land, water, and community are connected.

Through watershed modeling and river walks, they observed how everyday actions impact water.



# Watershed Map Inquiry & Learning



## What watershed(s) do we live in?

Depending where we are in Waganakising Odawak territory we can be in the Lake MI/Carp Lake River Watershed, the Burt Lake Watershed, or the Bear River Watershed.



# TOMWC Ruth Tucker Ayers Harris Discovery Center Visit



# TOMWC Ruth Tucker Ayers Harris Discovery Center Visit



## Invasive Species info sessions

Students identified native and invasive species.

They learned how ecological balance supports both environmental and cultural health.

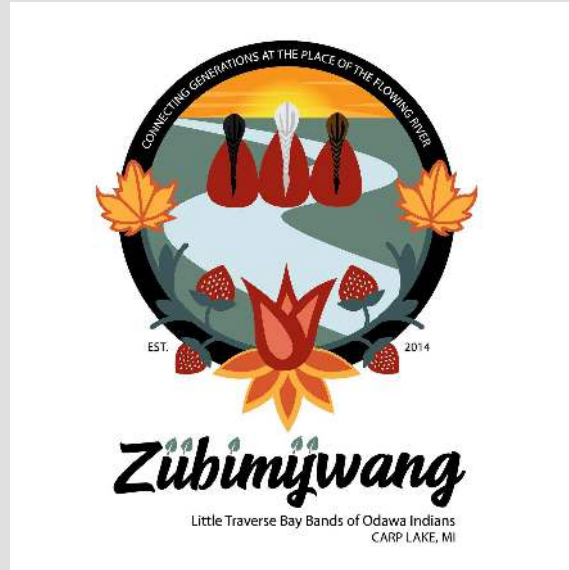
Invasive in our waters: Curly leaf pondweed



## Plant Identification / Bio Blitz @ NCMC Trials



**Tribal food sovereignty in action -- Partnering with Ziibimijwang Farm & Mshko'Ode Farm to supply our snacks and meals**



## Pollution & Water Quality - studying water quality samples of Mukwa Ziibi



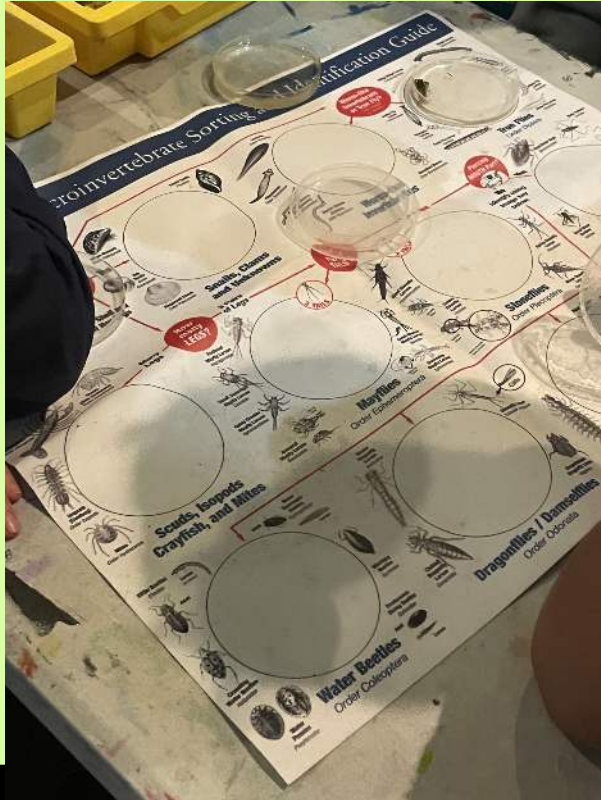
Students tested real water samples.

They examined macroinvertebrates and learned how small organisms tell the story of water health.

**Pollution & Water Quality -  
studying macroinvertebrates  
water quality samples of Mukwa  
Ziibi/Bear River**



## Pollution & Water Quality - studying macroinvertebrates of Mukwa Ziibi/Bear River



## Pollution & Water Quality

Point & nonpoint pollution  
identifying model TOMWC has in  
their educational material  
inventory!





Students watched LTBB Natural Resource Dept. Hatchery staff sample Berry Creek @ Camp Petosega through electrofishing and learned how to identify Michigan fishes collected.

They then explored how human actions can impact water quality.



## Giigoonh/Fish Studies (Electro-shock fishing w/LTBB Hatchery)



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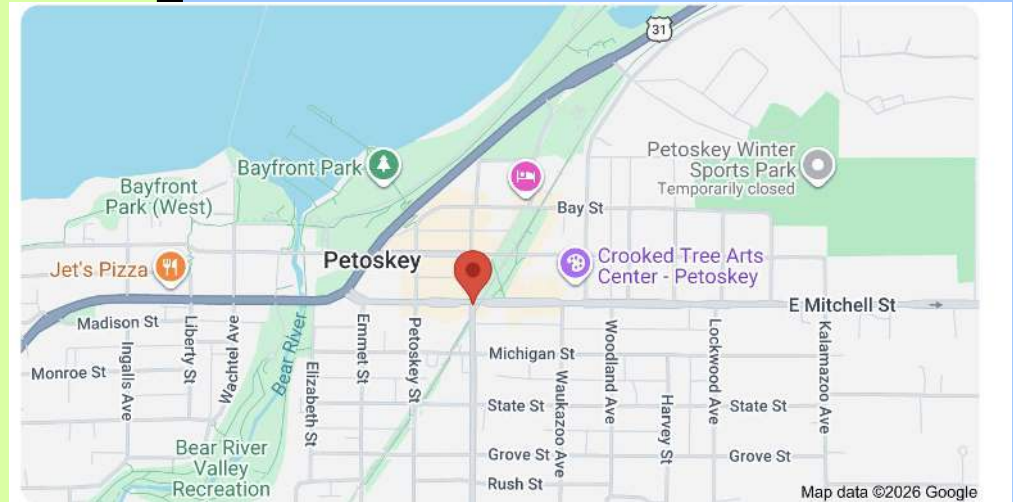
Sewing fish stuffies, storytellings/teachings w/community elders, Angie Woodin (LTBB Edu. Dept. SPRING Program, Curriculum Coordinator) & Deleta Gasco-Smith (LTBB Health Dept. Cultural Advisor).



## Stormwater and Management Practices/Community infrastructure

Students examined how built environments affect rivers and lakes.

They explored how thoughtful design can reduce pollution and protect water.



**Tribal Historic Preservation (THPO)  
w/LTBB THPO Officer, Mae Wright**

**Through visits with LTBB staff, students learned how cultural history, treaty rights, and environmental review processes connect to water protection.**

**Protecting water also protects heritage and sovereignty.**



Tribal Historic Preservation (THPO)  
w/LTBB THPO Officer, Mae Wright

*The area where  
Line 5 is  
proposing to  
build the tunnel is  
sacred ground to  
Anishinaabek.*



## LTBB YCC participation ~ to start off their summer of learning ~



Odawa Youth Conservation Corps

June 20, 2025 · 🌐



First [short] week of YCC is in the books! We participated in the Education Department/Watershed Council's day camp for two days and went hiking with NRD's Inland Lakes & Wildlife Program for a fire history survey.

## LTBB Hatchery Visit

Additional site visits deepened understanding through real-world experience.

Learning moved beyond the classroom and into the watershed.



## LTBB Hatchery Visit



*LTBB Cultural Services Makerspace &/or swimming available until 5pm.*



*@ Zorn Park in Harbor Springs (lifeguards on duty & jumping off that dock!)*



## Student Action Project

### Info Pamphlet: Caring for the Caretaker

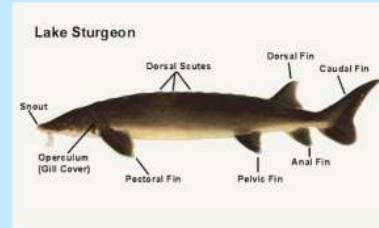
*Distributed at annual  
community nme release  
in Wolverine Sept. 13,  
2025. Collaborative  
event again with LTBB &  
TOMWC!*

*& LTBB Traditional  
Powwow & Sovereignty  
Day Celebration, Sept.  
21, 2025*

Creativity by Nmé and Bedassige (2025 Campers)

## Caring for the Caretaker

Nmé/Lake sturgeon



### Why you should care!

Lake Sturgeon are currently threatened  
in our area!

And they need your help!

You can help by talking to community  
leaders and  
asking them about dams and pollution  
in your  
community.

Dams can block migration  
routes!

Trash can hurt the nmé gills and  
overall body health!



## Student Action Project

### Info Pamphlet: Caring for the Caretaker

Students developed ideas for:

- Water awareness campaigns
- Fish and habitat education
- Invasive species outreach
- Community stewardship efforts

Youth voice and leadership are central to the program.

Fun facts  
about the  
nmè

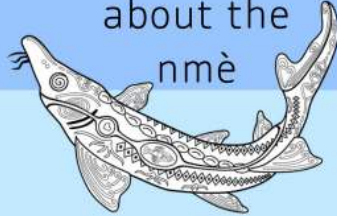


The Nmè also do not have teeth  
instead they have four sensory  
whiskers that help them locate  
food.

## Student Action Project

Info Pamphlet:  
*Caring for the  
Caretaker*

### Fun facts about the nmè



They can be up to  
7 feet long and grow to over  
200 pounds.  
It takes the male sturgeon 15-  
20 years to reach maturity and  
takes females 20-25 years,  
which is why it takes them so  
long to repopulate and why it is  
so hard to help them repopulate.

Nme graphic by Jenna Kishigo

Save the dates!

June 15-18 & June 22-25, 2026

**Nimiigwechwendam Nibiish**  
(I am thankful for water)

**Youth Camp**

for students entering  
4th-8th grade in 26-27 school year



**Bimaadiziwin Gimíingonaa Nibi**

Water Gives Life



**Questions?**

*or want to be notified when  
registration is open?*

[aweinert@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov](mailto:aweinert@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov)

231-242-1483

Students gained:

- Stronger cultural connection
- Greater environmental literacy
- Confidence in leadership
- A sense of responsibility to water

Next steps include:

- Expanding participation
- Increasing field-based learning
- Strengthening youth-led projects
- Continuing deep collaboration with LTBB leadership

Save the dates!

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Long Term Shared Goals:

- Support youth leadership development
- Create pathways for careers in environmental stewardship
- Strengthen cultural continuity and environmental responsibility
- Community Impact:
  - The program strengthens partnerships, builds local awareness, and supports long-term water stewardship within the community.

Save the dates!

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231-242-1483



**mp Michigan  
Public npr**

*Mooz the dog is helping scientists in  
Michigan study threatened turtles*

# Gratitude & Acknowledgments

We are deeply grateful to:

- LTBB Education Department
- Cultural Advisors & Knowledge Holders
- LTBB Odawa Anishinaabemowin Language Dept.
- LTBB Environmental Services
- LTBB Natural Resources Dept. Fisheries/Hatchery
- LTBB Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO)
- Families/students that shared part of their summer with us!
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff, volunteers & supporters

**~Chi miigwech/thank you for trusting us with this important work.**