

The Canadian Canoe Foundation is proud to have Kathleen Edwards support and participate in our youth environmental education projects!

## Kathleen Edwards:

I was lucky enough to spend the summers of my teenage years making a pilgrimage to my camp in Northern Ontario. I got to experience summers in the raw outdoors, bug bites, wet clothes, long portages, cooking over a fire, friendships, camaraderie, teamwork, not to mention the indescribable feeling of being connected to the natural world.

I went from being an insecure and wandering young girl who thought going to the mall was cool, to a confident and skillful young woman. I made lasting friendships, I learned skills that no textbook can teach, I also became aware



of the magnificence of our country's backwoods, our rivers and lakes, the power of mother-nature and the importance of respecting it.

Passing on this experience to other young Canadians was something I hoped I would get a chance to do as an adult. Being part of the Canadian Canoe Foundation is such a great way for me to stay connected to the young woman I was, and to pass on my skills and life experience to a new generation of kids.

Canoeing and wilderness tripping changed my life in such a positive and meaningful way and I am thrilled that we're working to give kids the chance to experience it. It's a chance to change lives and give kids a renewed sense of self that will stay with them their whole lives.

This summer I'll be going on a trip to the Bloodvein River in Manitoba as a guide, mentor, musician, friend. If you think you know of someone special, no matter their economic background, between the ages of 14-17 who would like to participate and have a chance to see a part of this watershed, get them to apply HERE!!